

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
North Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday February 14, 2012

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

9:06 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Farm Manager Don Kimball arrived with his report saying that they were milking 74 cows, shipping 10,500#'s for an average of 70#'s per animal. The price of milk is \$19.36

- Maintenance is being done on the Farm equipment to get it ready for spring.
- There are twelve sows that will be littering in the spring and the Farm will be reviewing the cost of the sale of the piglets.
- All the hens (91) have been sold to market for fifty cents a piece.
- The health of the herd is good.

There was a discussion about planting vegetables and Commissioner Ahern suggested that FM Kimball should be sure to have a good crop of rutabagas.

There was a discussion about the price of milk and how much it may decrease. FM Kimball speculated that it could drop to around \$18 but he expected it to come back up.

Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan arrived with her report *(see attached). Revenues are down \$62K for the year to date which means lower revenues than expected, unless there are some good sales between now and the end of the year.

RD Monahan talked about the round table discussion on foreclosures that was held on February 1st, which RD Monahan and Atty. Seymour arranged. RD Monahan said there was a lot of good information provided. She noted that representatives from the state seemed to be somewhat surprised that they received revenues from the County Registries. It is a fact that 96% of every dollar taken in for transfer taxes goes to the state.

In regard to residents who find themselves with an issue of foreclosure, Commissioner Burton said that RD Monahan should feel free, if it is allowed, to give people Commissioner Burton's number and he will try his best to get them in touch with the right people to talk to. He said he wants to see people be able to remain in their own homes. Commissioner Burton said he appreciates the effort that RD Monahan has taken on this issue.

Commissioner Ahern said that it is important for the public to note that in New Hampshire, when people are given a mortgage deed that they are actually conveying their property to the bank/lending institution subject to conditions.

He too thanked RD Monahan for her good work and for bringing this information forward and for coordinating the round table meeting.

Commissioner Cryans asked everyone if they had a chance to read the minutes from February 7th and if asked if anyone had any edits. Commissioner Ahern made some changes.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the minutes as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.
*(Commissioner Ahern withdrew his motion to approve)

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented two educational assistance applications. One was from the County Attorney's Office and the other was from the Commissioners Office. Both requests were for classes that would go toward a degree. Director Clough said there is still money in the budget for requests.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the educational assistance applications which were seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans signed the claim form for the Littleton Town & Country CDBG drawdown request..

Commissioner Cryans signed a certification form stating that the Microenterprise CDBG grant applicant, GCEDC, had the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan adopted at the public hearing that was held at the County.

Director Clough reviewed an email from NHACo Executive Director Betsy Miller inquiring as to whether or not the Board of Commissioners had any objection about the option of changing the structure of the membership of the County/State Finance committee and whether or not they felt that there should always be a County Commissioner on the committee from each County. Commissioner Cryans said he is a current member and when he can not attend, Human Service Administrator Nancy Bishop goes in his stead, which he feels very comfortable with. He said that whether or not there is a Commissioner at the table from a County should be at the decision of the individual County. It was decided that Grafton County will continue to provide members as they have in the past.

Commissioner Cryans signed the monthly drawdown report on the Drug Court Case Manager grant.

The Commissioners received an invitation to a 100th birthday celebration at the Nursing Home on the 1st of March at 2:30 PM

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the lease for the Superior and Circuit Court expires on the 30th of June and that the state is asking that the County renew a two year lease at a 0% increase for the two years. There was a discussion as to the increased

costs to the County and whether or not that should be factored in. Commissioner Ahern thought that increase should be calculated and taken into account. Director Clough said that the last lease agreement had a 2% increase in it. Commissioner Burton thought that the County should then ask for 2% again. Commissioner Ahern said that he would like to know what it now costs the County to operate the area held by the state before making any decisions. Director Clough said it wouldn't be difficult to figure that out and she would get that information back to the Board.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

All three Commissioners attended the retirement party for J. Bruce at the Nursing Home last week which was very nice. Commissioners Burton and Cryans also attended the open house for the new Nursing Home Administrator Craig Labore.

Commissioner Ahern, after reading the application for educational assistant from one of the applicants, said that according to the Employee Handbook, their particular request did not meet the requirements for the application in that the applicant had already begun the class in the beginning of January and the application was just now being submitted.

Commissioner Ahern moved to reconsider the vote of approval of educational assistance in accordance with the Employee Handbook. There was no second

There was some discussion about this and it was agreed that the application was late and after the fact but neither Commissioner Burton nor Commissioner Cryans felt that there should be any action taken at this time.

*Commissioner Ahern said he would like to withdraw his approval vote for the educational assistance for this particular request, and vote no on the original motion.

Commissioner Burton said that he had received information from CADY out of Plymouth in regard to a request for social service money and that he would put that information in his folder for consideration.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that beginning tomorrow the County will be the defendant in a jury trial in Merrimack County.

*10:27 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation according to RSA 91-A:3, II (e). 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 now go into non-public session.

*10:40 AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session

Commissioner Ahern moved to seal the minutes from the non-public session

which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners left to meet with the County Attorney at her office in the Courthouse building and continue the meeting.

County Attorney Lara Saffo presented her report *(see attached) and reviewed the items beginning with the issue of space. The Commissioners toured the Attorney's office area so they could see what Atty. Saffo needed. The ended up in the Lawyer's Lounge and Atty. Saffo said that she would like to see this area used as a conference room/lawyer's lounge so that she could utilize the large conference room that is adjacent to her offices as more room for staff. Knowing that wouldn't happen right away, Atty. Saffo requested to be able to lock the current conference room when not in use so that it could be used as private space for staff. The Commissioners were in agreement with that.

Atty. Saffo asked the Commissioners to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter.

*11:42 AM - 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 would now go into non-public session.

*11:48 AM- Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

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

Atty. Saffo finished reviewing her report with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burton stated that the new Attorney, Jack Bell, should have his own desk and chair and the Commissioners said he is willing to give his up, temporarily, until one can be secured for him. He recommended contacting the state property to see if they might have something. Commissioner Ahern said that Commissioner Burton uses his desk more often and therefore he would give his up to Atty. Bell instead.

11:55 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned and the Commissioners left to take a quick tour of the new Jail

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners
February 14, 2012**

January Revenue

County Revenue 1/2009	\$52,410.89	State Revenue 1/2009	\$271,090.56
County Revenue 1/2010	\$51,423.27	State Revenue 1/2010	\$339,951.36
County Revenue 1/2011	\$68,696.84	State Revenue 1/2011	\$324,824.64
County Revenue 1/2012	\$62,139.27	State Revenue 1/2012	\$256,689.00

Foreclosures 2009 21 year to date	FY 11 revenue ytd	\$587,095.68
2010 14 year to date	FY 12 revenue ytd	\$524,188.58
2011 12 year to date		(\$62,907.10)
2012 12 year to date		

January Action

1. The reconfiguration of the office is nearing completion. With the assistance of the maintenance department, we have accomplished a great deal in terms of increased security and efficiency at no cost. Terry Martin of the maintenance department was extremely helpful in this effort.
2. I would like to clarify our January discussion regarding the preserved books. The original cost to preserve the 53 books was approximately \$30,000; the cost of replacing the covers on all 53 books would have been \$17,000. The damage in the end was minimal and we may only need to replace 3 or 4 of the books covers most affected. Only the metal binding and leather was affected.
3. On 2/1/12 the Roundtable discussion was held that Attorney Margaret Seymour and I had initiated on the foreclosures crisis .It was a very informative and active discussion; I believe that it was very successful in identifying problems that exist and paving the way forward in seeking solutions. Attached is the memo of attendees.
4. On 2/3/12 the New Hampshire Register of Deeds Association met with members of the New Hampshire Department of Justice to discuss Mortgage Electronic Registration System and the effects of MERS on New Hampshire Registry of Deeds.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley J. Monahan
February 14, 2012**

**Office of the Grafton County Attorney
Lara Saffo, County Attorney
February 13, 2012
Report to the Commissioners**

(1) Case management

We finalized our year end data. The Office of the Grafton County Attorney received 576 referrals in 2010. We received 795 referrals in calendar year 2011. I have provided the delegation with the charts showing the referrals by town and by type of crime. If you have any questions about the data, please do not hesitate to contact me.

(2) Temporary positions.

We have hired two individuals for the temporary positions. Jeanne Bruno and Timothy Chevalier will be joining our office on a part time basis.

(3) Space

I have continued to work on no or low cost options to alleviate the space issues facing the Office of the Grafton County Attorney. I look forward to showing the space to you for your review and consideration.

For the next 5 months, I have one simple request: that I be authorized to lock the current conference room and assign three of the four existing tables to our interns, for their use. As you know, my office maintains the calendar for the conference room. If my office receives a request to use the conference room, we will simply move the intern's materials and put them in our office until the use of the conference room is completed. This request will have no fiscal or use impact, but will assist my office. The staff can also then use the space as a lounge for lunch breaks.

I would still like to discuss the viability of modifying the lawyers lounge into a lawyers lounge/conference room. The lounge will still be available to the bar, except when it is being used as conference room space. To date, the current conference room is utilized approximately twice a month. Thus, the main impact to the bar would be a change in furniture. I would like to give formal notice to the Grafton County bar that I am proposing restructuring the lawyers lounge space, so they can provide input if they so desire.

If the rooms are combined, my recommendation would be to move the tables in the conference room to the lawyers lounge and eliminating the couches, as well as removing the books that have not been updated. My office is happy to continue to maintain the calendar.

We have met with the maintenance department to determine costs for any proposed renovations, and are awaiting their cost estimates.

(4) Karpel/Software for County

Our office (Alison Farina) traveled to the Office of the Rockingham County Attorney, as the Karpel software has been installed in Rockingham County since November. This was well worth our time, and has enabled us to start the preparation process of transitioning to new software. It also enabled us to identify concerns about the transition that we are working on addressing at this time.

(5) Interns/Externs/Special Assistant County Attorneys

Our four interns are working with us, and I look forward to introducing them to you. The intern program is a valuable asset to Grafton County.

(6) Employment Matter

I would ask to go into private session to discuss an employment matter.

(7) Public Safety Initiatives

a. Mental Health Court (A.S.S.E.R.T. and Halls of Hope)

These programs are well received. Both communities have identified advantages to the mental health and criminal justice communities meeting on a regular basis and working together. Sustainability is a focus of discussion, as our grant runs out next fiscal year. In addition, on a separate note, Shelly Golden is talking to various stakeholders in the Plymouth area to discuss whether the Plymouth community is interested in a mental health court docket (or another type of problem solving court docket) in the Plymouth District Court catchment area.

Members of law enforcement have expressed an interest in continued training for first responding law enforcement officers about how to identify when mental health issues are impacting a situation, and the best manner to respond to such scenarios. As you know, we provided one such training in the Lebanon area and look forward to providing more trainings in the near future.

b. Plymouth Area Sexual Assault Resource Team

We conducted two joint trainings on Adult Sexual investigations, with an emphasis on investigating sexual assaults of older and disabled adults. Elderly and Adult Services co-presented, along with Voices Against Violence.

c. Grafton County Drug Court Sentencing Program

On February 13th and 14th the Grafton County Drug Court sentencing program will be evaluated during a site visit arranged with the Justice Programs Office, the School of Public Affairs at American University. This site visit will provide invaluable, neutral input about our program. We look forward to reviewing any recommendations.

I met with a volunteer, Robert Muh of Littleton New Hampshire (a member of the team that started our drug court), to work on an enhancement grant that will enable the Grafton County Drug Court us to increase its numbers.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions.