

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Woodsville High School Library

Woodsville, NH 03785

Tuesday October 6, 2009

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: IT Manager Ruggles, NHA Bolander, Sheriff Dutile, RD Sharp, HSA Bishop, County Attorney Saffo and Correction Superintendent Libby

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:05 AM

The Commissioners were welcomed by Principal Bob Jones and Assistant Principal Ron Upton along with SAU 23 School Superintendent Bruce Labs. Principal Jones said that there would be classes in an out during the meeting but he unfortunately would not be able to stay. He informed the Commissioners that both the choir and the band would like to perform for the County and that would happen at 11:00 if they could attend.

Supt. Labs said that he used to be Principal of Woodsville High and prior to that, Vice Principal. He thanked the Commissioners for coming and for being role models for the kids. He thanked the County for their support and mentoring programs.

Commissioner Cryans asked Commissioner Burton to speak as this meeting was at his prompting and in his District. Commissioner Burton began by saying that he was a graduate of the Bath Village School class of 1954 and then a Woodsville High graduate, class of 1958. Commissioner Burton said that he was pleased to see kids this morning being transferred to Bath Village School and Woodsville Elementary in the mentoring program and went on to say that its very important to teach Civics to kids and to bring them up as community minded. Commissioner Burton recognized Duncan McKee as Selectboard member in Lisbon and reporter for the Littleton Courier who was in attendance.

Commissioner Cryans informed everyone that Director Clough was also a graduate of Woodsville High, class of 1989.

Commissioner Cryans said that he graduated from Littleton and recalls playing sports against Woodsville under John Bagonzi.

Principal Upton managed to find yearbooks from 1989 and 1958 and passed them over to see.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from September 29, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners signed a drawdown request for MicroCredit CDBG.

Commissioner Cryans noted that AdiMab (who received a CDBG grant with Grafton County as its applicant) had received a major investment from Google.

Director Clough presented a letter of request from the town of Rumney asking for an extension on paying their taxes. Director Clough said that by statute, taxes are due December 17th and interest starts accruing December 18th and that the Commissioners have no authority to waive the time of payment or that interest if late, be paid. She added that the town of Rumney can request a special meeting of the Delegation to ask them to waive the interest; however, Rumney would have to pay all costs associated with that meeting, including mileage, stipend etc. Director Clough said the town owes \$250K and interest on that would be \$68.58 a day. It may very well cost the town more to call the meeting of the Delegation than to pay the interest.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that an RFP for Commissioning Agent for the Jail project was sent out. SMRT had received four reply bids and said that only two of those bids fit for the project. Both of those two bidders were suitable though one was much more expensive at \$122K versus \$58K. It was suggested by SMRT that the County choose John Penny Consultants as the winning bidder at \$58K. Director Clough said that no full term contract will be fulfilled until the legal issue with the Jail is resolved. Director Clough said that part of the fee will be to review the plans which would be at a cost of \$14,500 and could be done first.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the bid of \$58K from John Penny Consultants to be the Commissioning Agent for the Jail project, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans signed the ARRA drawdown request for the Drug Court.

Commissioner Cryans signed an authorization verifying signatures for a CDBG grant.

A request came through Director Clough from Becky Barry and 4-H to be able to use the shooting range on October 24th for two hours in the morning. She said that 4-H carries their own liability insurance and that there will be plenty of adult supervision. Sheriff Dutile said that this was fine with him and that he encouraged it.

Commissioner Burton said that the town of Haverhill now owns the Woodsville Armory and that there is an enclosed shooting range inside the building. Supt. Labs said that school children were relocated there last year and he knows that there currently isn't anything in there but bare walls and there would have to be something put inside to absorb the shots if it were to be used again as a shooting range.

The Commissioners were fine with the request for 4-H to use the County range.

Director Clough presented two out of state travel requests. The first was from IT Manager Ruggles to travel and stay in Boston for computer training. ITM Ruggles said that this is training for the new network switching equipment that he is planning to put in at the County. There is no cost for the training however the Department will cover the lodging.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the out of state travel for the IT Manager, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The second out of state travel request came from K. Jablonski from UNHCE to travel to New York for a National 4-H Agency Association meeting where she is expected to receive an award.

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

Supt. Libby presented an out of state travel request on behalf of S. Whitney to travel to Texas to attend an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention National Conference from October 26th through the 29th, which would be at no cost for either travel or lodging.

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

The assistant County Attorney appointments were presented to the Commissioners by the interim County Attorney L. Saffo for signature by the Commissioners.

Woodsville High School History II class arrived at the meeting and were greeted by Commissioner Cryans.

Commissioner Cryans informed the students that Commissioner Burton, also Councilor Burton is the longest serving Executive Councilor in the history of New Hampshire, serving 32 years. He then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Burton who explained the function of County government, how it operates and how it is overseen. Commissioner Burton gave a brief talk about the public life of Commissioners.

Commissioner Richards gave a synopsis of where she came from; saying that she is a New Hampshire native currently lived in Holderness as a Commissioner of District III.

Commissioner Cryans then asked fellow Woodsville alumni Executive Director Julie Clough to introduce herself as well as all the other members of the County who were in attendance.

NURSING HOME

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander gave her report to the Commissioners beginning with the Nursing Home census of 130.

She discussed a Spirit of New Hampshire award that was won by a teacher in the school which had worked with the Nursing Home in the past.

- NHA Bolander said that work would be commencing in the kitchen area which may cause some disruptions but was a needed repair.
- Flu vaccines would be ready for distribution in the next few weeks.
- NHA Bolander gave an overview of the residents at the Nursing Home and some of the work that is performed there.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Doug Dutile was the next to give a summary on what the Sheriff's Department does including working with the Courts, serving warrants and out of state extraditions. The Sheriff discussed the Dispatch Center and its coverage of 911 calls, which is one every three minutes. He said that there is a ride along program for anyone who is interested in seeing how the Sheriff's Department operates and who might be considering a career in law enforcement.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Superintendent Glenn Libby gave his report to the Commissioners *(see attached).
At present there are 126 inmates in-house.

Supt. Libby said that both the staff and inmates have been on a weight training program run by the Captain and just recently had a competition in Littleton wherein a number of trophies were won. Supt. Libby passed around a picture of the group with their trophies. Supt. Libby discussed some of the work that the inmates do on both the Farm and out in the community which included trash pick up. Commissioner Cryans asked that people please not throw trash out on the side of the road.

The Commissioners and attending staff were open to any questions.

Officers from the Woodsville National Honor Society arrived. There are 12 members total in the Society.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp explained briefly the duties of the Registry. He noted that he had a very friendly staff to take care of business.

HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop gave her report to the Commissioners beginning with a town reimbursement tally. She said that \$1.8M has been reimbursed to date and the cap has not been met as of yet.

HSA Bishop said that there was a Joint Legislative committee meeting in which the Incentive Funds rules were heard. She said that there was success in opposing the rules and that it is feasible that the committees will continue as they had in the past, though that may not happen this year.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT Manager Brent Ruggles discussed his role at the County saying that there are currently 270 computer users. He offered a tour to anyone, specifically those High School students, who had or may have an interest in technology and proceeded to list what goals have been met so far.

- Antivirus software has been installed at a cost of \$15 per station.
- Fiber optics has been run at the DoC resulting in a reduced cost to run the internet connection.
- DoC is now on the County email system.
- Software updates have been completed for Commissioners Office and Nursing Home.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Interim County Attorney Lara Saffo, who was appointed by the Grafton County Delegation to fill the vacancy left by Rick St. Hilaire, gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of the County Attorney's Office. She said there are five prosecutors on staff, being down one as she has moved into the CA position. She said that she is looking into hiring another person to fill that position. The CA's office is charging 1000 crimes this year.

There are two people in the Victim Witness Department and four other support staff which includes an Office Manager.

Attorney Saffo passed out information on the Justice Reinvestment Program for New Hampshire which is designed to reduce spending money on Corrections and reduce recidivism.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he would like a letter prepared for the towns of Littleton, Haverhill, Bath, Lisbon and Landaff which state how many Community Correction hours have been used in their town.

Commissioners Cryans and Burton attended the open house for the new Littleton Police Department and noted that \$35K worth of Community Correction hours were used there which was considered “free labor”.

Commissioner Burton said that he was working on a plan to get the transfer of money for Incentive Funds over to the Governor and Council for review so that they (the funds) would revert back to County oversight.

There was a going away party at the Courthouse for Attorney St. Hilaire last Thursday.

Commissioner Cryans said that Dr. Lisa Nijabits spoke in Lebanon for the Drug Court on Trauma and Addiction, which was in partnership with other Social Service agencies.

There will be a Courtroom naming on October 13th at 10:00 and so far over 50 people have RSVP'd that they will be coming. There was a discussion about the program for that event and who would be speaking.

Commissioner Cryans thanked everyone for attending the meeting, including teachers and staff as well as B. Labs, Superintendent and Principals B. Jones and R. Upton.

After listening to the choir and the band, the Commissioners planned to lunch in the school's cafeteria.

11:00 AM being no further business the meeting adjourned to hear the choir and band.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

