

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday July 7, 2009

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

OTHERS: H. Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:08 AM

Luke Kraus, who is currently an intern for Councilor Burton in Concord, came to visit County government at the request of Mr. Burton. He will be a senior at American University in Washington, D.C and grew up in Hanover, NH. L. Kraus said that he has an interest in politics and wanted some local views on State and local politics. He said he will likely work in DC after graduation and then perhaps attend law school. L. Kraus will be touring the facility with HSA Bishop after her report.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from June 30, 2009, which were seconded by Commissioner Burton. Edits were made. All were in favor.

HSA Bishop arrived and began by saying that the County had received the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) money yesterday but there may be some adjustments to that. She said that a meeting was called which included HHS Commissioner Toumpas, NHAC Executive Director Betsy Miller, NHAC President Toni Pappas and members from four other Counties, to discuss the distribution of the money. It was noted that five other Counties, including Grafton, were not invited to the meeting even though the topic of discussion would be of importance to all of them.

Director Clough said that the FMAP amount received was \$432K, which was less than originally anticipated as the State has taken some of the money. She said that money was for two of the three quarters and she was not sure if the County would be receiving money for the third quarter as expected.

HSA Bishop said that she did not think that the State was calculating the money properly and Director Clough added that not all the Counties were paying their State bills the same way either so this is adding to the confusion.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was very disappointed in the way that the meeting was being held, noting that only five of the ten Counties were invited to attend. He didn't feel that there was proper representation and called it disheartening.

Commissioner Burton was also displeased by the situation and said that he would call Commissioner Toumpas and strongly suggest that all the Counties be allowed to call in during this meeting, making it a conference call so that everyone could attend.

Commissioner Cryans said he would much rather have the opportunity to sit in on the meeting as this has come at such short notice and would rather see it rescheduled.

Commissioner Burton said that he would suggest both. Commissioner Burton said that this was poor administration on the part of HHS Commissioner Toumpas.

Director Clough suggested that the invitations to the meeting may have had more to do with the Association not Commissioner Toumpas' office.

Commissioner Burton left to make his phone call to Commissioner Toumpas.

HSA Bishop said that all the Social Service agencies have requested their final pay outs and there may be some money left over from those.

The Emergency Food and Shelter board received some stimulus money and have appropriated \$20K to Tri-County Cap, Baptist Church in Lebanon and Pemi Bridge House for their food shelters.

Commissioner Burton returned from his phone call and reported that HHS Commissioner Toumpas will be contacting NHAC Director B. Miller and will have her contact all the Counties so that they may call in for conference call meeting. He also noted that Commissioner Toumpas will be touring the North Country in the near future and will be available for meetings to discuss issues such as the state budget.

NHA Bolander arrived and said that the Nursing Home is survey ready and could happen at any time.

- 23 residents attended the Fourth of July parade and that went well.
- There is an \$8.8M surplus in the State budget that will be coming back and divided amongst all the Nursing Homes in New Hampshire.

The grant for the emergency shelter at Horse Meadow Senior Center is ready for submission. NHA Bolander asked the Commissioners that the County be the fiscal agent for that grant.

Commissioner Cryans asked Director Clough if her department would be able to take on that responsibility and she said that she would be comfortable with that and asked NHA Bolander for a copy of the grant.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve that the County be the fiscal agent for the grant for a generator at Horse Meadow Senior Center which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans discussed with NHA Bolander, as prospective incoming president of the NHAC, the fact that B. Miller did not invite Commissioners from upper Counties to the meeting regarding the FMAP funds saying that he felt that there should have been an opportunity for all Counties to attend. NHA Bolander agreed.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

The Commissioners discussed their schedule for the coming weeks.

There will be no meetings on the 21st or 28th.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be tentatively set for July 29th.

The regular Commissioners schedule will resume as of August.

A request was received from the Deeds office to close on Thursday December 24th for the holiday and that the staff will use their earned time.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the closing of Deeds on December 24th, and that the staff will use their earned time off for that day, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed a bank resolution from Laconia Saving Bank. Director Clough noted that it appeared that no signature paperwork has ever been signed for this bank.

The Commissioners signed the MS-2 report for the unincorporated town of Livermore for the DRA.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that \$154K in Medicaid Quality Incentive Program (MQIP) stimulus money was received and will go into the general fund and treated as the normal bed tax money is.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the RFP's that SMRT requested for geothermal well drilling have been received. Bids range from \$14,385 to \$19,800. Three out of the four bids meet the requirements. There will be a meeting with SMRT in Portland on Friday where this information will be discussed and SMRT will be putting forth a recommendation to the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton noted that the Connecticut Valley Joint River Commission has come out with their new atlas.

Commissioner Burton would like to see a welcome letter sent to the new incoming President at Dartmouth College.

Commissioner Richards said that she saw Community Corrections doing some work at the ball field in Ashland after the Fourth of July celebration.

Commissioner Cryans said that Maura Carroll will be the interim Executive Director at LGC beginning on September 4th.

10:45 AM being no further business the meeting adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk