

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

N. Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday August 11, 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 9:06 AM

Farm Manager Kimball, UNHCE Educator Heather Bryant and Supt. Libby arrived. FM Kimball gave his report saying that he was milking 70 cows and shipping 8700#s of milk for an average of 62#s. Current price of milk is \$12.26. The Farm will be cutting their third crop of hay soon.

FM Kimball reported that all their tomato plants have succumbed to blight and had to be taken out and destroyed. He said that the potatoes may have the fungus as well.

H. Bryant said this is not just a County Farm issue and that if things don't change weather wise, there could be a 30% loss of New Hampshire Crop. She said the blight, which normally appears in late summer, traveled north from Alabama and arrived in June. She said that five commercial farms and local homeowners alike have been hit. Anti-fungal products can be used but they don't work if it rains. H. Bryant has suggested that the Farm leave the potatoes in the ground for a couple of more weeks to see if they can survive as they are not fully sure of exactly what level the blight is located on the ground. The suspected blight on the potatoes has not been confirmed yet but a sample is being tested. Supt. Libby said that potentially the potato crop, like the tomatoes, may be totally wiped out.

H. Bryant said that she is making rounds at farmer's markets and contacting everyone she knows to let them know about the problem.

Commissioner Burton asked about the disposal of the tainted vegetables and Supt. Libby said they are following the proper instructions for disposal. He credited H. Bryant for being so helpful and for all the information that she has provided and that she has been great to work with.

Commissioner Richards asked if the soil will need to be treated and H. Bryant said that with tomatoes, the sun on the soil will eventually kill the spores and the fungus can not last through the winter, but potatoes are different because they are tubers grown in the ground. If this is blight, the Farm will need to make sure that no potatoes survive and they will need to plant something else in that area next year.

There was a discussion about whether farmers will qualify for financial assistance. H. Bryant said she wasn't sure if there was money available or not but Steve Schmidt from NRCS would be the person to contact.

Commissioner Burton asked if H. Bryant was using all the resources of UNH, including their labs, etc. She replied that she is, along with UVM and Cornell Extension.

Commissioner Cryans asked Howard Brown if he had problems with his garden and he said that he has it on his field tomatoes and they need to be taken out. He asked how long it takes before everything becomes infected and H. Bryant replied that she has seen a whole crop go down in three days.

Attorney Rick St. Hilaire arrived and read the following letter to the Commissioners:

Dear Commissioners and Delegation:

It has been a privilege for me to serve the people of the State of New Hampshire in the public sector for the last 15 years. My career as a prosecuting attorney has been personally and professionally rewarding. Unique legal and consulting opportunities have now arisen that would allow me to continue serving the people of the Granite State while also participating in important international work. That is why I am announcing my intention to step down as Grafton County Attorney and enter the private sector.

Former Merrimack County Attorney Dan St. Hilaire has invited me to partner with him to form a new law firm based in Concord and Lebanon. I am excited by the prospect of working professionally with my brother to develop a practice focused on state, federal, and international legal issues.

My background in international law will simultaneously prompt collaborative work with Czegledi Art Law in Toronto, Canada as well as entry into a global consulting venture involving my friend and colleague, former US Attorney Tom Colantuono; former NH State Fire Marshal Don Bliss, who heads the nonprofit NI² Center for Infrastructure Expertise; and security, intelligence, and counter-terrorism firm Gerard Group International. This project will concentrate on the safety, security, and risk management of museums and other cultural institutions.

In an effort to foster a steady changeover in the county attorney's office, my departure will take place at the conclusion of the business week of September 28, permitting time for me to assist the office, police agencies, the court, and county government with a smooth transition.

The citizens of Grafton County and members of county government have been exceptionally helpful to the efforts of the Grafton County Attorney's Office since my first election in 2002. The support we received to combat domestic and sexual violence, stop methamphetamine manufacturing, build the Child Advocacy Center, and initiate the Grafton County Drug Court Sentencing Program are just some of the many endeavors that could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of the Grafton County commissioners and delegation; the assistance of our dedicated men and women of law enforcement; the talents of the hard working attorneys and staff in my office; and the consistent backing of those who live and work in our communities. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all who made my last 15 years in public service ones that made a difference.

Attorney St. Hilaire said that over the years he has appreciated the support he's received in Grafton County and from the support he's received from the Commissioners and the Delegation with his endeavors.

Commissioner Cryans said that he has thoroughly enjoyed working with Rick and applauded his work with the Drug Court, Child Advocacy Center and much of the other work he's done. He said that he appreciated all the extraordinary things he's done for the County and for his dedication.

Commissioner Burton said that Rick St. Hilaire has taken the Attorney's office to a higher level and that he has had a great relationship with the state and is highly respected.

Commissioner Richards said that she appreciated his non-partisan approach and his involvement with advocacy. She said that she wished him all the luck.

Attorney St. Hilaire said that he is looking forward to working with his brother and discussed the process for a replacement. He said that the Delegation will appoint a replacement who can then choose to run for office when the time comes. Atty. St. Hilaire recommended that Deputy Attorney Lara Saffo be appointed and noted her dedication to the work.

Supt. Libby said that he has worked with other County Attorney's in the past and found Attorney St. Hilaire to be the most compassionate, innovative and the best to work for. He said that Atty. St. Hilaire deserves more credit than he gets and that he would miss him and wished him the best of luck.

Commissioner Richards reluctantly accepted the resignation of Attorney Rick St. Hilaire which would become effective at the end of the week of September 28th, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Supt. Libby left along with Atty. St. Hilaire.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from August 4, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. An edit was made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with the Deeds revenue report for the month.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court report.

Executive Director Clough told the Commissioners that the public information meeting that had originally been scheduled for the CALEA process at the Sheriff's Dept would not take place that instead there will be a call-in period from 1PM to 3PM on August 24, 2009 for the public to call in and give comment.

The Commissioners signed the engagement letter from David Barnes for the legal opinion required for the TAN's, wherein his fee would range between \$1500-\$2500.

Commissioner Cryans signed the CDBG paperwork for the public hearing that was held last week.

All three Commissioners signed the Public Housing Plan.

The Executive Committee will meet on August 14th at 9:00 AM to approve the TAN's.

There will be a GED graduation on September 16th at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like to reschedule the Johnson dedication of the Courtroom to October 6th as Senator D'Allesandro will be away.

Mike King from North County Council arrived to give a brief overview of what is going on with NCC. He brought along folders with information and discussed some of the services.

There were discussion about the economic development of the area, Northern Borders program, securing money for the biomass project and the future needs of northern New Hampshire.

Commissioner Burton said that he supports NCC and the regional planning commission.

Superintendent Libby returned with his report for the Commissioners *(see attached)

Supt. Libby said that GED instructor K. Stransky may not be able to continue working with the DoC as he is been offered another opportunity. Supt. Libby said that he would like to pursue funds in the way of grants in order to be able to continue with his services and to offer him a full time position. Both Commissioner Richards and Burton agreed. Commissioner Cryans asked if there would be anyone else available to give instruction if by some chance the funds were not available. Supt. Libby said he might have someone else that would be a good resource.

Supt. Libby said the Dept. of Education really should be funding these programs and this particular program really deserves funding.

Commissioner Burton said that Governor Lynch is not an educational Governor and it sad what's happened. He suggested contacting Virginia Barry and Supt. Libby said he would try to get her to attend the next GED graduation. Commissioner Cryans said that he wasn't overly optimistic about being able to get a grant.

Supt. Libby discussed the importance of upgrading the wage scale for one of his staff and that the Jail is looking at a number of staff losses due to resignations and deployments.

The Commissioners signed the order for the TAN's

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the NHAC award nominations are due by August 28th.

Supt. Oakes arrived to discuss the meeting with WW& L this evening and how they discuss getting WW& L to work on an MOA.

Commissioner Burton said he would like Grafton County to take the first step this evening by having a draft of an MOA. Commissioner Cryans said it was kind of quick to try to put something together now. Supt. Oakes said he wasn't the one in the water

business and thought that should be coordinated with someone who was. Director Clough said there was no way an MOA draft could be possible at this late time.

On another subject, Supt. Oakes said he wanted to be on the record asking that the inmates not be given corn on the cob because they flush it down the toilet. He said they just went through an incident where the inmates were given chicken with bones and they flushed them down the toilet. He said it causes time consuming and unnecessary work for his department.

11:30 AM Commissioner Cryans excused himself.

Commissioner Burton asked Director Clough about the lawsuit re: the state's portion of the NH retirement and she replied that other Counties have joined in so they are involved in another lawsuit at this time.

Commissioner Burton and Commissioner Richards discussed a meeting regarding senior meals throughout the state which would be held on October 29th from 9AM to 2PM at a place to be announced.

11:40 AM being no further business the meeting adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

August 11, 2009

Commissioners Report

1. Population:	In-house:	122	Maximum:	30
			Minimum dorm:	53
			Minimum south:	15
			WHOC:	10
			Max/Handicap:	02
			Lockblock/Seg:	12
	Weekenders:	11	Out of facility:	49

2. Community Corrections Report

- a) Drug Court – supervising (16) *1 in custody
- b) Electronic Monitoring – supervising (13)
- c) Daily Work Release – supervising (0)
- d) Community Work Program – Work detail – Roadside litter

3. General:

- a) Drug Court Caseworker interview -- scheduled for Wed August 12, 2009
- b) Potential GED program changes – update
- c) FY10 Budget - update
- d) Staffing issues
 - 1) Captains position/wage scale adjustment overdue
 - 2) key staffing losses
 - 3) in house assignments
 - 4) upcoming military deployments
 - 5) female applicants

4. Reminders:

- a) GED Graduation – Wednesday September 16, 2009 @ 9am
- b) Scheduled vacation August 16-22