

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Wednesday January 2, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioners Mike Cryans, Martha Richards and Ray Burton, Director Julie Clough and Secretary Martino.

10:06AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting which began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commissioners had just come from the swearing in ceremony at the Courthouse which begins their term of office. Because this is a new term, officers must be elected to positions. Nominations were heard.

Commissioner Burton moved to nominate Commissioner Cryans as Chairman of the Board which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Commissioners Burton and Richards were in favor while Commissioner Cryans abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Burton moved to nominate Commissioner Richards as Vice Chairman of the Board which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor while Commissioner Richards abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Richards moved to nominate Commissioner Burton as Clerk which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Cryans and Richards were in favor while Commissioner Burton abstained from the vote.

The official Board of Commissioners was now in place.

Director Clough informed Commissioner Burton that she had registered him for the NHACo Conference in Washington D.C. which runs March 2-6.

Every two years the Commissioners appoint Department Heads to their positions. The appointments this year are: Julie Clough as Executive Director, Craig Labore as Nursing Home Administrator, Glenn Libby as Superintendent of Corrections, Jim Oakes as Superintendent of Maintenance, Nancy Bishop as Human Services Administrator, Brent Ruggles as Information Technology Manager and Don Kimball as Farm Manager.

Commissioner Burton asked Director Clough if she was comfortable with the appointments of the above named individuals and she replied that she did not think that type of decision was hers to make and that the Dept. Heads do, for the most part, report to the Board.

Commissioner Burton asked if any individual named is under any kind of investigation or action by federal, state or local boards or by any court and Director Clough responded

that the DoC and the Nursing Home have pending claims against them but that is not against any individual.

Commissioner Burton asked what the status of the Human Resource position was and Director Clough said that there is a Personnel Committee hearing scheduled for the 10th of January at 1:00 PM at the request of the former HR Director. She said that the position is on hold until after that time. At present she is acting as HR Director and the HR staff is carrying out the day to day operations.

Commissioner Burton moved the appointment of the seven Department Heads as listed above, for a period of two years, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Burton said that it was important to note that the evaluation process for the Department Heads had not been completed because they ran out of time. He said he would still like to request that each Dept. Head meet with the Board to go over the evaluations. Commissioner Cryans said that should be before March 1st when the budget process begins.

Commissioner Richards said she would like to see the short and long term goals for the Dept. Heads and Director Clough said she would get her a copy of the self evaluations.

When the vote was taken, all were in favor.

Director Clough received an update from the federal government which increased the mileage reimbursement to .565 and noted that the County has always followed the same rate.

Commissioner Richards moved to increase the mileage reimbursement rate to .565 which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented the new Primex membership agreement and read the resolution for County acceptance, which now workmen's compensation, property liability and unemployment insurance.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the resolution and agreement with Primex which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners then signed the agreement.

Director Clough said that she would like the Commissioners to move into non public session to discuss an employee matter

*10:30 AM - Commissioner Burton 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) &(c). Commissioner Richards seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll Commissioner Burton "yes"

Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and they would now go into non-public session.

10:46 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

*10:46 AM– Commissioner Richards 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 Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

*10:46 AM - Commissioner Burton moved to temporarily adjourn the meeting for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel, giving notice to those present that the meeting will be reconvening once that has concluded, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor. Only the three Commissioners and Director Clough remained in the room.

11:42 AM – Commissioner Cryans resumed the public meeting.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton asked about an invoice for Plexiglas to replace broken windows in the barn. He questioned how windows got broken. Director Clough said she would get that answer for him.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to have some meetings in the Nursing Home, Courthouse and Jail in the future.

There was a discussion about ex-Commissioner Omer Ahern attending the Farm Advisory Committee meetings. Commissioner Burton said he had taken an interest in the Farm and assumed he would be attending as a member of the public. Commissioner Richards said she would be opposed to a former Commissioner having voting rights on the committee.

Commissioner Richards said she was glad to be back and wanted to continue with issues such as the growing elderly population and their health and care options, the biomass project and Northern Pass. She said that she would like to have a citizen’s committee come in to discuss the current issues with Northern Pass and hoped the Board could take some kind of oppositional stand to the project.

Commissioner Cryans noted again the swearing in of Grafton County elected officials, Commissioners Martha Richards, Ray Burton and himself, Lara Saffo (County Attorney), Doug Dutile (High Sheriff), Kelley Monahan (Register of Deeds), Becky Wyman (Register of Probate), and Bonnie Parker (Treasurer).

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to see a recommendation as to what should be done with the old Jail put on the table. He said that given the fact that there is some

money that has not been purposed, they should make a decision sooner than later. He said he would be ready to vote right now but suggested the 15th of January for the vote.

Commissioner Cryans noted some things to look at this coming year.

- The biomass is scheduled to be up and running in the spring
- Managed care will play out
- The budget will again present a challenge

Commissioner Burton noted that the County will be realizing a huge savings in the way of fuel consumption when the biomass comes on line.

Commissioner Cryans welcomed back Commissioner Richards for a third time and noted that both he and Commissioner Burton have been Commissioners for a number of terms.

Commissioner Cryans noted that Commissioner Burton in his capacity as Councilor will be serving his 18th term with the state which breaks the record of 17 terms which was also his to break.

He noted that Governor Maggie Hassen will be sworn in and the Washington delegates Carol Shea-Porter and Annie McLane Kuster will as well.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to stay abreast of the issues with Tri-County.

12:00PM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk