

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH  
Monday April 16, 2012

PRESENT: Representatives Bulis, Sova, Gionet, Ladd, Townsend, Aguiar Brosseau, Almy and White, Commissioners Burton and Ahern, Executive Director Clough, and Secretary Martino.

OTHERS: Miranda White

Rep. Bulis called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance upon the Executive Committee's return from a tour of the new Correctional Facility.

Rep. Bulis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from March 19<sup>th</sup>. Rep. Sova made a couple of edits.

Rep. Almy moved to approve the minutes from March 19, 2012 as amended which was seconded by Rep. Brosseau. All were in favor.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Elliott was not able to be present but supplied a written report which stated that the general fund account is healthy and there is an expectation of approximately \$180K due to arrive in the form of a bed tax payment.

Treasurer Elliott has received some interest from local banks regarding the bonding of the biomass plant, should that be approved for funding.

Rep. Bulis said that his understanding is that excess funds from the Jail project can be used to bond another projects. He said if it is not used for another project then it must be used to reduce debt.

Rep. White moved to accept the Treasurer's report which was seconded by Rep. Gionet. All were in favor.

Nursing Home Administrator Craig Labore arrived for an introduction to the Executive Committee. He gave a brief overview of his education and said that he had interned at Grafton County with Eileen Bolander to receive his Administrator certification. He was then hired by the Clough Center and when the job as Administrator opened up at the County he applied and was awarded the position. The committee wished him well in the position.

### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ahern gave the report beginning with a note that there will be a full Delegation public hearing meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May to discuss the biomass project with a vote on funding to follow. If the biomass is approved the work would begin in August and would take approximately one year to build. Rep. Bulis asked if the Commissioners

were looking at a heat only option and Commissioner Ahern replied yes. Director Clough said that the Board voted on heat only with the electrical stub option. An RFP was sent out and the bids will be in tomorrow. The Board can review it again if they desire.

Rep. Ladd asked if the information that was requested at the last meeting about the availability and current cost of chips had been gathered and Director Clough said there is no formal report yet but the latest chip price was around \$54-\$55. Director Clough said she will follow up with Supt. Oakes regarding that report.

Rep. Aguiar asked if there was a “plan B” if the plant doesn’t get funded and Commissioner Ahern said that “plan B” was to continue on with allowing the taxpayers to fund the high cost of fuel and to operate the same way it is now. He said there really is no other choice.

Rep. Aguiar asked about the life expectancy of the current heating systems and Director Clough said the only outdated heating system is at the Courthouse.

There will be a Drug Court graduation of the 7<sup>th</sup> of May at 1:30 PM.

The committee to consider what should be done with the old Jail met on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April and the consensus was to tour the old building once it is vacated. The next meeting for that will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July at 2:00 PM.

Rep. Bulis asked if there was a cost estimate to keep the building operational and the reply was that Supt. Oakes had estimated around \$52K a year. That amount could be reduced if there was a waiver by the Fire Marshall to shut down the sprinkler and fire alarm system.

Rep. White said there is no fire code for an unoccupied building but regulations by insurance companies can be different. Rep. Almy said the Jail’s location to the barns and the Nursing Home make it concern when considering shutting down the sprinklers.

The Commissioners are in the middle of their budget reviews and a full budget should be available by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. The public hearing on the Commissioners budget will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May at 6:00 PM in the UNH Conference room.

The new County health insurance premiums will save \$123K over last year’s.

Rep. Gionet asked if there was an estimate on the budget and Director Clough said there is an approximate 5% increase with a 10% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Rep. Ladd said he would like to see something come through the budget as to what should be done with the old Jail and said he didn’t want to see it drag on. Rep. Gionet said that you couldn’t really get a good assessment until the building is vacated.

Rep. Bulis said it would be nice to see some action taken by this current Delegation. Commissioner Burton said that the Board of Commissioners voted not to apply for an historical preservation grant and not to apply for a CDBG feasibility study. He said the time is coming for the Board to make a final decision.

Commissioner Burton said there will be a Governor's Breakfast at Primex on the 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate County Government Month.

Rep. Aguiar moved to accept the Commissioner's report which was seconded by Rep. White. All were in favor.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINACIAL REPORT

Director Clough said that the census at the Jail is 106 in-house and 6 out on electronic monitoring. There are 21 people in Drug Court with 5 in custody. The Nursing Home census is 135 which is full capacity.

Director Clough reviewed the monthly variance report for nine month which shows the County slightly under revenue.

Revenue: Nursing Home is under due to the Pro-share and Bed Tax payment which will come in and should bring the budget in line. Mental Health Court is a grant which will be received and Deeds has still not realized its budgeted revenue.

Expenses: There were three payrolls in March and IT and GCEDC will come back in line. It is questionable if the Farm will end up in the black.

The pro-rated report and the over expenditure report was reviewed.

Rep. White moved to accept the Executive Director's financial report which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

Rep. Bulis passed out copies of comparative salaries of elected officials in each County as the full Delegation will need to vote on the salaries of Grafton County elected officials. There was some discussion as to what further information might be needed in order to consider salaries and Rep. Ladd was particularly interested in the salary of the County Attorney. Rep. White said there needs to be a philosophical question as to whether or not there should be any increase as most of the positions fall right into the 50% range of all the other Counties.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A copy of the Report of the Jail Staffing sub-committee was given to the committee members for review. Rep. Almy briefly touched on a few things and said that the full committee agreed that privatization was neither practical nor economical and that in her opinion, Grafton County is dangerously understaffed. She said the committee would like to review the medical staffing once the Jail is up and operating.

Rep. Ladd said he would like to see Grafton County taking federal prisoners in the future in order to create a revenue stream.

It was determined that the committee would like to speak with Supt. Libby in a non-public session regarding the staffing, during their budget meetings. They would also like to speak with Supt. Oakes regarding maintenance of the building.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None

There was a discussion as to when the committee will hold their budget meetings and the following dates were decided upon:

May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM - budget

May 14<sup>th</sup> will the Public hearing and vote on elected official salaries and biomass project

May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM - budget

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM – budget

June 25<sup>th</sup> is slated to be the Delegation vote on the budget.

There was some discussion as to how the budget will be reviewed.

12:15 AM Rep. Townsend moved to adjourn which was seconded by Rep. White. With no further business and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Charles Sova, Clerk