

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
North Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday, May 3, 2011

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

OTHERS: Harold Brown (intermittently)

Members of the Employee Council arrived.

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:05 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance led
by Karen Clough.

Employee Council President Richard Thompson spoke first thanking the Commissioners
for their reconsideration of the Council's proposal. He said that after the meeting with
Director Clough, employees were polled by ballot. He asked the Commissioners if the
stipend that was offered would be based on a performance evaluation or given as would
be a COLA. Director Clough said that it hadn't been discussed as such but that her
recommendation is that it would be given based on an evaluation.

R. Thompson said that the majority of people polled chose the merit and that people
would still like to see the County pay 100% of the insurance deductible.

K. Clough said they realize they are not a Union and they are glad that they can come to
the Commissioners without reprisal or retaliation from managers. She said that in the
comment section of the ballot it was noted frequently that employees would like to see
their deductibles paid for and that it would only cost the County an additional \$111K
which was a small percentage of the overall budget.

D. Burlson said that most of that money in deductibles will not be used and it would
probably end up costing the county less in the long run, to keep their employees healthy.

K. Clough said that because of the high costs, people could always choose to put their
children on New Hampshire's Healthy Kids but that's not good for the State.

M. Deem said that the Council feels that many of the Social Services should be
eliminated and County employees should be taken care of first. He said he has viewed
the budgets of the Social Service agencies and that their Directors make a huge amount of
money, which he didn't think was correct and that the Commissioners shouldn't be taking
care of them first and not their employees. He said that he would rather feel that he was
in partnership with the Commissioners rather than opposed to them.

Commissioner Burton asked how the balloting was done. K. Clough said that she
personally gave all Employee Council members a ballot with their paystubs which
requested they respond by this morning. 70 people responded and the ballots were
counted this morning before the meeting.

Commissioner Burton said that there is importance in reaching out to everyone. R. Thompson said there are more employees taking an interest in the Council now because of all the changes that have taken place.

Commissioner Burton said that if anyone feels discriminated against because of their attendance in the budget meeting process he would like to know about it as no one should be made to feel singled out whether it be at work or out in the community. He said that the Council should also consider representing themselves at the public hearing. K. Clough said that they intend to do so at the public hearing, with the Executive Committee and at the Delegation meeting.

9:17 AM The Commissioners left the room with Executive Director Clough to discuss the Employee Council's proposal.

9:36 AM The Commissioners resumed their meeting.

Commissioner Cryans said that they had reached a compromise and that they were willing to fund 75% of the deductible through the health reimbursement account (HRA) and they will find a way to make that work.

R. Thompson said they will have to bring this back to the Council. Commissioner Cryans said that there is really no more time for that and said he feels that the compromise is fair. R. Thompson said he didn't really look at this as a compromise since the employees weren't included in the initial discussions regarding health insurance.

K. Clough said that the trend for health insurance has been predictable and the employee's hands are tied. She said this does need to be addressed and said the Commissioners should have anticipated this increase. Commissioner Cryans said the County is a tiny speck of what's going on in the world of health insurance and said there are a lot of private employers who offer far less. He said that the Commissioners are very aware of the costs as they too have to deal with insurance on a personal level. He said that he did not disagree with K. Clough that this is a huge issue for many.

R. Thompson asked if the Commissioners will continue to pay the 75% deductible in years to come and Commissioner Cryans said he couldn't answer that question and there was no way they could commit to that. He said that there was no guarantee that the three of them would even be elected next time so how could they make that commitment.

M. Deem said that the County could support their employees as opposed to some of the support they give to certain social services. He said that there are some agencies that some people, including himself, that because of certain beliefs would not want to give financial support to and he opposes that and said he doesn't want his money going there. He said that most people do support the working man.

Commissioner Cryans said that government is a wrestle and there are laws and commitments that have to be taken care of and said that he still feels that the 75% goes a long way towards a compromise and that he understands that this is a big change.

D. Burlson asked what the timeline was for the budget and Director Clough replied that it has be out by this Friday in order to meet the statutory requirements for the public hearing on the 18th.

K. Clough asked who attends the public hearing and Commissioner Cryans said that has varied over the years. He said generally its department heads, some Delegates and some people from the public. She asked if the press was there and was informed that quite often there is some member of the press.

The Employee Council left to take a few minutes to discuss what they might want to do.

Nursing Home Administrator Bolander arrived and gave her report to the Commissioners *(see attached). She also gave them a copy of analysis that Primex had done regarding risk management which showed the Nursing Home being in very good standings regarding workman's compensation. Commissioner Cryans noted that it also showed that 24% of CNA's are not provided any health benefits at the facilities they work at. NHA Bolander said this was a national study.

Commissioner Burton noted that he had visited the Grafton County Cemetery and took some pictures while checking on the condition of the area. He said it appeared to be in very good shape and well tended to. NHA Bolander said the Maintenance Dept. is responsible for the care.

The Employee Council members returned. R. Thompson said he would need to take the information provided by the Commissioners back to the Employee Council and get back to the Board by Friday. Director Clough said the budgets have to be in the mail on Friday and have quite a bit of preparation to get to that stage.

D. Burlson asked how the stipend would work and Director Clough said that in her opinion, it should be given to the full time employees at their anniversary date contingent upon their evaluation.

The Employee Council left.

Maintenance Superintendent Oakes arrived and Commissioner Burton gave him the pictures of the cemetery. Supt. Oakes said that the cemetery is on the list of things to be cleaned up before Memorial Day.

Corrections Superintendent Libby arrived with Sergeant Paronto, Farm Manager Kimball and George Baldwin. The Commissioners asked Sergeant Paronto, who will be retiring after 20 years, to come forward for a proclamation which was read. The Commissioners wished Sgt. Paronto best of luck in his retirement.

Supt. Oakes informed the Commissioner that there has been a lot of flood damage on the complex and the road down to the fields has experienced considerable damage, which is not covered by insurance. Supt. Oakes provided pictures and asked the Commissioners

how they would like to proceed with the repairs. He said that right now the road is closed and the fields are flooded which will delay planting.

Commissioner Burton asked if the work could be done in-house and Supt. Oakes replied that the County doesn't have the equipment to take on a project like this.

Commissioner Cryans thought it should be done expeditiously and Commissioner Burton thought Morrill Construction should just come in and do it.

There was more discussion as to how this was affecting the planting and the construction at the Jail. There was also some discussion as to where the money would come from.

Commissioner Ahern asked if permits would be required through DES and Supt. Oakes said he didn't think so. Commissioner Burton thought that it would be best if Supt. Oakes did speak to DES about this.

Supt. Oakes said he could speak with some companies and get some bids to bring back to the Commissioners next week and Commissioner Cryans asked if the Board was in agreement with proceeding this way as opposed to waiving bid and having Morrill Construction do it.

Commissioner Ahern moved to request that Supt. Oakes solicit at least three cost recommendations for the repair of the damage done to the Farm road which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Human Service Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived with her monthly report to the Commissioners. *(see attached) She reported that so far the County has been billed \$5.8M for services and the cap is \$7.3M, which leaves a balance of about \$1.5M. Out of that amount approximately \$1M will be spent before year's end in billing which means the State has set a higher cap than they should have. The County should retain about \$500K of the amount budgeted along with the FMAP money. Fortunately, Grafton County opted to pay only what was billed as opposed to paying a monthly fee on the capped amount meaning we won't have to wait for money to come back.

HSA Bishop said there is a proposed House Bill that wants counties to pay to the cap and then the State will adjust the difference at the end of the year but HSA Bishop suggested the Commissioners oppose that.

HSA Bishop said that Northern Human Service will be capping the amount of visits that people can make due to lower funding. This is an agency funding in part by the County.

Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan arrived and brought a report to the Commissioners *(see attached), along with April's revenues which were down \$157K and foreclosures which were up.

RD Monahan said she would not be here for the public hearing.

RD Monahan said there will be a Northern Pass presentation in Bristol on the 26th and that she attended the presentation with Dr. Chu at Dartmouth College. She said he

encouraged the Dartmouth students to get involved with the project as the only way it could be thwarted was by numbers.

Commissioner Ahern said he also attended the presentation and there was some discussion there about the future use of biodiesel.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and had any corrections or changes. Commissioner Ahern had some changes.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Commissioner Burton said that he was pleased to see that White Mountain Community College had sent out their brochure for classes but disappointed that there was nothing scheduled for Woodsville.

Commissioner Burton said that D. Maes spoke at the Good Ole Boys and outlined what Cooperative Extension does for the County.

Commissioner Burton said that Larry Kelly of Tri-County Community Action is retiring after 27 years of service and there will be a party at the Washington Hotel on the 13th.

Commissioner Cryans attended a tour with Congressman Bass and EDA Regional Director Willy Taylor at the DRTC. He said they viewed the new addition which is funded by EDA.

BUDGET REVIEW

Director Clough asked if the Commissioners had any particular area that they wanted her to look at to try to find the money to fund the HRA account. Commissioner Cryans said that she should begin with the Dept. Heads and see if they have anything they can find.

Various changes to the budget were discussed. Total amount of the budget will be \$36,785,693 which is a 13.83% increase of the amount to be raised by taxes.

There was further discussion about merit increases and COLA's and who was eligible for what.

Commissioner Cryans said that he thought that they did a good job on the budget considering everything and Commissioner Ahern said that he thought if the Board was more studious and had given better direction to the Dept. Heads, they may have been able to do more for the employees.

Commissioner Cryans moved to approve the budget at \$36,785,693 which was seconded

by Commissioner Burton. Commissioners Cryans and Burton were in favor.
Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

Director Clough said that final numbers will still need to include the cost of fuel.

12:00 PM being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

Commissioner's Report

Date: 5/3/11

Census: 134

Medicare: 3

Medicaid: 98

Private: 33 (>25%)

Other: 0

Admissions: YTD: 26

Discharges: YTD: 4

Deaths: YTD: 16

Projects:

Budget development

QIS (Quality Indicator Survey) Prep

HIPAA/ICD 10 50/10 prep

**Family Day: May 7, 2011 from 2-3:30 PM: Nursing Home
Week**

Primex Report

Outstanding Issues:

Informal Dispute Resolution

Legal issues

May 3, 2011

HUMAN SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

1.) LTC Expenses to date:

- Expenses by Town Report
- FY CAP Payment Report
- Recovery revenue report
- DHHS billing unit request for deductions reports

2.) Legislative Update:

- DHHS Proposed amendment

3.) Molar Express:

- Clinics scheduled today and tomorrow

4.) Meetings attended:

- 4/6 Department Head Meeting
- 4/6 Workman's Comp Workshop @ nursing home
- 4/20 Joint Loss Management/Wellness Committee Meeting
- 4/25 North Country Public Health RCC Meeting (via teleconference)

5.) Misc:

- Horse Meadow Generator Lease Agreement filed with Deeds Office
- Letter from Northern Human Services regarding outpatient services

Wallace proposal - HB 2

County Reimbursement; Payments Subject to Audit. Amend RSA 167:18-a, I by amending the initial paragraph to read as follows:

I. These expenditures shall in the first instance be made by the state, but each county shall make monthly payments to the state for the amounts due under this section within 45 days from notice thereof. *Payments shall be made of the amounts as billed. The total amount paid by each county shall be subject to adjustments for any incorrect billings based upon an annual audit conducted by the office of the legislative budget assistant with the approval of the legislative fiscal committee.*

**Registry of Deeds
Grafton County New Hampshire
May 3, 2011**

- Revenue is down from April of 2010.

April 2010 \$600,530.79

April 2011 \$442,837.26

-157,693.53

We should still meet our projected Revenue goal for FY11

- Foreclosures are up 4 from April 2010.

April 2010 /20

April 2011 /24

- April 2010 was a very early spring. This April was difficult in many ways. Hopefully, this is the cause of this blip in what was a very positive December, January, February and March.
- With the change in the date of the Public Hearing on the County Budget, I will be unable to attend on May 18, 2011. I will be in Illinois at the Fidlal conference, that was paid in full by Fidlal. I feel this conference is vital, as in FY12 we will be making the decision to re-sign with Conner & Conner / Fidlal or to pursue other options.