

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday March 1, 2010

PRESENT: Representatives Mulholland, Ford, Williams, Friedrich, Laliberte, and Ward, Commissioners Cryans, Richards and Burton, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

EXCUSED: Representatives Aguiar, Gionet, and Preston

OTHERS: Harold Brown and Register of Deeds Sharp

Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM

Rep. Ford moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes from January 25, 2010, which was seconded by Rep. Friedrich. Reps. Ford, Friedrich and Mulholland were in favor. Reps. Williams and Laliberte abstained. (Rep. Ward had not arrived)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sievers emailed the Executive Director that she did not have anything to report to the committee and that she had a mid-term final exam so she opted not to attend. Director Clough updated the committee by saying that regarding investments, \$1M was invested in Community Guaranty Savings Bank. \$2M was invested in Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank and \$5M was invested in Mascoma Savings Bank. Everything else remained status quo.

Rep. Mulholland asked if it were true that a week had gone by from the time the Executive Committee voted on the investments until they were actually invested and Director Clough said that was true.

The committee did not consider this a Treasurer's report and therefore did not vote to approve it.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Cryans began by recognizing Olympians Hannah Kearney, Bode Miller, Nick Alexander, Hillary Knight, Andrew Weibrecht, and Laura Spector who were either from or attending school in Grafton County.

- The County is still awaiting the decision on the Jail case.
- The oral argument on the Elected Officials has been scheduled for March 24th at 10:00 AM at the Supreme Court in Concord.
- The MOA between the County and Woodsville Water & Light is being reviewed by WW&L.
- Budget meetings begin this coming Thursday
- Drug Court will be held in Littleton on Wednesday and there will be a graduation of six participants on May 12th.

- NHAC and Governor & Council Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, April 28th at 8:00 at the Primex building.
- There will be a press conference at the Courthouse to celebrate the accreditation of the Sheriff's Dept. at 1:00 PM tomorrow. It was also noted that Capt. Leavitt will begin his 50th year of public service.

10:18 AM Rep. Ward arrived.

- There will be a roll out of a new medical process for catheters at New England Wire on March 9th.
- Commissioner Burton said that there will be a dedication of a new State Office building in Berlin on April 9th.

Rep. Ward said NEW has made a remarkable comeback after numerous layoffs. He said that all employees have been hired back as of January.

Commissioner Richards reported briefly on the Farm forum that was held on the 17th of February saying there were close to 50 people in attendance, including her and Commissioner Burton. UNHCE Educator Deb Maes was the facilitator and many various aspects of the Farm were discussed. The Farm Advisory Committee who initiated this forum will review all the information and then bring recommendations back to the Commissioners. Commissioner Richards said that she feels that the Commissioners should consider implementing some of the suggestions.

Rep. Mulholland asked how serious going organic was considered and Commissioner Richards said that there was a brief commentary but there were concerns about costs and federal regulations regarding going organic.

Rep. Ford asked if there was a discussion about repurposing the Farm. She also added that federal rules for organics are not as effective on a small farm. Commissioner Richards said they still need to clarify the purpose of the Farm.

Rep. Laliberte asked if heirloom vegetables were mentioned and Commissioner Richards said they were not.

Rep. Williams said that they need to establish a mission for the Farm and go from there.

Rep. Williams asked if the County had considered letters of recognition to the Olympians. A discussion ensued.

Rep. Williams stated that in regard to WW&L, that he does not want to see the County in the water business.

Commissioner Cryans noted that Grafton County was listed as the healthiest County in the State by a study done by the University of Wisconsin.

Rep. Ford moved to accept the Commissioners' Report which was seconded by Rep. Laliberte. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Clough stated that the census at the Nursing Home was 134 and 91 at the Jail with 20 in Drug Court and 10 out on the electronic monitoring bracelet.

Director Clough reviewed the Variance Report on the revenue side saying they had a good month but that the Farm and Interest will be finishing in the red. After some review Director Clough thought that the Farm would end up losing just under \$100K and will come very close to making its milk revenue. Bed Tax and FMAP monies was received which helped.

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

Rep. Mulholland asked about being over expended in the Delegation expenses and Director Clough said she would have to look further into that.

Rep. Ward asked how much money was collected in Bed Tax and Director Clough replied that \$270K was received for the quarter and then there was a quarterly supplemental payment from ARRA funds. So far \$704K has been collected and \$600K was budgeted.

Rep. Ward asked how many more payments of FMAP money was expected and Director Clough said that there are two more quarterly payments due, though she wasn't sure if they would both be posted to the FY10 budget or not. It would depend on when the last one was received.

Rep. Ward asked if there was any more clarification on how FMAP money could be spent, or had the Commissioners made any decisions about that and the answer to both was no.

Rep. Friedrich asked about the increase in Dispatch fees to the town of Wentworth saying they had increased considerably. Director Clough explained that fees are calculated on the amount of usage and that there had been a huge spike in the usage in Wentworth. The Commissioners, along with the Sheriff's Dept. had worked out a compromise with the town in that they averaged out the usage for the last three years and used that figure to calculate costs. This was a one time compromise to reduce costs. It would be incumbent upon the town of Wentworth to figure out why their usage had increased so much.

Director Clough reviewed the Pro-Rated Report saying that the County is \$1M over in revenue and \$332K under expended. There is an undesignated balance of \$3M based on the prorated figures.

Commissioner Cryans attended the State/County finance meeting where discussions were had regarding the cuts to the HHS budget. He said that the County could be facing cuts to the Nursing Home Medicaid rates and noted the effect that would have on the Counties.

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rep. Laliberte said that she had heard that several towns in the area are foregoing raises for their employees because of economic conditions and thought that was something the County should consider.

Rep. Friedrich said that she would like to see the funding for biomass put into the budget this year. Commissioner Richards said that as much as she would like to see that happen, things are going to be very tight as it is, particularly when the Jail comes online. She said that she was still looking for outside funding.

In regards to the budget reviews, Rep. Mulholland said that it seemed logical that the Representatives review the same departments as they had last year.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 15th beginning at 10:00 AM.

10:55 AM Rep. Williams moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Rep Friedrich. All were in favor and with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk