

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday August 31, 2010

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

OTHERS PRESENT: H. Brown

Commissioner Richards opened the meeting at 9:04 as Commissioner Cryans had not arrived yet.

Treasurer Sievers had arrived to reviewed the bids that had been received from banks for Tax Anticipation Notes and to present the Commissioners with a recommendation as to which financial institutions to go with. Bids were predicated on a line of credit up to \$5M and were as follows:

Meredith Village	1.00%
Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank	1.36%
Claremont Savings	1.499%
Mascoma	1.9825%

Franklin Savings Bank and Laconia were solicited but declined to bid.

Treasurer Sievers recommended that the Commissioners accept the bid from Meredith Village at 1.00%. Director Clough agreed saying it probably wouldn't get any lower than that.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and to accept the bid from Meredith Village at a rate of 1.00% which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough said that she has contacted David Barnes of Devine, Millimet to act as bonds counsel and he will be preparing all the documents.

Deb Maes from UNH Cooperative Extension was present as requested by Commissioner Burton, to go on record that UNH Cooperative Extension has created a Grafton County Resource Binder which is going to be distributed to all County Libraries as a informational resource publication.

9:12 AM Commissioner Cryans arrived.

D. Maes showed the Commissioners the binder and discussed its contents briefly saying that all information that can be obtained from UNH Cooperative Extension can be found in the binder as well as online at their website. She stated that they also have a Facebook page.

Commissioner Burton suggested that one of the Resource Binders also be given to Whole Village and asked what the cost would be if one were to be sold. D. Maes said they are costly to put together and again, all the information can be found at the website so it wouldn't make any sense for an individual to want to purchase one.

Commissioner Burton had brought a guest with him and introduced Dwayne Baxter.

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived with a brief report for the Commissioners. She reported that to this date the Molar Express has served 24 clients and 19 are scheduled so far for the month of September.

HSA Bishop said she will be attending North Country All Health Hazards Region meetings as a back up to NHA Bolander, who was also in attendance of the meeting.

The need for funding of the emergency generator at Horse Meadow Senior Center was discussed. The County had applied for a grant for the generator and the intention was to come up with matching funds by raising the money. Cost for the generator was \$35,400 and it costs \$850 for a propane tank for it. There is also some excavation which will need to be done which is being donated. The Grant money totaled \$17,700. Horse Meadow Senior Center has come up with \$1,400 and Cottage Hospital who will also benefit from the generator has put forth \$6,000. This leaves a balance of \$11,150. HSA Bishop asked if excess money in HS budget from the cap for Elderly Care could be used to pay the balance on the generator.

Commissioner Cryans asked Director Clough if that was something that could be done and she replied that it would have to be approved by the Executive Committee and then they could do a line item transfer.

Director Clough asked if the project price that was originally brought forth by NHA Bolander included the excavation and the propane tank and she said that it did not, that it only included the electrical.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve taking excess money from the HS budget to pay the remaining balance of the cost for the emergency generator at Horse Meadow Senior Center pending approval from the Grafton County Executive Committee which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

HSA Bishop said that the Incentive Funds meeting has been set for September 15th here at the County beginning at 9:00 AM. She said that each Commissioner has a voting seat on the committee for either themselves or a designee. Commissioner Cryans has asked HSA Bishop to sit in for him and Commissioners Richards and Burton have not confirmed with their designees as of yet. The meeting should only run until noon or so.

Attorney Lara Saffo arrived with two individuals for the Commissioners to meet. She introduced Mary Cloutier who will be with the CA's Office for a period of five months on a fellowship, and Clay Purvis who will also be in the Office as an intern. The Commissioners welcomed the two and wished them well.

Atty. Saffo expressed some concern to the Commissioners about the lack of judges and courtroom time over the next few months. She said that she did not intend to plea down

cases because of this, sensing it would send the wrong message to victims. She said too that it is important for the Legislators to see what consequences come from the actions of reduced court time.

9:40 AM Commissioner Burton was excused as he was receiving the Granite State Award from Plymouth State in Plymouth.

Rich Crocker and Roberta Berner, Executive Director of Grafton County Senior Citizen's Council arrived. R. Crocker said that he wanted to speak to the Commissioners out of concern for senior citizens because community care is being reduced and the elderly have no choices other than nursing homes at times. He said that 85% of home care giving is done by either family or friends and he would like to see that change and that most people would prefer to stay in their own homes.

According to Crocker, Grafton County is the largest payer of services adding that State and Federal payment pale in comparison. His belief is that Grafton County is in a position to take the issue of long term care into their own hands and to break away from the control of the State. He said that the growing population of the elderly will force more nursing home beds online which will create higher expense and an inability to control home health care at all. He reviewed some information on the pros of what he called "rebalancing the community health based system" in the County.

Commissioner Cryans said that the County has always been a strong supporter of social agencies with some of the most monies going to the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, noting their \$127K allotment this year. He said that this County is in the minority though as many do not give much if any to social agencies. He said that this is done to help keep people out of the nursing homes and to provide many activities as well. He said that he does however also see the role that nursing homes play and recognized that some people need to be in nursing homes. He did agree that if possible, keeping people in their own homes is the most desirable course.

Commissioner Cryans said that financially, a project of the magnitude of which Mr. Crocker is suggesting would be very daunting, but that it is his intention to continue support to social agencies.

Commissioner Richards asked exactly what was being suggested as a pilot program and R. Crocker said that there is nothing explored per se but his hope is that the Counties be the integrators at a long term care level.

Commissioner Richards said that the County doesn't have the personnel to handle this large of a project. R. Crocker said that he would like to see the conversations start and this should be something that should be thought about. He said the County should stand up to the plate or else the State will always be in control of county spending.

Commissioner Richards said that this is something that she would like to see considered but guidance would be needed. R. Crocker said that he would be willing to work with HSA Bishop and Director Clough.

Commissioner Cryans said that it was important to keep in mind that nothing happens immediately and that it is not an easy process to create a new program which would also need to be kept in perspective with running the rest of the County.

R. Berner said that she feels there is a lot of room for conversations between the Commissioners and the service agencies, particularly about what's coming down the pike.

Commissioner Cryans said that if this is to carry through, he would like to see that the fragile agencies don't become affected by it because of the need for money elsewhere. He said sometimes there are unintended consequences to certain actions.

The Commissioners said they appreciate Rich Crocker and Roberta Berner coming in and providing this food for thought and suggested that Crocker should work with HSA Bishop, who agreed with the suggestion in theory, to go over some numbers, which he said he would like to do.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from August 24, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough reminded the Commissioners that the NHAC Conference was being held on the 25th and 26th of October at the Mount Washington and that the awards nominations were due on the 14th of September.

Director Clough said that on August 12th people from the Dept. of Energy did their on site monitoring visit regarding the energy grant awarded to the County. The grant is for \$378K and must be spent eighteen months from the date of award, the County currently has a little over a year left to spend the funds. The additional money to fund the project for which the money is slated (biomass) must be in place and the DoE would like to know what the County plans are in that regard. If the County does not or can not use the grant money for the biomass project, then an amendment can be applied for to use the money for a different energy project. Director Clough said she will need to speak with Supt. Oakes to see if he has an energy project in mind and said that he had originally suggested replacing the windows in the Courthouse which failed the energy evaluation that was done.

Commissioner Richards said that although she would really like to see the biomass project get underway, she understands that it is just not financially or logically feasible at this time for a number of reasons. She said that she would encourage pursuing having the windows replaced at the Courthouse for ones that are more energy efficient.

Commissioner Cryans signed the professional services agreement with D. Lane regarding the MicroCredit CDBG grant.

Director Clough presented an out of state travel request from Director Andross to attend a Train the Trainer course in Augusta Maine. The course is fully funded.

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

Director Clough presented a request for educational assistance from an employee at the Attorney's Office who is pursuing her bachelor's degree.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the educational assistance which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

A written request to the Commissioners was received from Upper Valley Haven asking for a gift donation of \$150. Commissioner Cryans said it would not be feasible to give donations to every agency who requested, so the practice must be to decline all requests as has been done in the past.

Director Clough said that she received an email from the New Hampshire Motor Speedway offering to give County employees four complimentary tickets to the Sylvania 300 Nascar Sprint Cup Series Race on September 19th.

Director Clough said that she will be distributing this information to County employees. Commissioner Cryans said that he didn't think this should apply to Elected Officials.

Director Clough discussed the guaranteed maximum price for the Jail project with the Commissioners. The estimated construction costs for the jail project were at \$31,154,554, the project has now been bid out and a guaranteed maximum price for construction costs has been established. The GMP is \$28,991,184, which is a significant savings from the last estimate that was done. Director Clough reminded the Commissioners that this was only for construction costs, there are several million dollars in owner expense that is not calculated in the GMP. Director Clough discussed several items with the Board which may additionally impact the final overall price of the project. However, she was very certain that the project would be significantly under the estimated budget. There is an amendment to the contract with HP Cummings that will need to be signed once the document is finalized to update the GMP.

The Dietary Dept. at the Nursing Home needs a new serving cart as the one they have has serious electrical issues and is deemed unsafe. NHA Bolander would like to purchase one at a cost of \$1745 from the New Equipment line and then have money approved and transferred over from the new capital reserve line at a later time. The cart is needed for serving in the employee lunchroom. This piece of equipment broke and was not budgeted to be replaced thus causing an over-expenditure in the line item.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the purchase of a new serving cart which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that Representative Ward has resigned from the Executive Committee as of August 13, 2010 though he remains within the County Delegation.

11:40 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk