

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
October 9, 2018

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer, Ahern & Piper, County Administrator Libby and Admin. Asst. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: Register of Deeds Monahan and County Attorney Saffo

RD Monahan arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds  
Kelley J. Monahan Register  
Report to Commissioners  
October 9, 2018**

**September Revenue**

County Revenue 9/2009	\$79,523.88	State Revenue 9/2009	\$443,381.76
County Revenue 9/2010	\$91,360.22	State Revenue 9/2010	\$509,792.64
County Revenue 9/2011	\$68,850.10	State Revenue 9/2011	\$566,395.12
County Revenue 9/2012	\$80,461.98	State Revenue 9/2012	\$530,544.96
County Revenue 9/2013	\$87,560.35	State Revenue 9/2013	\$719,801.28
County Revenue 9/2014	\$79,919.87	State Revenue 9/2014	\$696,111.36
County Revenue 9/2015	\$84,231.51	State Revenue 9/2015	\$671,610.24
County Revenue 9/2016	\$91,677.13	State Revenue 9/2016	\$743,402.28
County Revenue 9/2017	\$89,844.07	State Revenue 9/2017	\$769,602.24
County Revenue 9/2018	\$87,259.79	State Revenue 9/2018	\$929,124.48

**Foreclosures**

2009 133 year to date  
2010 167 year to date  
2011 170 year to date  
2012 144 year to date  
2013 108 year to date  
2014 96 year to date  
2015 81 year to date  
2016 72 year to date  
2017 60 year to date  
2018 34 year to date

1. The Powerhouse Plaza in West Lebanon sold for \$13,750,000.000 on 9/13/2018.
2. HB 1602, that I discussed at the Executive Committee meeting of the Delegation on 9/24/2018, was voted ITL (inexpedient to legislate) by a close vote of 9-8 on 10/3/2018. Our lobbyist with the Dupont Group did not record how members voted. I have reached out to our two members on the Commerce Committee. One of the supporters vowed to bring it back in 2019.

3. The letter from our NH Register of Deeds President Cathy Stacey on HB1602 mentioned the disruptive effects of MERS, Mortgage Electronic Recording System, on the American economy. On Friday, MERSCORP was purchased, after 2 years of negotiations, by Intercontinental Exchange, the parent company of the New York Stock Exchange. I have attached copies of the article.
4. I contacted the South Burlington Tax Collector on a Valley News article which stated that this municipality was the first in the country to use Block Chain Technology to record land records. The article was somewhat misleading, as it was only one test document. I will be following any progress on this experimental project.
5. With winter approaching, I am concerned about the Maintenance Department plowing snow up against the leaking foundation of the basement vault. This is an issue that I have raised to Jim Oakes on many occasions and my concerns have been disregarded. I am solely responsible for the protection of these historic documents. Fluctuation in humidity and temperature have a very negative effect on the life expectancy of historic papers. I respectfully request a motion from the Grafton County Board of Commissioners that will insist that my concerns are heard and an alternate plan for the snow removal in that area be planned for this plowing season.
6. With somewhat constant efforts from the administration to acquire our space used for operation and the storage of historic documents, I wish to encourage the Grafton County Board of Commissioners to budget and plan for a Master Plan discussion for the County complex.
7. On October 4, 2018 I attended a forum sponsored by New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and Vital Communities on the Accessory Dwelling Units which was held at the Kilton Library in Lebanon. In 2016, RSA 674:72 became New Hampshire law regarding accessory dwelling units. Municipalities are allowed the flexibility to draft local regulations befitting the wishes of the municipal government. I have included handouts from the forum and the RSA.
8. On September 18, 2018 I attended the New Hampshire Association of Counties Annual Conference in Sunapee NH. This is when the New Hampshire Register of Deeds Association holds our annual meeting where we bring in guest speakers. We held a morning session with experts from the field of historic document preservation, Jim Harper and Dennis Curran of Kofile Preservation Company. This was a very informative presentation, I have had a representative from this company provide a quote on the de-acidification of our historic records. The afternoon session was with Scott Moore of Fidlar Technology speaking on the importance of the role of register of deeds. After the presentations, our association held a regular meeting where I was nominated to become the Vice President of our association for the coming biennium. Voting will take place at our December meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelley J. Monahan

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Piper and Ahern had a couple of edits.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Piper moved to approve the minutes as amended.  
Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers 1045-1047.

CA Libby submitted the DoC Superior Court Report for the month of September for the Commissioners to review.

CA Libby submitted the NACO Prescription Drug Report for the month of August. There was a price savings of \$1,910.01 or 37.30% with a total of 40 utilizers. The total life savings of the program is \$819,797.75.

CA Libby stated that she has received a request from US Board on Geographic Names. They would like to name a waterfall in as Franconia Moose Antler Falls and this is something that they are seeking input from the Commissioners on. She stated that it is a 15ft high waterfall on Burnt Brook. The Commissioners discussed the request and Commissioner Ahern stated that he would like to think about it more before making a decision.

County Attorney Saffo arrived and gave the following report:

**Office of the Grafton County Attorney  
Lara Saffo, County Attorney  
October 9th, 2018**

**Report to the Commissioners**

**The Mission of the Office of the Grafton County Attorney is to pursue justice and promote the safety and security of the County's citizens, thereby enhancing the quality of life in Grafton County. We will seek to achieve these goals by:**

- **Striving for just disposition of criminal cases through timely, efficient and effective**
- **Ensuring that victims and witnesses of crimes are treated with respect, courtesy, and sensitivity as they cooperate with criminal prosecutions.**
- **Improving the criminal justice system by identifying areas of need and working collaboratively with other criminal justice agencies and the community to improve the criminal justice system.**
- **Encouraging and promoting crime prevention and early intervention initiatives.**
- **Identifying, promoting and implementing new and innovative approaches to solving crime problems.**

**Statistics - Caseload at the Office of the Grafton County Attorney.**

*This reflects the caseload at the Office of the County Attorney. It does not reflect the workload, as we are involved in community partnerships (see below) and have additional responsibilities under New Hampshire Law<sup>1</sup>.*

In 2018 we have received 762 cases to date. Of these cases, 325 had at least one victim, and often more. 299 did not have victims. Also, 235 were cases that involved defendants that were arrested for the felonies, and thus the cases had to be processed on an expedited basis. Of these 235 cases, 101 were people who were incarcerated after arrest, and thus we had to be available to respond the next court day, and having the charges filed by 11:00 in the morning.

**Grafton received the Roving Advocate Grant**

We are beyond thrilled to report that Grafton County received the three year Rural Sexual federal grant to fund advocacy services for a roving advocate for the Littleton and Plymouth area for the next three years.

**Space**

At the last meeting, I discussed office space. I would like to know how I can assist you in understanding the space needs for the county attorney’s office. I further would like to be able to explain to the employees of the OGCA the status on space review in the county. I appreciate you may not have information to give me right away.

To reiterate from last month (for those just picking up this report), the Office of the Grafton County Attorney has maxed out its space in the courthouse, and is utilizing one office in the Alternative Sentencing building, and three office spaces in the administration building. This means employees are located away from the remainder of employees. I am trying to get more employees into the administration building, but employees to date are concerned about being isolated. They have preferred a tiny office near the law library that is inadequate. We are using locked space in the administration building as well for a file cabinet for confidential information

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<sup>1</sup> Additional responsibilities outside of traditional case review includes but is not limited to the following:

Topic	2017 calendar year data
Review Circuit Court Petition to Annuls	376
Review Superior Court Petition to Annul	56
Review DCYF Referrals	479
Review Juvenile Petitions	31
Review and respond to Governor Warrants	1
Review IAD documents	5
Review untimely death reports	153
Review requests for One Parties Intercepts	17
Right to Know requests	13

On call 24/7: for any felony arrests, untimely death notification, violent felonies, sexual assaults, and now any felony arrest. Each attorney is assigned one week, each attorney is on call at least 4 weeks a year

Other matters: Conduct Trainings, Constituent Concerns, Legislative matters

We have appreciated the county's willingness to work with our requests for additional space on site at the county administrative building, and hoped it would work better. Unfortunately, to date all but one employee has found it difficult at best.

We have considered other space at the county complex, such as the law library. However, that proved not to be an option. From past conversations, I am aware that the commissioners are looking at the county complex's space as a whole, and I would ask that you expedite that process as quickly as possible. If there is not adequate space at the county complex, the only other options are renting space off site, or building additional space at the county level. Both require expenditures, which would have to be budgeted in February.

Again, I greatly appreciate the county's willingness to let my office, at my request, try options in available space. After moving attorneys and support staff around, it is evident it is not going to work long term.

I would note that one prosecutor is going to the Alternative Sentencing building. This is something new we are trying, but I believe it had great potential to effectively and efficiently coordinate the alternative sentencing programming with prosecution. This would improve the justice system.

### **Training**

#### **a. Conducted by our office**

I conducted an all-day training with recently hired NH State Troopers in the Littleton Circuit Court. Attorney Fitzgerald assisted for the morning. We appreciate the court's willingness to let us use the courtroom, it definitely enhanced the training.

I was on a panel that emphasized the importance of Veterans Courts in Laconia on September 20<sup>th</sup>. As part of the event, Justice for All, a video on the NH Veterans Courts and tracks was played. I strongly recommend viewing this film when you have a chance.

I presented to DHMC's Geriatric Clinical Competency group on Elder Financial Abuse on October 4<sup>th</sup>. This group is comprised of professionals from both DHMC and Alice Peck Day – a inspirational group of individuals.

#### **b. Attended by our office**

A prosecutor attended the New Hampshire Alternative Sentencing Court training last week. She will be reporting on it today at the attorneys meeting.

The prosecutors continue to attend free webinars offered by AEquitas on prosecuting sexual assaults. This Friday the webinar addresses trauma informed practices.

We have applied for our two victim witness coordinators to attend Primex's Supervisor's Academy. We greatly appreciate Primex's training opportunities and find them to be invaluable.

Our office manager attended Primex training on changing work environments, and again found it invaluable.

### **Bail reform**

We continue to collect data and work on bail reform, as the new statute went into effect on September 1, 2018. We already have one situation where an off duty officer traveled from Campton for a bail hearing, waited in court, and then was told defense was not going to contest bail. We are hoping to work with all stakeholders to develop a system that will avoid that situation in the future.

### **Circuit Court**

#### **a. Victim Witness Services**

We are setting up office hours near the circuit courts, and are thrilled to be able to offer this service.

#### **b. Monthly meeting with prosecutors**

We continue to attend monthly circuit court prosecutors meetings to identify issues of concern and offer assistance.

### **GRANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE GRAFTON COUNTY ATTORNEY OR THAT WE BENEFIT FROM**

#### **a. VAWA Grant**

We received this grant, for \$30,000 towards the cost of a prosecutor to handle in part domestic violence and sexual assault cases. The year for the grant is June 30th, 2016 – June 30, 2017. The reports have been submitted.

#### **b. VOCA Grant**

We received the grant is for \$50,000 towards our Victim Witness Program. It pays for some of the costs of a Victim Witness Coordinator and for a new program, in our case Circuit Court Prosecution services. We have the official paperwork and are accepting referrals. It has already proven beneficial. The reports have been submitted. We received a supplemental VOCA grant in the amount of \$35,000 to make our circuit court victim witness coordinator full time. This will start on July 1st.

#### **c. Haverhill Area Substance Abuse and Prevention Coalition**

This prevention initiative is for the SAU 23 catchment area.

#### **d. Partnership with UNH – Prevention Innovations Research Center Collaboration**

We are participating in prevention initiatives for commuter college sexual assaults.

#### **e. Sexual Assault Justice Initiative**

This is a DOJ grant that we will benefit from. All Grafton law enforcement agencies now have access to a full time investigator to assist in adult sexual assault matters. Prosecutors are benefitting from training by AEquitas, and they are coming this summer to conduct case review with us.

f. Human Trafficking Coalition

We are not directly receiving funding, but New Hampshire received a federal grant to combat Human Trafficking and we now have the ability to refer human trafficking cases to this entity.

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner Ahern attended the Executive Committee meeting of the NHAC at Primex on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He stated Primex is no longer going to provide space to the NHAC; therefore, the NHAC is looking for a new home. Commissioner Ahern stated that Commissioner Weed from Cheshire County talked about the purpose and goals of the NHAC and where they want to go. Commissioner Weed proposed setting up a Purposes and Goals Committee and Commissioner Ahern volunteered to be on that committee with the understanding that he may not be there after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Ahern went on to discuss other details from that meeting and answer questions from the other Commissioners.

10:34 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Wendy A. Piper,  
Clerk