

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday, February 22, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Omer C. Ahern Jr. and Ray Burton,  
Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

OTHERS: Harold Brown.

9:01AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting and asked Farm Manager Kimball to lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Farm Manager** Kimball presented his report saying that they were milking 74 cows, shipping 11,000#s of milk for an average of 74 pounds per cow per day. Price of milk is currently \$18.07. FM Kimball presented the Commissioners with a chart which showed comparison milk prices for 2010 and 2011 and said that he plans to use a figure of \$18 for milk for the FY12 budget. Almost \$1 comes out of the price for delivery, dues and advertising.

10 ton of seed potatoes have been ordered and the Farm is getting ready to start plants for the garden which will be done in the heated garage.

FM Kimball has heard that another dairy farm in Grafton County will be closing and plans to change over to raising chickens. The County chickens are laying about two dozen eggs a day now that its winter. Excess eggs are still being sold to H. Hatch for resale.

FM Kimball and D. Paronto visited the Fuller Farm in Lyme to look at their bottling operation. He said that if the County wanted to get into something like that it would be very costly.

There should be some piglets at the end of April or beginning of May. Inmate labor is good right now too.

Commissioner Ahern asked what the Farm plants for root crops and FM Kimball replied beets, carrots, radishes and some turnips.

The Commissioners opened the bids for a manure spreader. Three bids were received.

Blackmount	\$24,500
Champlain Valley Equipment	\$21,365
L. W. Greenwood & Sons	\$22,352

FM Kimball took the bids to review them to be sure that they included all the specifications he requested.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and if anyone had any changes. There were none.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from February 15, 2011 which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough advised the Commissioners that Register of Deeds Monahan was looking to the Commissioners to approve her mileage reimbursements for trips that she makes to the bank in Woodsville. Director Clough said that historically speaking no other Register has asked for mileage for this. Director Clough also stated that if the Commissioners were to approve this for RD Monahan, then the practice must be the same for all individuals who use their own vehicle for banking or other errands.

It is the Executive Director's understanding that Deeds is planning to get a machine to capture their checks like the Commissioners Office does but in the mean time, RD Monahan would like to be reimbursed.

Commissioner Cryans asked if Deeds has a lot of cash and Director Clough said she thought it was mostly checks and that cash is generally something that the Farmstand or the Jail has.

Commissioner Cryans said that if she is using her own car and if there is an expense line for this then he doesn't know why it shouldn't be paid.

Commissioner Ahern said that he's not anxious to change the custom without looking at the long-term ramifications to the County.

Director Clough said that there is no specified County vehicle for the Administration Building and the money needs to go to the bank.

Commissioner Ahern said he didn't think this was a wise thing to do right now without looking at it County wide.

There was a discussion about how many people this would affect.

Commissioner Cryans said he would like to have a rough estimate as to how much money is being discussed.

Commissioner Ahern reviewed the Deeds budget and said there is a line for travel so if it were done, that money would have to come out of that line, but he said that the County really doesn't have that much to spend.

Commissioner Ahern said he would like to see a list of all the County vehicles that are owned and Commissioner Cryans said he would like to see the amount of cost that is being discussed.

Commissioner Burton said that if there is money in the Deeds travel line then the Dept. Head should be able to spend that in the way they chose.

Director Clough will do some calculations and bring the matter to the next meeting.

**Maintenance Superintendent Oakes** arrived with Nursing Home Administrator Bolander to discuss some new changes to the way Medicare/Medicaid is viewed in nursing homes and the deinstitutionalization of them. In the future, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) will be surveying nursing homes according to some new

directives and if these are not followed, fines can be imposed. These include individualization for residents and creating a home environment. Supt. Oakes was concerned that this could include residents wanting to paint their rooms in various different colors and he feels that he and his current staff couldn't possibly keep up with something like that, saying that just to keep up with touch up painting has been a trial. NHA Bolander said that there has to be a sense of reasonability to this although wasn't too confident that CMS would see it that way.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was flabbergasted by what he was hearing because he said that in his mind, the Grafton County Nursing Home is very well taken care of and a homey place and he's heard those exact sentiments a number of times from people who have friends or relatives here. Supt. Oakes agreed that the nursing home has done a great job at personalizing its interior and he said that he would like to see it compared to other places. His recommendation was to wait until push comes to shove as far as making any changes.

Commissioner Burton echoed the sentiments of both Supt. Oakes and Commissioner Cryans and said that he just recently heard some very positive comments from someone with a loved one in the nursing home.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to see this notification and expectation of change taken to the NH Congressional Delegation in Washington and have it brought to their attention as to the reasonableness of spending more money to alter conditions that are already more than adequate.

NHA Bolander said she is always in touch with Sen. Shaheen's office regarding the changes by CMS, which she called onerous.

Commissioner Ahern said that he would like to have copies of what NHA Bolander had and that he would bring the information to Senator Ayotte, Congressman Bass and Congressman Guinta's office.

Commissioner Burton said that he will be seeing Senator Ayotte on Thursday and will let her know that this information will be coming her way.

Commissioner Cryans asked NHA Bolander to also relay this information when she gets to the NACo Conference in Washington DC and to let them know that there is a consensus of the Grafton County Commissioners who are opposed to these over burdensome rules by CMS.

NHA Bolander left and Supt. Oakes carried on with his report. \*(see attached) and reviewed the Jail project.

**Corrections** Superintendent Libby arrived with his report \*(see attached), saying there was 86 inmates in-house, 20 in Drug Court with 1 in custody awaiting a hearing and 6 out on electronic monitoring.

Supt. Libby said that he may have to hire traveling nurses as he is having difficulties retaining nursing staff.

The NH Leadership program will be at the Jail to tour the current and future facility on

March 16<sup>th</sup>.

In regard to hay delivery, Commissioner Ahern asked who pays for that and Supt. Libby replied that the cost is built into the price, which is different than if someone picks it up themselves.

Commissioner Ahern asked how inmates who do not have a high school diploma indentified regarding their towns and Supt. Libby said that a report is filed with Dept. of Education which gives them the basic information and the last school attended. DOE is then supposed to contact that SAU and work with them to get the inmate education. Supt. Libby said that the Jail doesn't wait for that however and offers the GED program. Commissioner Ahern said he would like to find out what areas these people are coming from and Supt. Libby said he would see if some kind of report can be put together.

Commissioner Ahern had forwarded an email from Pemi Bridge House with some concerns regarding people who had come from the jail. Their primary concerns were with parolee's and a lack of visits from parole officers. It was explained that that was a function of the State and Supt. Libby explained what services are available upon an inmate being released. Supt. Libby stated he was waiting for a legislator to introduce legislation for the Counties to take over State services regarding inmate release as the Counties are far more efficient in Community Corrections program. Commissioner Ahern asked Supt. Libby to put something in writing for him if it was something that could save the County money he would pursue it.

Commissioner Cryans asked how the trip to Maine went for staff members and Supt. Libby said that the training they received was exceptional and a lot was learned.

A ten minute recess was taken

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting back to order. Heather Bryant, Mike Lunak and Dave Falkenham from UNHCE arrived, and Supt. Libby, FM Kimball, Supt. Oakes, Farmers H. Hatch and P. Collins and Tony Guinta from Amenico were also in attendance to listen to guest speaker Ihab Farag PhD from UNH discuss biodiesel energy.

Commissioner Ahern who had arranged for Dr. Farag to come present his information thanked him for coming and said that he is the nation's leading authority on biodiesel.

Dr. Farag was introduced to everyone and then proceeded on with his PowerPoint presentation. A question and answer period followed.

There was a discussion as to whether or not the DOE grant money that the County has been approved for can be used for a biodiesel project. Director Clough thought that it would require a request to re-purpose but could probably be done. That amount is \$378K.

The sizing needs and exactly how the process, using algae as a source to extract oil from was discussed. Dr. Farag thought that the County would like to consider a pilot program to start with and said that Presby has a processing plant right in North Haverhill. The main consideration for processing the algae is water, light and a warm environment and all those things were discussed.

Commissioner Ahern asked Dr. Farag if he would consider working further with the County on this endeavor and he said he would be glad to.

H. Hatch said that as a taxpayer, he would prefer to see more specific figures on cost and benefits before jumping into a pilot program. Questions about conversion of equipment were discussed and of whether or not biodiesel would be a good product in the cold.

Commissioner Burton said that the presentation was fascinating and the other Commissioners thanked Dr. Farag for his informative presentation.

The Commissioners took another brief recess so those attending could excuse themselves.

The meeting was called back to order and FM Kimball informed the Commissioners that he was recommending that they accept the bid for the manure spreader from Champlain Valley Equipment in the amount of \$21,365

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the bid from Champlain Valley Equip. which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

#### Discussion:

Commissioner Ahern voiced his concern that there could be other spreaders that could meet the specifications requested by the Farm Manager and that by choosing a specific brand you are limiting yourself cost wise. He suggested having the bid held to see if there were other models that would fit the parameters.

Commissioner Burton asked FM Kimball why he needed a new spreader and he replied that the one he has is ten years old and it's a piece of equipment that he uses everyday throughout the year.

Commissioner Ahern asked if FM Kimball had contacted Coos County and he said that he did not.

Commissioner Ahern asked if FM Kimball could wait two weeks to purchase the spreader and he read the condition of the bid from Champlain Valley which said the bid was good until the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

The vote was taken and Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the second quarter Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) payment had been received in the amount of \$425,932 which will show as a credit in the Human Services budget. The payments will be decreasing and there are two left to be received in the amount of \$315K and \$242K for a total amount of \$1.4M. \$830K was put into the FY11 budget. When these payments are no longer received there will be a huge gap to fill.

Medicaid Quality Incentive Payment (MQIP) money was received for the second quarter in the amount of \$84K which the County will stop receiving in the future also.

Director Clough said that Rep. Bulis has asked her for a summary on the County benefits which she had also provided to the Commissioners.

D. Lane has still not heard back from CDFA regarding the release of the lien from Whole Village CGBG grant.

The Sheriff's Office has requested a waiver of bid for a digital audio recorder for the mobile communications trailer. This would be a second installation and the same vendor is requested. Amount of the installation is \$7,392 and will come from the Dispatch Capital Reserve Account. This amount was requested and approved in the FY11 budget. Commissioner Ahern said he would like to hear from Director Andross before making his decision on this request.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the premiums for property liability with the current insurance company, Local Government Center (LGC) are currently \$166K and they are offering a three year extension plan for a 6% increase and a total of 9% increase for the three years total. The property on the complex has increased \$6,667,10 from last year which it appears, will result in a \$13-\$14K increase in property insurance to remain with LGC. Director Clough contacted Primex and they quoted her \$126,653 which includes discounts for having other coverage with them. She said that the Nursing Home also carries an additional coverage for their nurses which Primex would also cover so the total savings would amount to around \$100K. She said that she has gone over everything to make sure that there weren't any gaps in the coverage and has not seen any. Primex would also ask for a three year obligation. Commissioner Cryans asked what Primex would be looking at for increases over those three years and Director Clough said that she would need to find that out as that would be an important factor.

#### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Ahern said that he feels that the Board needs to follow the statutes, in particular with regard to the sale of goods over the amount of \$300.

Director Clough said that she was doing some investigating regarding that statute and

what exactly it speaks to and will bring that information back to the Board.

Commissioner Cryans asked how much it costs to place ads for items out to bid and Director Clough said that it depends on which papers the ads are put in and how large or what kind they but generally they run about \$50 each or so.

There was discussion about putting the Farm Advisory minutes on the website and that they be noted as “draft”.

Tony Guinta from American Energy Independence Corp. had remained throughout the meeting and said that given the situation in the Middle East, it is a good time to talk about energy. He said that he would like a chance to be able to meet with the Commissioners at another time and talk about bringing renewable fuel to the County. The Commissioners were in favor of this discussion and Director Clough will arrange a time on a future agenda.

Commissioner Ahern said that he would like to be able to offer other companies who supply renewable fuel the chance to bid on the fuel for the County. Commissioner Burton said he too is interested in having a choice other than fuel oil from the Middle East.

Commissioner Cryans suggested that the renewable products were relatively new and didn't know if that meant other changes to the way the County burned the fuel. Mr. Guinta talked about what it would take to burn the product and would have to do more investigating as to whether or not equipment would need to be upgraded. Commissioner Burton said it appeared to him that the alga to diesel was just at the beginning of its process.

1:20 PM Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

**February 22, 2011**

**Commissioners Report**

<b>1. Population:</b>	<b>In-house: 86</b>	<b>Maximum: 24</b>
		<b>Medium 18</b>
		<b>Minimum north: 09</b>
		<b>Minimum south: 09</b>
		<b>WHOC: 11</b>
		<b>Max/Handicap: 02</b>
		<b>Lockblock/Seg: 13</b>
<b>Weekenders: 8</b>	<b>Out of facility: 42</b>	

- 2. Community Corrections Report**
  - a) Drug Court – supervising (20) \*1 in custody**
  - b) Electronic Monitoring – supervising (6)**
  - c) Daily Work Release – supervising (0)**
  - d) Community Work Program – Delivering hay - Campton**
- 3. General:**
  - a) Nursing – staffing update**
  - b) Transition Team – update**

**Upcoming events:**

**Friday March 4, 2011 @ 6pm – I’ll be speaking at the Lyme Congregational Church’s Men’s Group – regarding jail programming – guest of Earl Strout**

**March 9, 2011 – Myself and Sgt. Paronto will be meeting with Cheryl Powers and Melanie Gosselin – Director of the NH Food Bank to discuss vegetable donations and inmate training projects**

**March 16, 2011 – NH Leadership Program – facility tour, new facility tour, presentation on Grafton County’s unique inmate programs**

**April 4 – May 6, 2011 – NHAC Corrections Academy – Police Standards and Training**