

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday November 30, 2010

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans and Martha Richards, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino

EXCUSED: Commissioner Burton

OTHERS: Omer Ahern

10:08 AM Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order.

Human Resource Director Mike Simpson arrived and began his report.

Vacancies: 1- RN/LPN needed at the Jail

4- RN/LPN needed at the Nursing Home

1- Volunteer Management Program Assistant – UNH

1- Mental Health Coordinator

Looking at the report provided by HRD Simpson, Director Clough asked about the loss of so many RN's and LPN's (which was 7 in total), and HRD Simpson replied that he has spoken with NHA Bolander about it and five of the nurses were per diem and were hired less than a year ago. He said they all resigned for a number of reasons. HRD Simpson said that he has looked around at various area hospitals and it appears that there are more openings for RN's and -LPN's.

Commissioner Richards said that NHA Bolander had mentioned that because of the poor survey at the Nursing Home, some of the nurses may fear for their licenses. HRD Simpson said that may be but there is no evidence in the way of exit interviews to support that at present.

Director Clough said that being short on staff is somewhat concerning considering what is going on at the Nursing Home regarding the survey.

HRD Simpson said that the application for nurses is declining as well and that he plans on increasing the advertising.

Commissioner Cryans said that the pool of available people just may not be that great in this area.

Director Clough asked if the County was competitive locally and HRD Simpson said that LPN salaries are fairly competitive though the RN's may be a little lower. Despite that, he said that the benefits provided by the County make up for that. He said that he is working on this situation and monitoring it.

HRD Simpson said that FMLA's appear to be on the decline with only six people out at present.

A recent meeting of the retirees was well attended and approximately 60 people were informed about the change in plan that will be taking place in January.

A discussion was had about the not to exceed cost of health insurance and HRD Simpson noted that the number and cost of claims has gone up which is attributing to the increase. Commissioner Richard questioned the general health of the employees and wondered how the amount of claims has increased. HRD Simpson said that is information that is

protected under HIPPA rules. HRD Simpson said that the Wellness committee has met a couple of times and they are working towards specific goals to help employees think about better health for themselves. Right now the focus is on smoking cessation. The committee has received money to purchase items that will help to reduce accidents and some items have been implemented already.

There is a plan to promote spring classes through White Mountain Community College.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp asked to speak briefly to the Commissioners. He informed them that Deeds has taken in over \$700K gross income as of this date.

The surcharge account was discussed and he said that there is a CD that will be maturing on the 9th of February and that his recommendation is to turn that over to a six month CD or it will roll over to another year CD after a 10 day grace period.

RD Sharp also informed the Commissioners that money he had requested from the surcharge account to be used for some roller racks, will not be needed and he would like to see that money used for either the restoration of more books or, more to his liking, a dropdown gate to be placed at the main counter in Deeds so that the area is more secure. The amount of money is \$7050 and he thinks it can be done for that amount. He said he would like to speak with Supt. Oakes regarding this project.

Commissioner Cryans moved to approve the minutes from November 23, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Richards.

Commissioner Richards said she would have to abstain from the vote because she was not at the meeting which left only Commissioner Cryans. He withdrew his motion and Commissioner Richards withdrew her seconding of the motion.

Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting when Commissioner Burton is present.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Commissioner Cryans moved to approve the minutes from the public hearing which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. An edit was made. All were in favor.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners a printout and account reconciliation for the Barbara B. Hill Fund. She will be sending out letters to let other board members know that the fund has been exhausted. \$53K in scholarships has been awarded through the fund and \$1295 remains. The fund lasted 13 years and was a tribute to B. Hill and helped many children who would have otherwise not been able to partake in activities.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with three applications for educational assistance. One was from the County Attorney's Office and the other two were for a staff member at Drug Court.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the educational assistance which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The interest payment on the \$17.5M Jail bond is due today in the amount of \$285K and will be paid.

At present, four tax payments have been received by the County and more will be coming from now until the 17th of December. Director Clough said that there are at least ten towns that have not even set their tax rates at this time.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that she has ordered the video “Lost in Laconia” that Commissioner Burton requested.

The Nursing Home is beginning recruitment for the positions that were approved by the supplemental appropriation.

County Attorney Saffo and Drug Court Case Manager Jennifer Stone arrived to discuss the purchase of software for the Drug Court.

CA Saffo began however by asking the Commissioners to approve the that the title of Assistant County Attorney to be given to Mary Cloutier who is currently an intern at the CA’s Office but has since passed the bar and been sworn in. This would be the proper procedure under RSA 7:33 b.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the recommendation of Attorney Saffo which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Atty. Saffo discussed the main reason that she and J. Stone came to talk to the Commissioners and that was to inform them that retiring Clerk of the Court, Bob Muh has donated \$5000 to the Friends of Drug Court, which is a non-profit entity that helps to support the Drug Court. He would like that money used for technology. J. Stone has done some research along with B. Muh and there is a company who is willing to allow the Drug Court to use their web based software on a trial basis. After the trial, if the software is acceptable, there would be a cost to the County of \$4500 as a start up charge. \$3000 is already budgeted so they would need \$1500, which they would get from the donation. Then the cost would be \$1000 per quarter or \$4000 a year, \$3500 could come from the donation which would leave a balance of \$500.

J. Stone discussed what the software can do for them and explained that it would provide a saving of both time and money in the long run.

Commissioner Cryans said that he feels it’s important to move in the direction of computerization and he is very grateful to B. Muh for the donation. He wanted to make sure that the County could accept the donation.

Director Clough said that the Friends of Drug Court could directly pay for the program and then the County would pick up the balance. That way the money would not be donated to the County.

Atty. Saffo said that with a web based program any member of people involved with Drug Court can enter information or view information from anywhere there is a computer and the information is immediate. This would include the judge and those on the road making visits.

Commissioner Richards asked if the software can be used for the Mental Health Court as well and Atty. Saffo said she thought it could be.

Atty. Saffo said they are starting the interviews for the Mental Health Court Coordinator and have some very good candidates.

There was a discussion about a civil commitment issue through the County Attorney's Office which Atty. Saffo was working out.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Commissioners Cryans and Richards attended the UNH Advisory meeting last night and Commissioner Richards said that most of the evening was spent on the educators' evaluations. She said that the County is very fortunate to have the expertise of UNHCE at the County. She added that the word is getting out as to what UNHCE has to offer.

11:35 AM Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk