

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday December 7, 2010

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

OTHERS: Omer Ahern, Wayne Fortier, Harold Brown, Kelly Monahan and RD Sharp

9:06 AM Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order.

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander arrived with her report and began by saying that the census at the Nursing Home is 127 and they are starting to admit people again.

Posting for LNA's are being put out.

NHA Bolander encouraged the Commissioners to come over to the Nursing Home and see the decorations which she said are wonderful this year and that everyone has done an incredible job.

NHA Bolander requested that the Commissioners waive bid for pharmacy services at the NH as NHA Bolander would like to enter into a contract with Health Direct as opposed to Omni Care for services. She said that there have been a number of problems that have prompted this switch and Heath Direct is considerably less expensive which will result in lower costs to the residents who have to pay out of pocket.

Commissioner Burton asked who Health Direct is owned by and NHA Bolander said Kinney Drug. She said they do the majority of long term care facilities in Vermont.

Commissioner Burton asked if there were other Nursing Homes using them and NHA Bolander replied that they were.

Commissioner Burton asked about this going out to bid and NHA Bolander said that it is the kind of service that is difficult to quantify and therefore difficult to write an RFP on. She said that she had prices of both Omni Care and Heath Direct and noted that customer service is had to judge in an RFP.

Commissioner Burton asked how much money is tied up in Prescription medications and NHA Bolander said it was hundreds of thousands but if the over the counter medicine can be reduced (which is what this is about) then it would be a great help to the residents.

Commissioner Cryans said it was too bad that after 20 years with Omni Care it had to come to this.

Commissioner Richards asked if there was any way to partner with hospitals to use their pharmacy and NHA Bolander said that a Pharmacist actually has to come into the facility and look at records every month and that isn't the same as what a hospital's pharmacy service is.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was documented proof that Omni Care has not provided the proper services and NHA Bolander said absolutely.

Commissioner Burton moved to waive bid on pharmacy services for the Nursing Home and approved a contract with Heath Direct which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

NHA Bolander requested approval for out of state travel to Washington, DC in March to attend the NACO Legislative Conference. As President, NHAC will be paying all the expenses.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the out of state travel and was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton said that he plans to attend the NACO Conference as well this year.

NHA Bolander informed the Commissioners that there is a group of bargaining unit members who are trying to de-certify. (Leave the Union)

In a phone call between an Attorney for the Nursing Home and an Attorney for CMS, the Atty. for CMS said that the Nursing Home is not in immediate jeopardy, which is contrary to what the written correspondence had stated regarding the survey. If this information is to be accepted as true, the Atty. for the Nursing Home said that no appeal would be needed. He informed CMS that he would like a letter to that affect so that the matter can be cleared up.

Commissioner Cryans asked if that would mean that the threats are off the table if the NH is not in jeopardy. NHA Bolander replied that if the fine doesn't go away then there would still be a loss of the LNA program so that all still needs to be seen.

Commissioner Cryans said that he still stands behind his opinion that the NH provides excellent care and that comes from many outside source who have friends and family residing there.

NHA Bolander said there has been some action regarding the Nursing Home's dissatisfaction with one of the surveyors. This matter has been brought before their supervisor and bureau chief and is being looked into further. The surveyor was overheard making a remark that was extremely unprofessional.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to see a letter written to Commissioner Toumpas stating the comments of the surveyor and he would ask that that person not be assigned to survey any more nursing homes. Commissioner Burton said he would take the letter to the Council personally and hand deliver it to Commissioner Toumpas and asked NHA Bolander for a copy of the letter.

NHA Bolander had a copy of a brochure that was created by NHAC which gave comparison information about all the counties and what the job of the Delegation was. Commissioner Cryans said that he thought Grafton County faired pretty well with their budget numbers.

NHA Bolander said that Cottage Hospital had a fire in their kitchen last week and Grafton County Dietary was able to help them with a breakfast meal.

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived with information regarding payments to towns for services. She said that there have been a lot more recoveries than had been expected so that was helpful.

HSA Bishop asked the Commissioners for direction regarding applications that were being sent out to social service agencies for funding. The Commissioners unanimously agreed that there should be no new applicants and that they should expect nothing more than level funding.

There was a discussion about what might happen next year regarding the cap. HSA Bishop said that she didn't think the County would meet the cap and that may cause some issues and confusion.

H. Brown asked HSA Bishop what recoveries were. She replied that it's money from people's estates. She said that when anyone applies for Medicaid and owns property, and that property is sold the state gets that money paid back to them.

Sheriff Dutile and Communications Director Andross came to speak to the Commissioners about Dispatch fees. They would like to get the billing onto a fiscal calendar whereas at present it is on an annual calendar. This would mean they would be sending out a billing for a six month period and then they would bill again in July. At present they would bill the six month fee at half of what the total amount is currently. They would also like to delve further into the fees charged to see about whether or not they are equitable.

Commissioner Cryans said that he thought that it was wise to get on a schedule with the budget and suggested they go forward with their plan.

Sheriff Dutile said once they review everything they will bring their findings back to the Commissioners.

There was a discussion about the possibility of a regional Dispatch Center and Commissioner Burton said that he felt that a local Dispatch Center was more helpful in that they had firsthand information regarding the local roads, whereas someone out of Manchester wouldn't have any idea about such things.

Commissioner Burton moved to adopt the six month billing in order to move to a fiscal year billing for Dispatch fees, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from November 23, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor. Commissioner Richards abstained.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2010 meeting. Edits were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

Director Clough updated the Commissioners on the tax payments from the towns saying that seven towns have paid so far which has amounted to \$1.4M. No additional TAN's money has been borrowed and it doesn't appear that they will need to.

Director Clough said that there has been a change in the bank account structure at Woodsville Guaranty Savings and now the operating money is in a public funds account which had a step process for earning interest.

Director Clough said that she has heard that the Treasurer has left for California and will not be coming back. She said there are a number of things that need to be done before the end of year. Director Clough said she is under the impression that investment letters have gone out to banks but she's not sure what the plan is as she has not had any correspondence from Treasurer Sievers regarding this.

There was a discussion about leaving the money in the operating account as it will draw interest, then let incoming Treasurer Elliott deal with it from there.

Treasurer Sievers has spoken to C. Elliott regarding the investment so she is aware of what's going on.

Commissioner Burton said that he had spoken to C. Elliott about what is going on and suggested that her term of office does not take affect until January 1<sup>st</sup> and she should not worry about duties until that time.

Commissioner Cryans signed the monthly Drug Court Case Mgr. Report.

The Commissioners signed a Group II Certification for an Officer at the Jail.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the new Executive Committee had been decided at the reorganization meeting yesterday and is as follows: Rusty Bulis, Chair, Jim Aguiar, Vice Chair, Charles Sova, Clerk, Rick Ladd, Edmond Gionet, Charles Brosseau, Susan Almy, Andy White and Chuck Townsend are members.

Commissioner Burton said he attended a meeting of the Good Ole Boys and the guest speaker talked about the new cold case files, to which there are 123 in the State of NH.

Commissioner Richards requested to be able to resurrect her alternative energy committee after leaving office and to continue to move forward with the biomass project because she had heard from DES that there may be a possibility of obtaining monies elsewhere. At present the County has \$378K available to them should the project go forward. Commissioner Richards said she feels very strongly that this is a worthwhile endeavor for the County and would like to, as a citizen, help bring it to fruition. Commissioner Burton said that if she wanted to, Commissioner Richards should be utilized as a volunteer.

Commissioner Cryans said that he wondered about a conflict with a new Commissioner. He asked O. Ahern whether he felt that he would be comfortable with Commissioner Richards taking this on

Commissioner Richards said that she felt no partisanship about this but felt it was a worthy project.

O. Ahern said he respectfully declined to comment at this time and perhaps needed more information.

Commissioner Cryans then said that if the County could make use of the money then he didn't have a problem with Commissioner Richards pursuing the issue.

H. Brown was recognized and said that the County has a definite problem with the Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer should be activated. He said the County has no authority to use the Treasurer's stamp. Director Clough said that the County does have authorization to use the stamp. H. Brown asked if that were in writing and Director Clough said that the authority was given via email from the Treasurer. H. Brown suggested that the County was doing something unlawful.

Commissioner Burton said that the inquiries and concerns were covered under certain laws and executed by Director Clough.

11:17 AM Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk