

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday June 29, 2010

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Martha Richards, Ray Burton, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino

OTHERS: Rachel Clough

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:07

Commissioner Cryans moved to approve the minutes from June 22, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Edits were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented an out of state travel request from K. Jablonski of UNHCE, to be able to attend the National 4H agent's conference in Arizona from October 23-28 as incoming president. Money has been budgeted for the trip.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the out of state travel which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough wanted to discuss the budget with the Commissioners and said that she feels there needs to be a Continuing Resolution Vote of the Delegation in order to continue spending money. She said that she had done some checking with other Counties and Coos and Hillsborough both do that. Director Clough said this is the first time in 20 years that she's been here that this has happened and it may be unprecedented altogether for Grafton County.

Director Clough met with Department Heads yesterday and relayed their concern that they don't feel that there is much more they can cut. There are a couple things being looked at. If there is no budget passed by September 1, 2010, the budget then reverts to the Commissioners' proposed budget.

Director Clough said that NHA Bolander expressed concern because she is in need of both a new server and new software in order to be compliant with new federal laws regarding billing, and a postponement of the budget may put her behind could result in a loss of revenue.

Director Clough said that she will try to have something in the way of budget figures for the Commissioners next Tuesday. She also said she needed to understand what the Commissioners wanted to do about retroactive pay in the event that the 2% COLA is kept in the budget. She noted that retroactive pay would be a huge burden for payroll processing, but could be done .

Commissioner Cryans said that speaking for himself; he would like to see the COLA made retroactive. He said that the Commissioners made a commitment to the employees and he does not want to see this taken out of the budget.

Commissioner Cryans questioned whether or not the Delegation would be able to produce a quorum for the proposed meeting.

Director Clough said that she did not believe that the Executive Committee had the authority to call for cuts to the Commissioners budget and in her opinion; the Commissioners don't have to consider recommended cuts.

There was a discussion about how the budget has been passed in the past and how only the full Delegation has the collective authority to decide on the bottom line amount to be passed, not the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Burton agreed with Commissioner Cryans and said that whenever the budget does pass, the COLA should be retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Director Clough discussed the frustration that was felt because of this situation and noted the hard work that was already put into the budget by both Department Heads and the Commissioners. She said that the budget has been level funded for two years now going on three and next year is going to be an even more difficult year.

#### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that at 8:55 AM he swore in an official beekeeper, Glenn Libby, who has two hives on the premises. The bees are being used to pollinate the crops.

Commissioner Burton attended a Groton wind power meeting at PSU. There were a number of questions and 5 out of 14 people were in support. Commissioner Burton said he spoke in support as he does of anything which gets people away from Middle Eastern oil.

Commissioner Burton suggested that Commissioner Richards get a hold of the owner of the wind company and invite him to a Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Burton had a conversation with a Selectboard member in the town of Bath regarding the health of the pigs and food for them.

Commissioner Burton took a GCEDC tour with Executive Director Mark Scarano which went from Claremont to Littleton. Haverhill Industrial park was on the list.

There was a discussion as to where the County stood regarding CDBG money and Director Clough said she would have to look into it.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like to see an incubator project started in the Plymouth area.

Commissioner Richards continues to work on the activities for Open Barn Day.

Commissioner Cryans attended Enfield Village Associates road race.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp arrived. He presented the Commissioners with an update on accumulated revenue for the year.

RD Sharp discussed his request of money from the surcharge in the amount of \$60,474.46 which includes the \$9500 that the Commissioners approved for the servers and the \$6690 that the Commissioners approved for a scanner. He would like see the money withdrawn from the Money

Market account and have the CD left alone. This will be the amount that is brought before the Delegation for a vote.

There was a discussion about the surcharge account and it was noted that approximately \$3,000 a month goes back into that account. RD Sharp said he anticipated there would be around \$100K in the account by this time next year.

There was a discussion about increasing the fees for copying but RD Sharp would like to take another look at that and perhaps consider it in the future. There was also a discussion about increasing the revenue in the FY11 budget but Director Clough said she would like to make a better examination of that before making any decisions.

Commissioner Burton asked RD Sharp what the total amount from all the Counties was regarding the surcharge accounts and he replied that he did not know that but could find out. Commissioner Burton voiced his concern that knowing the condition of State, he feels they (the State) might be looking around for pots of money to dip into and it wouldn't surprise him a bit if they came looking to Registers of Deeds. .

The Commissioners signed a letter of commendation to the Boston & Maine Railroad Station in Plymouth which will be presented to them by Commissioner Richards on their 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Commissioners will not be meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Cryans asked R. Clough if she had anything she wanted noted and she replied that the Union contract expires tomorrow and there are still issues that need to be resolved and that might need to be brought before the Commissioners. She said also that Union members have expressed concern that more cuts to the Nursing Home will mean a greater loss to the residents and that there have been times when employees have brought things from home to make residents more comfortable. She said that Union is willing to do whatever it takes to see that the budget goes forward without the drastic cuts that the Executive Committee has suggested. Commissioner Cryans said that not passing the budget as of July 1<sup>st</sup> is not something that the Commissioners are very excited about.

10:27 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk