

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

July 2nd 2013

PRESENT: Commissioners Ray Burton, Mike Cryans and Martha Richards, Director Clough and Admin Assistant S. Tempelmeyer

Commissioner Cryans called the Meeting to order at 9:05 and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

NHA Labore arrived and gave the following report:

Grafton County Nursing Home

Commissioner's Report

July 2, 2013

Census:

Medicare: 1

Medicaid: 98

Private: 34

Total: 133

Year to Date Numbers:

Admissions (YTD) 26

Discharges (YTD) 10

Deaths (YTD) 17

Other Topics:

- 1) Beautician Contract
- 2) Update on Union Negotiations
- 3) Survey Planning
- 4) DHHS Audit- week of July 8th
- 5) Therapy RFP
- 6) Cottage Hospital Board

NHA Labore stated that with the Beautician Contract they originally asked for \$26,000 and the Delegation reduced it to \$20,000 with the understanding that private pay residents would pay for their own hair care. He stated that he feels that all residents should have access to the free benefit. The private pay residents already pay a significant amount for room and board and they are paying for medications that Medicaid patients are not paying for. He stated that he would like

to start the contract out at \$20,000 for all residents and as the year continues he wants to request a transfer from the Therapy and Rehab Line to the Beautician Line to make the line \$24,000.

Commissioner Cryans asked how many days she would be working. NHA Labore stated that she will be working four (4) days a week at eight (8) hours a day and she will be paying for her own supplies. He stated that the main selling point is going to be enabling her to devote more time to the residents, and it being less crowded.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was any way to work it within the current \$20,000. NHA Labore stated that it is not feasible at that dollar figure to make it worth their while.

Commissioner Richards stated that she is in favor of doing it this way.

NHA Labore presented a Bid Waiver Request for the Beautician Services at the Nursing Home. Commissioner Richards moved to waive the bid process for the Beautician Services at the Nursing Home and contract with Sandy Baird. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion and all were in favor.

NHA Labore stated that the Union Negotiations that took place last Wednesday went very well and they are making progress.

NHA Labore stated that they have received six (6) responses to date for the Therapy RFP and the bid is open till the 22nd of July.

NHA Labore stated that he was asked to be on Board of Directors at Cottage Hospital.

Commissioner Richards asked how often NHA Labore is out on the floor or in visiting the residents in their rooms. NHA Labore stated that he does not get out as often as he is used too. He stated that his work load is heavier and he doesn't have the opportunity to get out as much as he'd like too.

Commissioner Cryans asked about the progress of the new menu at the Nursing Home. NHA Labore stated that it was effective July 1st but they are waiting to make sure everything is in place. He stated that they were waiting to see if the budget passed before they started moving forward and that they plan to start using the new menu in August.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2013 as amended. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers.

Director Clough read a letter to the Commissioners that they received from Bethlehem Conservation Commission in recognition of County Forester Dave Falkenham.

The Commissioners opened the response to the RFP for the CDBG Administration for the Micro Enterprise Grant. There was one proposal received:

Hadfield Associates- \$ 18,000

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the proposal from Hadfield Associates for \$18,000. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans signed the Environmental Review Certification for NCIC.

Director Clough stated that there are some employees who will be traveling to a conference in July. She stated that she received an invoice for \$310 for one (1) of the people going to the conference to be picked up by a luxury town car at their house to be brought to the airport. Director Clough stated that she felt the employee should be responsible for paying for this and they should be reimbursed for what they could have billed for mileage and parking, which amounted to \$115. Commissioner Cryans stated that if they chose to be brought to the airport in this manner than they should pay for it themselves.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with an Educational Assistance application for an employee working toward their Bachelor's Degree. Commissioner Burton moved to approve the educational Assistance Application. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Director Clough stated that she had a meeting with FM Kimball and his staff. She stated that they will be doing training on supervision of inmates on the farm and that the farm office door and window have both been secured. Director Clough stated that as of Friday afternoon all syringes and medications are being moved to a new room off of the main building that only the farm staff and maintenance will have access too. They will have weekly meetings for now do discuss what is going on with the farm.

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner Burton stated that on August 5th he was asked if he would be a speaker at the Good Ole Boys and Girls Club. He stated that he asked Director Clough to be his guest.

Commissioner Burton stated that he attended funerals of Francis Felton and Lieghton Pratt.

Commissioner Burton stated that he attended the Visions of NH meeting; he was the only elected official there.

Commissioner Cryans and Burton attended the Rivermere Housing Project Dedication in Lebanon on Monday the 24th.

Commissioner Toumpas has agreed to three (3) District Health Council, meetings to be done in person.

Commissioner Burton stated that he recommends that we prepare a letter of congratulations to Todd Leach as the new Chancellor of the University System Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Burton stated that the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to freeze the tuition for two (2) years at the University System.

Commissioner Richards suggested that a sign be placed in the Biomass Plant with the date that it was built and the Commissioners' names.

Commissioner Richards stated that she went to Mental Health meeting in Littleton and talked about what their role is as a committee. She stated that they will be doing a lot of advocacy, whether it is Public Access Channel, brochures or Regional meetings.

Commissioner Burton stated that he recommends that a letter be made and signed by the Commissioners to respond to the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act. Commissioner Richards stated that they will be talking to Heather Bryant from UNH Extension about the Act.

Commissioner Richards stated she heard from Mark Scarano and the Open House for the Economic Center in Plymouth in will be October.

Commissioner Richards and Burton attended the wake for Mary Ruell in Ashland.

Commissioner Cryans stated that he was on the CATV program and talked about County Government and the approved budget with the Host Paul Boucher.

Commissioner Cryans stated that at a Conference in Tampa Florida Jules Chateau from Banwell Architects discussed Biomass Plants and specifically mentioned the new Grafton County Biomass Plant.

Northern Pass Group

Pete Martin and Will Abbott arrived to discuss the Northern Pass with the Commissioners.

Will Abbott stated that he was here to give an update on the Northern Pass. He stated that Central and Northern New Hampshire relies on landscape and Northern Pass is planning to destroy that. The Government in Quebec wants to import 5x the power of the Northern Pass to New England and New York. He stated that the goal is to stop the overhead power lines and they have been successful up to now. If they can stop the 40 new miles of lines from Pittsburg to Groveton then the project cannot continue.

W. Abbott stated that the most recent announcement is that they will be going underground with eight (8) miles of the lines. He stated that the Northern Pass is looking at an option going underground through state and town roads. He stated the larger issue is how New Hampshire meets the future electrical needs. Time is now for New Hampshire to stand up and be innovated, and demonstrate new technology.

Commissioner Cryans stated that he is not against burying transmission lines, but he is against having large towers ruining the landscape of the North Country.

Pete Martin reviewed a map with the Commissioners of the overview of what will happen if Northern Pass goes through and many other power projects through ISO-NE

Commissioner Cryans asked if complete burial of the lines is a reasonable solution. P. Martin stated it is very reasonable, it is 21st century technology. The high watermark for electricity was in 2006, the demand for electricity in New England has decreased due to people using electricity more efficiently.

Commissioner Cryans stated that Grafton County has a new Biomass Plant and a new Geothermal System at the new Dept. of Corrections. He also stated that they had an energy audit to make the County Complex more energy efficient.

P. Martin suggested the Commissioners write to different Select Boards and encourage them to write Gov. Hassan saying the Northern Pass will impact the State in a negative way and that it is unnecessary.

Commissioner Burton asked if the Governor and Council will have to approve the underground or above ground burial for lines through State highways. W. Abbott stated that they should be required to have an easement to do so.

Commissioner Burton asked what the status was of the lines going through the White Mountain National Forest. W. Abbott stated that it is a high possibility that they will not go through because there are alternate opportunities for the Northern Pass other than going through the White Mountain National Forest.

11:15 Commissioner Richards 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, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. 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 Richards "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.

11:45 Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Richards moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session in the event they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. All were in favor.

11:48AM With no further business the meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk