

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday April 10, 2012

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

OTHERS: Harold Brown, Rachel Clough

Human Resource Director Mike Simpson arrived.

9:05 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sgt. Mark Deem.

**Employee Council Members**, M. Deem, D. Wallis and L. Langlois were present to put forth their request for the budget. President M. Deem said that the employees were requesting that the Commissioners honor the Employee Handbook as it stands right now with all the current benefits and that a 3.6% cost of living increase be given. He said that is what is being given through Social Security and he feels that since there was no cost of living last year and merit increases were not allowed the year before, it would be fair. He also asked that when there is an agreement with the Employee Council that the Commissioners honor that agreement. He said last year there was an agreement to pay a one time stipend to those who were maxed out which later got nixed by the Delegation. He said that as the Council understood it, the Delegation sets the bottom line of the budget, but the Commissioners make the decision as to the allocations of the money.

Commissioner Burton asked if the Council knew what the other Counties were doing and they said that was not something they had explored.

Commissioner Burton stated that the workforce of Grafton County is very important and feels that it is time that something is done for the employees.

Commissioner Ahern said he appreciated everything the employees do but towns in his district are having problems and their taxes have increased and he doesn't see the unemployment rate or the economy getting any better in his area. He said that the town of Campton is seeing an increase in tax delinquencies.

D. Wallis said that the unemployment rate in Grafton County is one of the lowest in the state and that her taxes have increased also but her paycheck has decreased.

M. Deem said it is important for the economy that people have money to spend locally. He also commended the Benefits Committee for the work they did to reduce the cost of health insurance while still keeping a decent policy for employees.

The Commissioners will discuss this at a later time and hope to have a response to the employees by next Tuesday.

Director Clough said that Union negotiations will begin soon with three articles (wages, health insurance and call out policies) on the table.

Commissioner Cryans asked HRD Simpson if he had found out anything about COLA's and he said that 3% seemed to be common and he will find out what the other Counties are doing.

M. Deem again asked that the negotiation agreement that is made between the Commissioners and the Employee Council be honored and that the Council be respected in that way.

Human Resource Director Simpson was present to go over the health insurance again with the Commissioners so that a vote could be taken on whether to choose LGC as the carrier or one of the other vendors. He said that he had spoken to a number of people including the Executive Director of LGC and said there are protections in place should something happen regarding the lawsuit against them.

HRD Simpson and Director Clough recommended that the Board accept LGC as the health insurance carrier for the County.

Commissioner Ahern said that based upon the information provided by HRD Simpson in writing last week to the Board, he would recommend the County go with LGC as the health insurance provider for the County which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

There was a discussion as to whether the Commissioners wanted to go over the other items recommended by the Benefits Committee. Most of the recommendations were approved by the Commissioners but they wanted more time to think about the percentage funding for the HRA, the health insurance cost split of 14% and 20% for employees and adding a twelfth step those on the Technical wage chart.

**Farm Manager Kimball** arrived with his report for the Commissioners. They are milking 72 cows, shipping 10,900#'s of milk for an average of 75#'s. Price of milk is \$17.50/hundred weight. Spring work has begun. 92 piglets have littered. FM Kimball said the Market Bulletin is now listing pigs at between \$65 and \$90 and he would like to go back to selling the piglets at \$75. There was a discussion as to whether the price was appropriate.

Commissioner Ahern moved to sell the piglets at \$80 each which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Ahern discussed an article about a certain pesticide that could be responsible for the colony collapse disorder in honey bees. FM Kimball will check to see if that pesticide is used or not. He said that he thought the bees in the hives were either dead or gone since they haven't been seen. Commissioner Burton asked that the bee hive be checked out and if the bees have gone then he would request more would be added along with a strong queen.

FM Kimball said that the potatoes that were put into storage last fall were still as good as the day they went in with no signs of sprouting or rot. He thinks the storage area is working just fine without need for another.

FM Kimball will be interviewing candidates to replace the Herdsman who is retiring as of May 15<sup>st</sup>.

**Grafton County Economic Development Executive Director Mark Scarano and Board President Bill Webb** arrived to update the Commissioners on some of the latest information at GCEDC.

M. Scarano presented an economical assessment of Grafton County according to four different labor market areas. The assessment was done collaboratively with GCEDC and Plymouth State University.

The DRTC incubator project at Dartmouth was discussed. Adi-mab and MascomaCorp have both moved out of the incubator showing their growth as companies. There will be a GCEDC tour of various businesses coming up on May 24<sup>th</sup>, which Commissioner Burton helps to host.

M. Scarano went over three recent loans that closed which are helping businesses to either start up or grow.

The Enterprise Center in Plymouth has been receiving grants and so far has also raised \$1.5M to build a new structure.

Commissioner Burton said that local organizations such as GCEDC really help to get these projects off the ground and praised them for this effort. Commissioner Cryans said that GCEDC has really been a success story. B. Webb said that they received a lot of support along the way which has been incredibly important going forward. He also gave credit to ED Scarano.

The gentlemen were thanked for coming and for the report.

**Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes** arrived to make his recommendation for the bids that were received last week for furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new Jail. Attached are Supt. Oakes recommendations.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the recommendations of Supt. Oakes as per the attached spread sheet which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

An RFP was sent out for Biomass Combustion and three bids were received which were opened by Commissioner Cryans. Bidders were recorded and Supt. Oakes took the bids to review along with the Engineer of the proposed project.

Bids received were from:

Chiptec Wood Energy Systems  
McCormick Facilities Management  
Messersmith Manufacturer

**Human Service Administrator Nancy Bishop** arrived with her report to the Commissioners. \*(see attached).

HSA Bishop said she needed to discuss an issue with the Commissioners under non-public

session.

11:00 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.

\*11:20 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.

HSA Bishop continued on with her report and brought the Commissioners an article on managed care which noted that the state of Connecticut had used managed care for 15 years and are now planning to eliminate it because it has not saved them any money.

**Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan** arrived with her report \*(see attached). RD Monahan said that she is still optimistic of reaching the revenue goal for FY12.

11:35 AM The Commissioners recessed for lunch

12:40 PM The Commissioners resumed their meeting

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had read the budget minutes from March 29<sup>th</sup> and if there were any edits. None were noted.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from March 29, 2012 which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had read the minutes from April 3<sup>rd</sup> and if there were any edits. Commissioner Ahern made some edits.

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

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the Delegation will hold a public meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May at 10:00 AM in the UNH Conference room regarding the biomass project and then plan to vote on it thereafter.

The Commissioners public hearing on the budget is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the UNH Conference room.

Commissioner Cryans signed the forest patrol agreement in which \$11,500 will be paid to the County by the US Forest Service for patrols by the Sheriff's Department. This is an annual agreement.

Commissioner Cryans signed the Drug Court Case Manager monthly drawdown request.

The final report of the Executive Committee sub-committee on the New Jail Staffing was presented to the Board. This report will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The Commissioners talked about how the budget meeting on Thursday will be run as some of the Dept. Heads would like to attend the meeting while their budget is discussed.

The Commissioners then engaged in some conversation about their initial opinions of the budget. Commissioner Ahern said he was reluctant to hire new people and felt that if money were to be spent, it should be done so for existing employees. He was also not comfortable with increasing the private pay rates at the Nursing Home saying that the sooner a resident's money is spent the sooner they will have to go on Medicaid.

Commissioner Cryans said he was pleased to see how well the Jail has played out in regard to the budget and was also very pleased about the cost of the health insurance. He said he expected a lot of discussion about the hiring of new personnel and about pay increases. He said that it is important that Grafton County still offer the same quality of service that it has in the past.

\*1:30 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 would now go into non-public session.

\*1:47 PM- 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.

1:48 PM The meeting was adjourned

---

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

April 10, 2012

## HUMAN SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

- 1.) Request for non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(e)
- 2.) LTC Expenses to date:
  - Expenses to Date Report
  - Reimbursement report
- 3.) Legislative Update:
  - No update
- 4.) Goodwill Industries Workforce Program
  - No update
- 5.) Other
  - 3/22/12 -Participated in NACo Webinar "Improving County Healthcare"
  - 3/23/12 - Met with Primex RE: hosting a North Country Workshop for them
  - 4/2 - 4/4 Attended training for NC Public Health RCC
  - 4/6/12 - Attended NHAC monthly meeting

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds  
Kelley J. Monahan Register  
Report to Commissioners  
April 10, 2012**

**March Revenue**

County Revenue 3/2009	\$79,919.92	State Revenue 3/2009	\$339,039.36
County Revenue 3/2010	\$69,702.17	State Revenue 3/2010	\$550,008.00
County Revenue 3/2011	\$64,590.75	State Revenue 3/2011	\$472,685.76
County Revenue 3/2012	\$77,217.55	State Revenue 3/2012	\$491,521.92

<b>Foreclosures</b> 2009 39 year to date	FY 11 revenue ytd	\$722,990.99
2010 58 year to date	FY 12 revenue ytd	\$661,419.69
2011 50 year to date		(\$61,571.30)
2012 47 year to date		

**March Action**

1. The Fidlar team was in the office on 3/27-3/29 for staff training and software development fine tuning specific to New Hampshire.
2. I have communicated with Executive Committee Chairman Bulis to extend an invitation to the committee for a tour of the registry. It is my hope that this will lead to better comprehension of the operations of the office and the expenditures that I have requested from the surcharge account for FY 13.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelley J. Monahan  
March 13, 2012**