

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday January 25, 2010

PRESENT: Representatives Mulholland, Ford, Aguiar, Friedrich, Gionet, and Preston, Commissioners Cryans, and Burton, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

EXCUSED: Representatives Ward, Laliberte and Williams

OTHERS: Harold Brown

Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM

Rep. Preston moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes from December 21, 2010, which was seconded by Rep. Ford. Edits were made. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sievers presented the committee with her proposal to invest the tax money.

The initial proposal suggested that \$1M go into a money market account at Community Guaranty Savings Bank at a rate of 1.15% interest, \$5M to a savings account at Mascoma Bank with a once a month withdrawal clause at 1.15%, \$3M go to a 6 month CD at Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank at .85% and \$1.5 M go into a 9 month CD at Woodsville GSB at 1.15%. Some money would be kept in Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank checking account at a changing rate of between .5%-1%.

Director Clough stated that she has a couple of concerns with this proposal. Her first concern was with a nine month CD at this point that would not mature until late October and that would present a cash flow problem for the County as we would run out of available funds and not be able to borrow because we would still have funds invested. Her second concern was only being able to withdraw money once a month from Mascoma.

There was a discussion as to the feasibility of withdrawing money only once a month and what the penalty might be on that. The committee wanted to know what the penalties would be prior to making any decisions. Rep. Friedrich suggested placing a phone call to find out, which Treasurer Sievers left to do.

Other business was discussed while Treasurer Sievers was communicating with the bank.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Cryans reported:

- The oral argument on the Jail case was heard on the 7th of this month and the County is awaiting the decision.
- The oral argument on the Elected Officials case has not been scheduled yet.

- Budget preparations are underway as are Union negotiations.
- Dedication of the Annual Report will be held at the Commissioners meeting tomorrow morning.

Rep. Gionet asked about the status of the water tank and whether or not there has been any thought about test drilling for wells for the County's own water supply. Commissioner Cryans said that there has been no change in status as the MOA has just been through an initial review by the County's lawyer and no discussions have been had about it yet. Commissioner Cryans said he did not know if Supt. Oakes had plans for any additional test drilling in his budget plans.

Rep. Aguiar asked about the situation between the County and the Retirement System. Commissioner Cryans said that the County had one individual who had retired and was then contracted as a part time employee but has since come back under full time status. Rep. Aguiar asked if there was some resolve to this for future practice and Commissioner Cryans said that knowing what they did now, they would not let this happen again. Rep. Gionet asked who the individual was and Commissioner Cryans stated that it was the Jail Superintendent. Rep. Gionet asked how Supt. Libby's benefits were impacted and if his longevity was affected as a part time employee and Director Clough said that as a part time employee, Supt. Libby received no health benefits or longevity and only a set number of sick and vacation days. Now that he is back on full time he receives all benefits awarded to those of full time status.

Rep. Preston asked if Supt. Libby was receiving the same salary on part time as he was receiving when he was full time and Commissioner Cryans said yes, but without the longevity.

Rep. Friedrich asked Commissioner Cryans what he meant by saying "knowing what we know now" and asked what had been learned. Commissioner Cryans said that the Retirement System has said that the way the County had allowed Supt. Libby to give up his Group II status and then not to put someone else in that position who has a Group II status was incorrect. He noted that he didn't feel that the County had done anything wrong when the decision was made and cited the fact that the Commissioners feel that Supt. Libby is a valued employee. Commissioner Burton agreed with that.

Rep. Ford said the practice of retiring and then coming back to work is common in the education system. Rep. Aguiar said that he agreed with that but not for the same amount of money. Rep. Ford disagreed.

Rep. Aguiar asked about the person in the Sheriff's Dept. who had retired and is now working in the Dept. Commissioner Cryans said he did not think there was an issue there.

Commissioner Burton informed the committee that the Farm Advisory Committee meets Thursday at 11:00 AM. They will be electing a new chairman after the passing of C. Perkins. He said that the Commissioners are taking suggestions seriously in order to enhance the revenue side of the Farm. He said that Farm Manager Kimball will be holding some type of event in the spring and that he is also encouraging Forester Falkenham to find ways to bring more people to the complex.

Rep. Gionet asked how many inmates were currently at the Jail and Director Clough replied that there were 100 with 9 out on the electronic monitor and 19 in Drug Court. Rep. Gionet asked if the Commissioners still felt the new Jail should be built for 300 and Commissioner Cryans said that the jail had never been planned for 300. The proposal that was originally approved was for 206 and the new plan is for 150 after the proposed reductions.

Commissioner Burton said that the Pew Center is doing research with the Justice Center and is involved in the study of Corrections and Recidivism, of which the County has a seat and a vote at the table. There was a discussion about a bill which addresses letting minimal risk inmates out on release. Commissioner Burton said it is currently in committee.

Rep. Ford added that the League of Women's Voters is doing a study on lowering the recidivism rate for female inmates.

Rep. Friedrich asked why there were not more inmates out on electronic monitoring and Director Clough said that it has been looked at but without the appropriate staff, you can't put more people out there. She said that in the last two year's budgets additional staffing was not approved.

Commissioner Cryans said that what's been done to the State budget has reduced programs and services available. Rep. Mulholland said that she see many towns that are cutting their social services as well.

Rep. Preston moved to accept the Commissioners Report which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

Treasurer Sievers was able to find out the penalty information from Mascoma Bank and reported to the committee that there would be a \$50 penalty for additional withdrawals. With that information at hand, she now recommended the following:

\$5M - Mascoma Bank savings account @ 1.15%
\$2.5M - Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank checking @ .5-1%
\$2M - Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank 6 month CD @ .85%
\$1M - Community Guaranty Savings Bank money market @ 1.15%

Rep. Gionet moved to accept the proposal of the Treasurer as noted above which was seconded by Rep. Friedrich. All were in favor.

Rep. Gionet moved to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Clough stated that the census was 135 at the Nursing Home which is maximum capacity.

Director Clough reviewed the Variance Report saying that they were six months in at this point. On the revenue side, the Farm and Interest have fallen behind and will likely finish

in the red. On the expense side there are some Departments that are over expended but most will work themselves out by the end of the year.

Director Clough reviewed the Pro-Rated Report saying that the County is at 51.41% of revenue for the first six months. She said the Medicaid decrease took effect January 1st and will have some effect on the numbers for the second six months of the year. Expenses are just about where they should be and she said she expects they will finish on track. There is an undesignated balance of just under \$2.5M based on the prorated figures.

Offsets to Medicaid in the form of FMAP funds were discussed.

Director Clough passed out an updated spreadsheet on grants that the County has been awarded and/or applied for including three new CDBG grants that were added to the list.

Rep. Gionet asked if some of the grants had “strings” attached to them. Director Clough said that the CDBG grants do not. There are some that have specific requirements to them but there are no programs that need to be continued should the grant expire.

Commissioner Burton said the list of grants is very impressive and that the Administration should be complimented for going after these grants. He said that he didn't think that other Counties take this action.

Rep. Ford moved to approve the Executive Director's Report which was seconded by Rep. Gionet. All were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rep. Mulholland recognized H. Brown who passed out a letter which he had originally written to the Commissioners in October. He stated that he had some issues and voiced them as follows:

- He stated information with numbers about Health Insurance and questioned why the County can not be self insured and feels that can be achieved. He thinks this is something that should be investigated.
- He stated that the auditors report is late and said that it created a “red flag”. He said the law states that the audit must be completed 90 days after the fiscal year.
- He questioned the right of the Commissioners to apply for grants saying that they could not, according to the law, and that it was the delegation's responsibility to do so. Mr. Brown stated that the money is considered supplemental appropriations and only the delegation can raise money. He said that he has no issue with the merit of the grants but that there is no County appointed employee or Administrator who has the authority to apply for grants. He alluded to the fact that the reason the Commissioners apply for these grants is so that they can get votes.

A discussion ensued.

The Commissioners had sent a reply letter to Mr. Brown regarding grants, dated January 22nd and Commissioner Cryans said that the Commissioners had verbally replied to Mr. Brown at their last Commissioners' meeting. That letter was distributed to the committee for them to read.

Rep. Mulholland thanked Mr. Brown for bringing this to the attention of the committee.

Mr. Brown went on to say that the delegation can not give authority to the Commissioners and if they do so, they are breaking the law.

Director Clough asked to what law he was referring to which there was no response.

Rep. Aguiar said that there are probably many times when laws have been broken and asked what Mr. Brown's real concern was here and why he had an issue with it. H. Brown replied again that he feels the authority rests with the delegation and that public hearings needed to be held. He said he would like to see the law followed.

Commissioner Cryans said that at the last Commissioners' meeting there were six public hearings held. Then the Attorney General's office looks things over. Then the application goes to Governor and Council for approval. He said that it has never been noted that there are any improprieties with this system.

Commissioner Burton added that if any laws or procedures had been violated it would have never have reached G & C. He said that he clearly feels that they are within the law.

Commissioner Cryans said that he has never voted to apply for any grants thinking it would garner him votes, but rather views them as a chance to bring money into the County to help people.

Mr. Brown then stated that JAG grants which are applied for by Sheriff's Depts. are used to militarize the police departments.

Rep. Preston asked him what that meant. Mr. Brown said that money is used for training the police departments in the ways of the military though he doesn't think that is happening in Grafton County.

Director Clough said the particular grant that the Sheriff's Dept. applied for is from ARRA funds and the money was then dispersed through ten different towns. Grafton County was the applicant and fiscal agent for that grant. She said purchases from that grant money had to be approved through the federal government and ARRA requirements had to be followed.

The February meeting will be held on the 1st of March beginning at 10:00 AM. Rep. Aguiar and Gionet said they would not be able to attend.

11:36 AM Rep. Gionet moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Rep Aguiar. All were in favor and with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk