

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday December 21, 2010

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

OTHERS: Omer Ahern and Harold Brown

9:04 AM Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order.

Nursing Home Administrator Bolander arrived with her report beginning with the census which is 130, and that most of the resident Christmas parties have taken place.

Lunch was served to the Executive Committee at the Nursing Home yesterday and then they toured the facility. NHA Bolander said that she was pleased that they had a chance to see what goes on there. Commissioner Cryans asked if she felt that they had become better educated about the Home and she replied, a bit, but there is still a tremendous amount of educating that needs to be done. Commissioner Cryans said he was glad they went over there and NHA Bolander said that she would avail herself to them at any time should questions arise. She stated that the Nursing Home is ever changing and always being updated.

NHA Bolander attended the retirement ceremony roast for Belknap Commissioner Christopher Boothby, as did Commissioner Burton. They said the event was well attended and that he would be missed in the County system.

The next NHAC Conference will be hosted by Carroll County next year and will be held in North Conway.

Commissioner Cryans asked if NHA Bolander could speak with Betsy Miller and get a list of all the new County elected officials. She said that she will ask that one be put together.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from December 14, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Commissioner Cryans noted that he had heard of a company who gave money to their employees for getting their GED and followed up on that and said that it was Stonybrook Farms who give their employees \$2500 to get their GED.

Director Clough said that there will be a change in the federal mileage rate as of January 1st and that the County generally follows their recommendations. The change will be from the current rate of .50 a mile to .51.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve a change in the mileage rate for the County from .50 to .51 as of January 1, 2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that all the tax payments, with the exception of Benton, (\$37,495) have been received. Total amount collected is just over \$17.9M. Director Clough said she would wait until the end of the week and then try to contact Benton to see what's going on.

The TAN note in the amount of \$2M has been paid back along with \$2,616 in interest.

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Commissioners for the investment of the tax money and Director Clough has relayed that information to Treasurer Sievers.

Commissioner Burton signed a resolution for Laconia Savings Bank as Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, which certifies the name change of the Treasurer from Treasurer Sievers to Treasure Elliott effective January 5th.

Commissioner Burton asked Director Clough if she could assure that based on New Hampshire State laws that the tax money has been placed in the proper account and she replied affirmatively.

Director Clough said that Attorney Cole was going to revise some information regarding Delegation responsibilities then send a draft to her.

Director Clough said that in her opinion it is very important that the Commissioners outline what the responsibilities of the Delegation and the Commissioners are and to be vocal about that because it was fairly clear at yesterday's meeting that there may be a trend toward micromanagement. Commissioner Burton said the sooner the information from the attorney is received and distributed, the better.

Human Resource Director Simpson arrived to give his report. He said that many of the LNA positions that were open due to the additional appropriation have been filled. The UNH Coordinator position has been filled and the Mental Health Coordinator should be filled soon.

HRD Simpson and Director Clough met with the Directors of the SAU's on Monday evening for about two hours and discussed some of their visions. He said that they will be meeting again at the end of January but he doesn't expect any changes until FY13.

As of January 1, 2011 the flexible spending account will change and there will be no more approvals for OTC medications unless directed by a physician. He said they were getting that information out to people.

There was a discussion about early retirement and the benefits that can be received.

HRD Simpson provided a turn over report which covered a span of a year and included all Departments. He said that overall he feels that the retention rate for Grafton County is pretty good.

Commissioner Burton asked how many authorized employees are there right now to which HRD Simpson replied 274 with 30 part time and 150 unbenefitted and per diem.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was anything more that was being done to encourage enrollment at White Mountain College and HRD Simpson said there was recently a payroll stuffer which also mentioned the educational assistance.

HRD Simpson said there was a drop in the FMLA's and that right now there are only two people on full time FMLA.

HRD Simpson said that in conjunction with the Wellness Committee there will be an in-service in January which will be done by Primex and included programs with incentives.

IT Manager Brent Ruggles arrived and gave the Commissioners his report for the month.
*(see attached)

H. Brown arrived.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was any kind of major headaches coming down the pike for the IT Dept. and ITM Ruggles said that the RFP's have been a challenge.

ITM Ruggles was planning to attend a meeting with Fairpoint which was to cover Broadband in the area. Commissioner Burton asked who the biggest users of Fairpoint are after the County. ITM Ruggles thought it would be the hospital.
Commissioner Burton asked how many phone lines the County has and he replied 58.

Commissioner Richards asked about replacing items and how his budget was holding up because of that. He said that so far the budget is fine but there is a lot of equipment that is getting pretty old.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton attended a reception at the Mountain View Grand for Senator Elect Kelley Ayotte. Commissioner elect Ahern attended as well and Commissioner Burton said there was no speaker and it was more of a social event.

Commissioner Cryans gave thanks to Commissioner Richards for her four years of service and noted that during her time she has taken on a number of tasks. He said it was a pleasure working with her and he wished her the best. Commissioner Burton echoed those sentiments and said that she brought a lot of energy to the meeting and he has appreciated all she's done.

Commissioner Richards said she has been humbled and gratified and thanked both Commissioner Cryans and Burton for their wonderful advice and help. She said that she has enjoyed that fact that the Board had always been bipartisan with no agendas. She said that she has learned a lot about County government.

She also thanked Director Clough and Sec. Martino for their help and commended Director Clough on running an outstanding administration. She also named Director Clough's staff in appreciation.

Attorney Saffo arrived to update the Commissioners on the Mental Health Court and said that the federal government has approved the budget for it but wanted a little more information before the final approval. She said that she will be making the final decision on a coordinator by next Tuesday.

Atty. Saffo had a contract for the part time person from White Mountain Mental Health who will be working with clients and is covered by the grant. Atty. Saffo questioned whether she should be signing the contract or the Commissioners.

There was some discussion about how someone will qualify for MHC and who makes the final decision, which will be the defense attorney, prosecutor and ultimately the judge. The client must agree to the program.

Commissioner elect Ahern noted that he had some concerns about the contract and went over them with Atty. Saffo and the Commissioners. Atty. Saffo said she didn't have any problems making changes to the contract.

The Commissioners thought it was best to have Attorney Saffo sign the contract.

Commissioner Richards moved to authorize County Attorney Saffo to sign the contract when the approval comes through which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton said he would like a quarterly report which should come to the Board of Commissioners through Director Clough.

There was some further discussion about the program.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES cont.:

Commissioner Richards suggested that a letter of congratulations should be send to Bruce Labs. She said she would draft one for signatures.

RD Sharp did not attend the meeting as scheduled so Commissioner Cryans said that he would drop off the clock which he planned to give him from the County, in his office.

Commissioner Burton said that the video "Lost in Laconia" was purchased by the County via Director Clough, and deals with the State school which was closed. He said that it will be available for anyone to view.

Commissioner Burton had the annual report that was put out by the NH Dept. of Corrections and was printed and distributed by the NH Dept. of Corrections.

Commissioner Burton asked about the County annual report and it was noted that the audit still has not been received.

Commissioner Cryans noted what an outstanding job Director Clough did in providing information on the Jail project to the Executive Committee at their meeting on Monday.

He said that she was able to detail the oversight of the project and chain of command so that the committee felt more comfortable. She also described the level of expertise that is present on the project.

Director Clough said that she had to thank Supt. Oakes for the documentation he provided to her.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would definitely like to avoid drawing out the budget process as was last year. He said when the time comes there needs to be a resolution to the budget made in a timely manner.

Commissioner Cryans thanked everyone involved for the Christmas Party that was held at the Commissioners' Office. Director Clough said it was well received. Sec. Martino said it was a collaborative effort.

The Commissioners wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

11:08 AM Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk