

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Thursday December 11, 2012

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans and Burton, Director Clough and Secretary Martino. Commissioner Omer C. Ahern Jr., participated by phone according to RSA 91-A:2 with the reason being that he was unable to drive due to eye surgery. Telephone participation was at his request. It was noted that all votes must be taken by a roll call.

OTHERS: Harold Brown

Farm Manager Kimball and Sheriff Dutile arrived.

9:05 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting which began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Farm Manager Kimball gave his report saying that they were milking 74 cows, shipping 11,000 pounds of milk for an average of 75#s per animal.

Fall projects are being done which include the spreading of manure.

The barn walls have been steam cleaned down.

FM Kimball said he was still in the process of looking for a truck but he hasn't had much luck.

Donations from the Farmstand reached approximately \$10K and almost \$32K worth of produce went to the new Jail. FM Kimball estimated that revenue from the Farmstand reached almost \$60K.

The person who was hired as part time help for the Farm has been promoted to full time which will include benefits.

FM Kimball said that he will be receiving his training certificate once he completes a seminar that he and his farmhand will be attending today.

FM Kimball said that the Farm will be receiving a certificate from AgriMark for the sale of quality milk. He said that farms consistently producing a quality product, meeting certain standards, receive a price increase in amount paid for milk.

Commissioner Burton said that receiving a certificate would be cause for celebration and he hoped FM Kimball would bring the certificate into the Board when it's received.

Commissioner Burton asked about all the livestock and was told that everything is going fine.

Commissioner Ahern asked FM Kimball if he had all his credits which would allow him to have inmates and he replied that he will be receiving his final credits after the seminar which will allow him to receive inmates from the Dept. of Corrections.

Commissioner Ahern said that he had taken a walk through the barn the other day and was saddened to see the magnificent animals still had manure caked on their backs. He said he found that unforgivable.

FM Kimball said that he has asked for more help from Corrections so he could take care of more things but the request has been denied. He said Corrections doesn't feel he needs any more help.

Commissioner Ahern said there still seems to be a disconnect between the Farm and Corrections.

Commissioner Ahern asked FM Kimball if he had his 5 year plan written yet and FM Kimball replied he did not have it done.

Commissioner Ahern asked who has ultimate supervision over the vegetable garden and FM Kimball said it Sgt. Webster. Commissioner Ahern said he was out in the garden the other day and was shocked to see rows of rutabagas that hadn't been thinned or harvested. FM Kimball said that 3000 pounds of them had gone to the Jail.

Commissioner Ahern said it proves again the need for a better root cellar.

Commissioner Ahern said he had a concern about the Farm help going from part time to full time when the Farm was still running in the red.

There were no further questions for the Farm Manager.

Commissioner Burton said that he had invited the Sheriff to come in this morning since he and Commissioner Ahern had attended the Rumney Selectboard meeting last evening along with the Sheriff and Director Andross and spoke to them about their refusal to pay their bill for Dispatch services.

Sheriff Dutile said that the Selectboard had asked that the Commissioners reconsider waiving the 90 day notice for leaving the County Dispatch service as agreed upon in the contract they signed. The Sheriff said he thought they would be setting precedence if they did that, however, the same thing happened with Bridgewater some years ago and they just never paid their bill. The Sheriff suggested that perhaps they could split the fee. Commissioner Cryans rhetorically asked why they even have a 90 opt out if it's not upheld.

Commissioner Ahern said that the Police Chief and the Selectman felt that their concerns for not paying the bill were not received as valid.

Commissioner Cryans asked Commissioner Ahern what his suggestion was since the town was in his district. Commissioner Ahern replied that he would agree with the Sheriff that splitting the difference would be the best option.

Commissioner Ahern moved that in a gesture of good will and due to the concerns of the Rumney Board of Selectmen, the Commissioners would accept payment for ½ of the amount billed to Rumney on September 10, 2012. He felt that in this case there were special circumstances that warranted this. The total amount to be collected from Rumney will be \$1,699.10. Rumney having already

paid \$444.95 will have a balance due to the County of \$1,254.15. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Burton. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Burton yes, Commissioner Ahern yes and Commissioner Cryans yes.

*9:40 AM - Commissioner Ahern 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) &(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 would now go into non-public session.

9:45 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

*9:45 AM– Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session as divulgence of the information would have an adverse effect on someone’s reputation (other than a board member),. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Burton yes, Commissioner Ahern yes and Commissioner Cryans yes.

Nursing Home Administrator Craig Labore arrived with his report and began by saying that the Nursing Home was at full capacity (135) and had been for the past seven weeks.

The Medicaid rate has increased to \$152.51 which will add another \$60K to the budget between the 1st of January and the 30th of June.

Christmas dinner will be held for the residents and for anyone who wanted to join in. An elaborate menu has been chosen and for those who are not residents and would like to share dinner will be charged \$15 for a meal. Reservations must be made by calling the Nursing Home.

A number of holiday events have been planned for the month and the Home is incredibly decorated.

Commissioner Burton said he attended the retirement party for Cathy Ricker which was a full house. He said it was a very positive gathering to say goodbye to someone after 39 years.

*10:00 AM - Commissioner Ahern 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) &(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 would now go into non-public session.

10:18 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

*10:18 AM– Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session. A role call vote was taken. Commissioners Burton yes, Commissioner Ahern yes and Commissioner Cryans yes.

Commissioner Burton moved to extend the 30 hour billing position in the Nursing Home to 35 hours which will allow the position to be considered full time which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said he was opposed to the motion saying that the need for this position is a violation of RSA 28:A since it is an increased demand of work by the state and paid for by the taxpayers. He said he didn't think the position was advertised properly otherwise they would have been able to find a qualified person at part time. He said he didn't feel that they had exhausted the pool of applicants.

A role call vote was taken. Commissioners Burton yes, Commissioner Ahern no and Commissioner Cryans yes.

10:25 AM Commissioner Ahern was no longer available for the meeting by phone.

Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan arrived with her report *(see attached). She stated that revenues are on track.

RD Monahan said she plans to put together some reports for the new Executive Committee regarding the need for a fire suppression system in the next budget.

Deeds will be hosting an Open House on the 3rd and 4th of January during normal operating hours to help people become more familiar with the new software system and the functions of the Deeds department.

Treasurer Carol Elliott arrived to go over information for investments of tax money. Commissioner Cryans went over to Treasurer Elliott and presented her with a wooden clock for her services to the County in both the Registry of Deeds and as Treasurer. Carol's term expires at the end of December.

\$3,221,000 has been received in tax money with another \$17,612,000 yet to be collected. Treasurer Elliott said that she sent out bid requests for investments but the prospects for seeing any decent interest rates were slim. Mascoma Savings Bank was offering a CDAR with an interest rate of .35% and Woodsville was offering the same thing as in the past which has a . 3% interest rate and is collateralized in the checking account for a fee.

This time however Woodsville will offer the letter of credit quarterly for \$300 which could be cancelled should a better offer arise. Treasurer Elliott said there are still some bids yet to come in but she didn't think there would be any better offers. She said she would propose to send \$3M to Mascoma and to leave the rest of the money at Woodsville unless a better offer comes in.

Commissioner Burton moved to allow Treasurer Elliott to secure the most responsible investment for the tax money received which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Commissioner Cryans made an amendment to the November 27, 2012 minutes.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012 as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from December 6, 2012 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans signed the Drug Court Case Manager grant.

The Commissioners reviewed the Dept. of Corrections Superior Court Report.

County Attorney Lara Saffo arrived. She informed the Commissioners that the office was experiencing some difficulties with their new software so she was unable to provide a written report.

The new space at the Attorney's Office is now complete and Atty. Saffo praised the Maintenance Department for their great work.

There was discussion about a juvenile justice program through the County which was proposed by a Delegation member at Monday's reorganization meeting. The proposed program would be run through the Attorney's office and Atty. Saffo stated that right now they will begin by collecting data. She said that towns can't really afford this and that she feels it should be run at a County level.

Commissioner Cryans said that the Delegation's resolution was a basic one that simply suggested the County look into this. He said however, that there are a lot of agencies that are out there looking for help.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that she received an email from grant Administrator Donna Lane asking if the County would consider being the applicant for a CDBG grant that Soldier On is looking to do. They plan to establish housing for homeless veterans in the town of Holderness and Ms. Lane thought the County would rate better than the town would.

Commissioner Cryans said he would like to ask Commissioner Ahern first as that is his area and he also wanted to know if this is something the town of Holderness wanted. Commissioner Burton said he's been to a number of the meetings and this is going to be built. He added that sometimes the County needs to move ahead for the greater good which is what this homeless house is. Commissioner Cryans said he wasn't opposed to this he just wanted to hear from Commissioner Ahern and the town. Director Clough said she plans to meet with the incoming Treasurer today to go over things so they could be assured of a smooth transition.

Director Clough said that in the past the County has provided a bonus for employees who had retired after 30 years and asked the Commissioners if they wanted to do the same for a recent retiree.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the retirement bonus for the aforementioned retiree which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

11:40 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners
December 11, 2012**

November Revenue

County Revenue 11/2009	\$81,039.29	State Revenue 11/2009	\$506,117.76
County Revenue 11/2010	\$96,526.70	State Revenue 11/2010	\$692,679.64
County Revenue 11/2011	\$71,738.89	State Revenue 11/2011	\$392,029.44
County Revenue 11/2012	\$80,044.74	State Revenue 11/2012	\$523,386.24

Foreclosures

2009	160 year to date	Equipment Surcharge Balance	\$86,990.05
2010	193 year to date	CD	\$50,000.00
2011	190 year to date	Bank of NH	\$36,990.05
2012	175 year to date		

1. My first priority in 2013 will be to address the inadequate storage for the historic paper records. The Grafton County Board of Commissioners has voted unanimously in favor of a new fire suppression system for FY 2011 and FY 2012, which was then removed from the budget by Executive Committee, although full cost would have been covered by the Deeds surcharge fund. I am assembling a report to distribute to the new members of the Executive Committee and full Delegation on this proposed project.
2. The Grafton County Registry of Deeds will be hosting an open house during office hours 8:00-4:00 Thursday and Friday January 3th & 4th 2013. The focus will be to familiarize the public with the functions of the office, to demonstrate the new software search program that is currently being phased in, and to display the historic records of the county.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley J. Monahan
December 11, 2012**

