

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday, April 19, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Omer C. Ahern Jr. and Raymond Burton,  
and Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

OTHERS: Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:03 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance

**Information Technology Manager Brent Ruggles** arrived with his report for the  
Commissioners. \*(see attached)

Commissioner Burton asked if all the records that are confidential in nature are protected  
as required under State law and ITM Ruggles said they were and discussed what  
measures were taken and how back ups were kept.

There was a discussion about the progress of broadband in the North Country.

Commissioner Ahern asked how things are going with Fairpoint now and ITM Ruggles  
said that things have pretty much been worked out and seem to be running okay.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the budget minutes from April 7<sup>th</sup> as amended  
which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from April 12<sup>th</sup> as amended which  
was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

**Supt. Oakes, Martha Richards and Bob Berti** arrived. M. Richards, an opponent of  
the Northern Pass, presented a report to the Commissioners to read that was written about  
Hydro Quebec from someone who actually lived in Canada.

M. Richards informed the Commissioners that she wanted to continue to pursue the  
biomass project, particularly now knowing the Commissioner have abandoned the idea of  
the biodiesel project. She said she knew that the Commissioners were concerned about  
being able to obtain wood chips which is why she invited Mr. Berti to come with her.  
B. Berti said he manages the inventory for eight wood burning facilities in Vermont, MA  
and NH. Four are power and four are thermal plants and most burn hardwood. He said  
that the price of chips can rise but not as much as the price of diesel. He said that he does  
not feel that the amount of wood for purchase would be an issue and that the County  
could probably get all it needs within a five mile radius of the County.

Commissioner Burton asked if the Laidlaw project will suck up everything and Mr. Berti said they will certainly impact the other facilities but not the County so much.

Commissioner Ahern asked if the wood ash byproduct is a benefit to the County and B. Berti said that not too much is left but that 1-2% or 35 tons could be used as an amendment for 5-10 acres.

B. Berti said there is a need to get off of oil and that the Northeast uses the most in the Country. He said that he hoped the Commissioners would give this further consideration.

There was a discussion as to how the process works and ultimately the County would be burning chips and not dealing with any other portion of the process.

M. Richards said that originally the grant that was approved for the County in the amount of \$378K for design work, was contingent on the fact that the County would have to build the facility. Now the grant has been changed and no building is not required.

Supt. Oakes said that the purpose for this visit is to seek approval to put out an RFP/RFQ for the design work for this project. BERC will be sought out to help select a proposal for the job.

Commissioner Ahern said he had received an email from GCEDC Executive Director Scarano about the Laidlaw project coming online and so he expressed the concern about the availability of wood. He said that in regard to the biodiesel project, it was more about a matter of time available by Department Heads with all the other things they have going on. He said he does not feel that the biodiesel is a dead project.

Another concern that Commissioner Ahern had was the actual availability of the grant money given the problems with the federal government right now. Another important factor is the cost of the project. He said that the County is already holding a lot of debt with the other projects that are bonded.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was a confirmed grant and Director Clough said that there has been an approval amount which when accessed can be drawn down.

M. Richards said as a taxpayer, she does not want to see money put into oil and feels the time has come to move forward and that it was time to "fish or cut bait". She asked the Commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Cryans said he would need to see some numbers first as to what this project may end up costing and of what the payback time would be before making any kind of decision. He thanked M. Richards for coming.

**Grafton County Economic Development Council Executive Director Mark Scarano** arrived and brought along a copy of their annual budget with Commissioner Ahern requested.

He reviewed a few things that were going on including GCEDC's annual celebration tonight which Congressman Bass would be presenting an award to the Littleton Coin Company as business of the year.

The incubator project in Plymouth is looking for tax credits and has received a \$100K pledge from Northway Bank as well as generous offer from Meredith Savings Bank to cover the cost of the building for one year.

The DRTC expansion is moving forward and on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, Director of the EDA, Willie Taylor will be at the DRTC at 10:30 AM.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> the annual Economic Development Tour (known as the Ray Burton tour) will be held beginning at 8:00 AM in Bristol and going down the 1-93 corridor to Littleton.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to see some of the companies in the DRTC Incubator asked to buy tax credits for the Plymouth Incubator. M. Scarano said he thought that was a good idea. He added that selling tax credits can be difficult because they rely on profits.

M. Scarano said that the \$50K that the County provides to GCEDC allows them to do the work their doing. Commissioner Cryans said that the consolidation of the three Economic Development agencies into one has been beneficial and a good use of money. He said the County is fortunate to have it.

Commissioner Ahern asked what the money goes toward and M. Scarano said that primarily it has been used for the loan officer and the revolving loan fund.

Commissioner Ahern said he recognizes the value of the Economic Development but he's not sure where the tax payers of Grafton County fit in.

M. Scarano said that he would be happy to answer any further questions that Commissioner Ahern might have in the future.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission would be holding their annual meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 PM at the Bistro Nouveau in Grantham

The petition for decertification of the Union was dismissed because it was not filed within a certain time period. There will be no vote at this time.

The rates for health insurance not to exceed 20% have been formalized at a rate of 19.77%. Director Clough said that she was informed that this is the last year that Primex will be providing health insurance. Their board made this decision in April.

Commissioner Ahern asked Director Clough if she knew of any legislation that would allow people to shop beyond State lines for health insurance and she said she had not heard of any.

Commissioner Ahern asked Director Clough if there was a provision which allows the County to collect the Union dues and Director Clough said she would have to find that information.

**Drug Court Coordinator Bob Gasser** arrived with a request for three people to attend the annual training conference in Virginia, July 17-20. Cost would amount to about \$2000 per person. He said there is sufficient money in the budget this year.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was any scholarship money available and B. Gasser said he hadn't looked into that.

Commissioner Cryans asked if anything was learned last year from the conference that was in Boston and B. Gasser said he learned a lot.

Commissioner Ahern asked if the information can be found online and B. Gasser said it is starting to be. Commissioner Ahern also suggested the use of DHMC which is a teaching hospital and said he is not in favor of any out of state travel.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the out state travel which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

#### DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said this is not the time to be sending people out of state for travel. He also noted the fact that the County Attorney will be attending this conference and that she had just been protesting the fact that the Office is short staffed and Attorney's are not able to take vacations.

When the vote was taken, Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the Executive Committee will be meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> to review the budget from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and then some may be attending the Drug Court graduation. Then they will meet on the 16<sup>th</sup> for their regular meeting and then again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for an all day budget meeting. Director Clough reviewed some of the things that were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting yesterday.

Director Clough had a moment to get some material and informed Commissioner Ahern that in the Collective Bargaining agreement it stated that the County will collect the dues.

There was a discussion about the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in which J. Phinzy was supposed to speak and the fact that there was very little response for attendance. It was decided that the meeting be canceled.

Chris Shadrock of News 7 in Lyndonville arrived with his video camera to record the meeting with Congressman Bass, who had not arrived yet. Kayti Burt from the Littleton Courier was also in attendance.

The Commissioners took a brief recess while waiting for Congressman Bass.

The Commissioners resumed as Congressman Bass and Representative Gene Chandler arrived. The Commissioners welcomed the Congressman and Rep. Chandler.

Congressman Bass said that he tries to make it a point to get around and see people in the area to hear their concerns. He said that both he and Rep. Chandler are here to help and said they could be called on.

Commissioner Burton said that as is the custom, he would offer office space at the County for them if they should like to use to hold office hours or for any other reason.

Commissioner Burton discussed the burdensome requirement of over-regulations from CMS.

He also said that more needs to be done to drill for oil in our own Country.

Commissioner Burton stated that he supports CDBG grants and that monies should be preserved for that. He noted that DCI has been able to sustain itself with the help of CDBG money.

Congressman Bass addressed the concern individually and said that CMS regulation is significant and he sits on the committee that has jurisdiction over Medicaid and Medicare Part B & D and there will be significant discussions about the programs in the hopes of giving more authority of administration to lower levels of government.

The Resource Committee will probably try to allow more permits for the drilling for off shore oil. Debate will continue over nuclear energy which will take into account the proper technology.

Right now refineries are running at 81-85% of capacity and OPEC has excess oil and the regulation of oil companies will not solve the problem. Congressman Bass said that the volatility of investments is where the issue are with this particular crisis.

Congressman Bass said he supports CDBG grants.

Commissioner Ahern said that the banks don't want investment money right now and if they do accept it, the interest rates are low. He said that he would also like to see a move to allow health insurance to be purchased across state lines.

Congressman Bass said that the low interest rates are a reflection of a weak economy and that the creation of jobs creates wealth. He said the number one priority is to get people back to work. He also said there will be a battle royal over health care before the next election and he does agree that there should be competitive choices.

Commissioner Cryans discussed the DRTC and noted how remarkable it is.

Congressman Bass said he would be visiting there today.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to see earmarks (for lack of a better word), brought back to the State and said that to do so is an important role that the Representatives play. He said that politically it is a tough things but it is important to help the State.

Commissioner Cryans noted that the unemployment rate in Grafton County is 4.6%.  
Congressman Bass said that wasn't bad at all.  
Commissioner Cryans said he would like to see broadband expanded.  
In response to earmarks, Congressman Bass said it would be inappropriate to ask for things for their constituents until the Nation gets its own fiscal house in order.  
He stated that there is precious little resources for broadband and there needs to be some assessment done to find out just where it is needed.

Commissioner Burton said that the Northern Pass is not going away and the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted in opposition to it. He stated that there was no need for the President to allow foreign power to come across the border when there is ample opportunity for NH to supply its own power.  
Commissioner Burton also said he was disheartened to know that a federal prison would be built with no inmates to fill it.  
Commissioner Cryans wanted Congressman Bass to know that he did not vote against the Northern Pass for bringing foreign power in but because of its environmental impact.

Congressman Bass said that both he and Senator Ayotte opposed the Northern Pass project because of the environmental impact. He said the PUC is not going to approve independent power unless it is in the best interest of the consumer.  
He said that he too is frustrated about the prison in Berlin and is working on a continuing resolution and there would need to be a special appropriation voted on. He said that once that happens though, you open up requests for all kinds of special approvals. He said that he expects it to be in this year's budget.

Congressman Bass made it a point to say that if anyone comes to Washington D.C, and he can do it, he will meet with them.

Harold Brown was recognized and began by saying that Congressman Bass violated his oath of office by voting for the "un patriot" act, suspending habeas corpus and a confiscation of firearms and that he owes his constituency an apology and he would like to see the Congressman make a motion to repeal. He also said that Congress is stealing Social Security money to support funds and that they are stealing from the elderly to support wars.

Mr. Brown said that voting to raise the debt ceiling is enslaving the American people and that they should cut military spending 1/3 and bring the soldiers home.

He added that he hasn't heard anything from Congressman Bass about the Bradley Manning case and he feels it is a disgrace and to treat a whistle blower like that is torturous.

Mr. Brown would also like to see the US out of the UN.

Mr. Brown stated that the Congressman has done a lot of good but his vote on the war has nullified the good he has done.

Congressman Bass said he doesn't necessarily agree with everything Mr. Brown has said but appreciates his passion.

Raising the debt ceiling will be a tough vote. There's a concern that there will be a default in treasury bills if the ceiling is not raised. It will be a difficult vote to cover the debts of past spending, but he will not vote to raise the ceiling unless there is an agreement to reduce spending.

Congressman Bass said he does believe that military spending could be cut. He also agrees that troops at some bases can be returned but he does not agree about getting out of the United Nations.

The Commissioners thanked Congressman Bass for stopping in.

There was a discussion about whether or not there were Canadian workers working on the Jail project. Director Clough said that bids were put out to all qualified steel businesses and a Canadian company came in as lowest bidder.

H. Brown said he has issues with foreign help being hired to work on the Jail project and there could be some issues with illegality.

#### BUDGET DISCUSSION:

PRESENT: NHA Bolander, HRD Simpson, HSA Bishop

Commissioner Ahern asked if HRD Simpson had reviewed a report about costs for employees from NH Labor Statistics, and he replied no. He then asked if HRD Simpson had reviewed the NH Employment Security Benefits Offered 2007, survey result for 2008, and he said he may have. Commissioner Ahern then asked if HRD Simpson had looked at a State wide report from NH Employment Security titled NH Occupations Employment and wages for 2010 and he replied that he did not. Commissioner Ahern said he was disappointed that the HRD Simpson did not take into account the three reports and analysis that would have allowed the Commissioners to make a better decision.

Commissioner Cryans said he has made his decision as to which health insurance plan he feels most comfortable with which HRD Simpson agreed with and Director Clough said she could live with.

Director Clough said they also need to discuss the retiree piece of the health insurance and the decision of funding GCEDC for the budget.

Commissioner Cryans asked Director Clough if she had a plan she liked better and she said that from an employee's point of view, you're going to have to pay more for less. She had no recommendation and said she will agree to whatever plan the Commissioners put forward.

Commissioner Ahern said he didn't know how they could be talking about this in an open meeting if they were going to negotiate. He said this should be done in non-public session.

Commissioner Ahern said that without taking the three reports that he talked about into

consideration he's not sure that they're doing the best for the taxpayers. Commissioner Cryans said that if Commissioner Ahern wants to go into non-public session he can make a motion to do so, but he has already come out and made his decision publicly.

Commissioner Burton moved to chose plan #7 for health insurance which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor. Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the budget for Grafton County Economic Development which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

### DISCUSSION

Commissioner Burton said he believes they get job creation and preservation and Commissioner Cryans said he supports them and considers them a success. Commissioner Ahern said that he has been involved with Economic Development in Charlestown and it started with private money. He said times are difficult. They were provided with seed money and they should be getting their money from private businesses. He said the County should not be providing funding in these times.

When the vote was called Commissioners Cryans and Burton were in favor. Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

Director Clough discussed the retiree health care plan and the cost.

Commissioner Ahern asked if the County will be taking something away from retirees that they didn't agree to when they worked here and Director Clough said no. She said that if someone wants to upgrade their plan they will have to pay an additional cost. Commissioner Ahern said he was concerned that they are a group of people with no bargaining power and wanted to make sure nothing is being taken away from them. Director Clough said that she felt that they were told there would be a change.

Commissioner Ahern moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director for the retiree health insurance plan, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

\*1:20 PM - Commissioner Ahern then moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Ahern "yes"; Commissioner Burton "yes" Commissioner Cryans "yes"; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and will go into non-public session.

\*2:23 P1M- Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.



Commissioner Ahern moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Employee Council members Richard Thompson and Donna Wallis arrived at the request of the Commissioners. Commissioner Cryans said they had been working on the budget and had discussed health insurance and wages. He said the increase to the overall budget has to be taken into consideration.

He then explained the health insurance plan that was chosen, which is an HMO with a \$1000 and \$2000 deductible and the prescription plan would increase generics to \$10. The County will establish a Health Reimbursement Account and reimburse 50% of the deductible for the employees.

Commissioner Cryans then informed the Council members that the County would offer a 1.5% COLA across the board as a way to be sure that everyone gets something. He said this was all they could do.

R. Thompson asked if that meant that everything else on the request list, including the relinquishing of the perfect attendance bonus would remain as it was and Commissioner Cryans said other items have not been tackled at this point. R. Thompson asked if this is what it is going to be and Commissioner Cryans said this is what they feel they can do.

Commissioner Ahern said this has been a tough year and that is not to say that the Board doesn't appreciate the hard work of the employees.

The Employee Council members left.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve a 1.5% COLA increase across the board for the Employee Council which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor, Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

2:40 PM being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

Grafton County Department of Information Technology  
Monthly Summary Report  
4/19/11

AO – Attorneys Office

- ⤴ Users having issue connecting to Network printer.
- ⤴ Installed MS Compatability software to allow new word document format to be opened and edited
- ⤴ Install Microsoft Movie Maker on Software installed that will allow user to help with video issues.
- ⤴ Moved files needed for attorney's office from external drive to desktop and then burned to CD.
- ⤴ Resolved file association issue on Attorney's laptop
- ⤴ Train office staff on moving video from external drives and creating DVD
- ⤴ Resolve user issue with network drive mappings.
- ⤴ Install Label Printer software on Mary's Laptop
- ⤴ Setup Webinar access for Lara

CE – Cooperative Extension

- ⤴ No Help-desk calls

CO – Commissioners Office\Human Resources\Human Services\Conservation District\Treasurer

- ⤴ Install backup software on multimedia system.
- ⤴ Setup network connection for Executive Director work off server in conference room.
- ⤴ Resolve document format issue for Kristen
- ⤴ HR resolve issue with downloading PDF documents from Services Providers websites
- ⤴ Setup VPN connection for Gorham Savings Bank and print out hard copy of new DOC Jail Bond bids.

DC – Department of Corrections\Drug Court\Transition Team

- ⤴ Resolve Drug Court user getting access to files on server.
- ⤴ Install new camera software on Drug Court Laptop.
- ⤴ Drug Court resolve performance issues on laptop
- ⤴ Setup 2 new email accounts for new DOC nursing staff
- ⤴ Reconfigure software on Mental Health Coordinator's Laptop to save files in doc format, xls format, ppt format.
- ⤴ White Building establish color printer network share to allow access from all White Building staff
- ⤴ Replace printer drum in counselor's laser printer
- ⤴ Perform PC maintenance and updates on counselor's system
- ⤴ Install Open Office on GED counselor's laptop
- ⤴ Training with Transition Team member on how to use camera software creating albums, photo archiving, renaming of files.

IT – Department of Information Technology

- ⤴ Finish Operating system install on document archive server

- ✦ Finalize campus IT budget
- ✦ Work with Carousel rep on upcoming RFP projects

#### NH – Nursing Home

- ✦ Assist MIS Manager with exporting documents for outside document request.
- ✦ Finalized creation of encrypted PDF documents for Health Information Manager
- ✦ Change rights for Purchasing Asst. to allow access to outside email.
- ✦ PDA issues – LNA issue with users changing network settings causing PDA's to not function properly or at all.
- ✦ Activities installation of calendar event poster creating software.
- ✦ Resolve network connectivity issue to Admin wing printer copier
- ✦ Create Images of CFO and Bookkeeper PC systems for disaster recovery
- ✦ Install MS Operating System Service Pack update on AHT Server.
- ✦ Resolve receptionist PC connectivity issue with Vol Cord color printer.
- ✦ Install 2 AHT updates on all systems
- ✦ Reinstall AHT Client on Granite PC.
- ✦ Change backup software on SQLSERVER.
- ✦ Create new Windows and Email accounts setup for new MDS User.
- ✦ User having issue opening Tiff files. Proper software configured to open TiFF files.
- ✦ Set user desktops to a uniform standard.
- ✦ Install software updates\maintenance on all 5 MDS PC's
- ✦ Create new user account for new restorative staff member
- ✦ Install software updates\maintenance on all Restorative PC's
- ✦ Trained Restorative user in use of Campus email and policies
- ✦ Installed software updates on 3 nursing home servers.
- ✦ Relocate old PC's from basement to IT area, review and inspect.

#### MT – Maintenance

- ✦ Install software updates on both HVAC PC systems

#### RD – Registrar of Deeds

- ✦ No Help-desk calls

#### SO – Sheriff's Office\Dispatch

- ✦ Servers updated and rebooted
- ✦ Install software updates on Sargent's PC

#### Community Service

- ✦ No Help-desk calls