

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Town of Campton

Historical Building

Tuesday October 20, 2009

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

DEPT. HEADS: Sheriff Dutile, NHA Bolander, HSA Bishop, ITM Ruggles, DoC Supt. Libby, Maint. Supt. Oakes, RD Sharp

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:10 AM, greeted everyone and thanked Walt Stockwell who is curator of the building, and Hanna Joyce, Campton Town Clerk. Commissioner Cryans then recognized Commissioner Richards who arranged the meeting in her district.

Commissioner Richards thanked Ann Marie Foot, Town Administrator, for helping to arrange the meeting. She also quickly introduced the Dept. Heads, Reps. Aguiar and Friedrich, Val Scarborough and Marcia Morris who were also in attendance.

Ann Marie Foot introduced Sharon Davis, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, and Selectboard members Marsh Morgan and Craig Keeney.

Rep. Friedrich introduced herself as an Executive Committee member noted that it has been great to work with the Commissioners. She recognized Commissioner Richards as overseeing the Alternative Energy Committee and for being instrumental in suggesting that geothermal be used in the new Jail. She also credited Commissioner Richards for her interest in starting a Farm Commission.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Doug Dutile was first on the agenda and gave 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.

The Sheriff Dept. has done a number of transports for the town of Campton and has also done some background checks for them.

A. Foote complemented the Sheriff's Dept for help with a past investigation and wanted to thank both Capt. Leavitt and Lt. Morris in particular.

A question was asked about the number of Deputies the Dept. had and the Sheriff replied that there were 11 full time people, including two civilians in the office and 23 Special Deputies. The Dispatch Center has 10 full time and 11 part time employees.

Sheriff Dutile said that the Dept. also does a number of things for the town of Plymouth including Homecoming and Spring Fling. The County does not dispatch for either the town of Campton or Plymouth.

Commissioner Cryans introduced Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander and noted that she is the Vice President of the NHAC and as of next week will be the President.

NURSING HOME

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander gave her report to the Commissioners beginning with the Nursing Home census of 131.

- NHA Bolander outlined some of the activities at the Nursing Home beginning with Trick or Treat Street which averages between 300 to 350 children.
- NHA Bolander is working with North Country Health Consortium to deal with the health issue of the H1N1 virus and noted that some volunteer nurses from the Nursing Home will be helping with vaccinations.

A question was asked as to whether or not Trick or Treat Street was a good idea this year given the flu situation and NHA Bolander said that it was discussed in length and they felt that it is pretty safe at this time.

S. Davis asked what benefits are derived from the Farm in regard to the Nursing Home and NHA Bolander replied that they buy vegetables from there, the residents get to watch the Farm activities and they can walk around the Farm and see what's going on. The Farmstand has also provided value to both residents and their families.

Commissioner Burton asked if the North Country Health Consortium provided any duplication of services and NHA Bolander said not that she is aware of.

Commissioner Cryans noted that the Nursing Home had won the Quality of Life Award last year and asked that NHA Bolander give a brief review of what the Nursing Home looks like, which she did by describing the buildings, the residents' areas and the various staff and activities.

Commissioner Richards asked NHA Bolander to discuss the Bedmaker program which NHA Bolander did and also added that there are approximately 70 volunteers and a variety of intergenerational programs.

HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop introduced herself and gave an overview of her responsibilities which included the statutory requirements of long term care and monitoring the social service grant money.

Commissioner Cryans noted that Commissioner Burton, as Councilor, is in his 16th term which is the longest term in New Hampshire history.

He also noted that the County dedicated Courtroom #1 to Justice William Johnson who was a Judge at Grafton County and then went on to become a Supreme Court Justice as well as a State Senator. All five sitting NH Supreme Court Justices as well as two NH ex-Justices, and US Supreme Court Justice David Souter were in attendance.

Commissioner Burton had some photographs of the event and asked that they be placed in the Historical Room for posterity.

Commissioner Burton discussed his district as Commissioner and some of his responsibilities as Clerk of the Board which included overseeing and signing all the invoices that came into the County. Commissioner Cryans also discussed his district and said that each Commissioner was responsible to about 1/3 of the population of the County.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT Manager Brent Ruggles discussed his role at the County saying that there are currently 265 computer users and 175 PC's. Completed projects include:

- Working on Network consolidation.

- 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.
- There are four firewalls that are monitored.
- IT Dept. records all Executive Committee and Delegation meetings.
- Institution of a Campus wide encrypted mailserver.

Rep. Aguiar asked about the information at the Nursing Home and ITM Ruggles said that the Nursing Home has some of the best technologies in the State.

He said there is a VPN connection that allows the Nursing Home access to information at Cottage Hospital which is extremely helpful when working with the residents.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Supt. Libby said that he is a former resident of Campton and was glad to be there.

Superintendent Glenn Libby gave his report to the Commissioners *(see attached).

At present there are 126 inmates in-house and the Jail is designed to hold 75.

The two Departments in Corrections are the facility itself and Community Corrections.

There are 28 full time officers, 5 nurses, 10 part time officers and a substance abuse councilor.

- Community Corrections (5 full time people) handle the electronic monitoring, work details and the Drug Court.
- The GED program has produced over 60 graduates which is more than Littleton Learning Center and only 10 less than the entire State system, showing that Grafton County does a good job.
- The Substance Abuse recognition has reduced the daily population by 3.5 inmates by putting them into programs.
- Thresholds and Decisions is a volunteer program that utilizes senior mentors. Programs create a 50% recidivism rate as opposed to those do not attend programs.

Supt. Libby said he is concerned that the closing of programs will affect the amount of occupancy and expense to the Corrections system.

In 2005 the County began planning for the new Jail and the preparation included looking into the future for the needs in 25 years. Although that was done, it was decided that a scaled down version be considered because of the economy and now that has been done. The result is a 150 bed facility at a cost of \$36M. The hope is that the County can break ground in the spring.

Commissioner Cryans said that the Jail project is now a Supreme Court case and it will take however long it takes for the Court to come to a decision.

S. Davis asked what the maximum amount of inmates that can be taken in and Supt. Libby said there is no maximum and that statutorily they have to take what's brought them. He said that currently the Jail is at the point where they have to create space to accommodate people. They have purchased bunks and have created a makeshift area. His concern for overcrowding and the possibility of a serious incident was made clear. Supt. Libby said that he has great concerns about the H1N1 when the winter comes and that building gets sealed up, saying there is no ventilation in there.

At present, because of overcrowding, tours can only be given by appointment.

Supt. Libby discussed alternative sentencing through Community Corrections.

- Electronic monitoring.
- Drug Court (there are currently 18 people in the program).

- Community work program (road crews)
- Farm work.

Supt. Libby said that he feels it is his obligation to invest in the people to see them put back out into the community safely.

Rep. Aguiar asked the Supt. to explain the standards of Jail care. Supt. Libby said there are no standards in the State of New Hampshire. His duty is to Federal standards and Civil Rights of the inmates.

Commissioner Richards discussed the proposal of putting geothermal in the new Jail and how the biomass wood chip system was decided upon as an alternative energy source for the County Complex. She stated that she was still looking to find a way to fund that project and discussed other things that were being done on the Complex to cut down on energy consumption after the complete energy audit that was done last winter.

Commissioner Cryans discussed the fact that the Farm plays such an important role with the Jail and that it's important for people to be able to get out and away from their confines. Supt. Libby said that it relieves the pressure in the Jail.

There was a discussion about the Molar Express, a traveling dental service, that Supt. Libby said that they are meeting with today. NHA Bolander said the Molar Express is through North Country Health Consortium and they also provide services to the Nursing Home.

Commissioner Cryans asked Supt. Libby about the statistics of substance abuse and he said that 90% of inmates have an issue. He said that the drugs ultimately create other health and dental problems which can be costly to the taxpayers.

Supt. Libby said that inmates do receive dental and health care only when it is absolutely a necessity and not simply on demand.

He said that brings up another issue of wanting to be able to keep his staff healthy and that they should be in a facility that provides that.

Commissioner Burton said that the State is doing a three year study on Corrections but said that the Counties were not at the table for that. He said that he is working to try to get that changed and it was Supt. Libby that prompted that. He said hopefully some legislation will come about from that. Supt. Libby said that one of the biggest problems that he faces is the cost shifting from the State to the County. He said that rather than having the State take over the County Corrections, his feeling is that the County should take over the State, but he doesn't hold out any hope that would happen.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:

Superintendent Jim Oakes gave the Commissioners his report *(see attached) and then gave an overview of what his Dept. does. Maintenance has a full time staff of 10 people which includes custodians. The Dept. is responsible for building and grounds maintenance on Complex. Many capital improvements have been done over the past few years including erosion and drainage repair, Courthouse, dairy barn and pig barn replacement, a new water tank and numerous energy saving enhancements.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS:

Register Bill Sharp, calling himself the Register of "good" Deeds, spoke and discussed his local connection to the area.

Deeds are now online and he briefly discussed redactions, the surcharge account and the friendliness of his staff.

There was a question about the keeping of older documents and RD Sharp said that documents are stored in what is called the "cold room" and that the first 18 volumes have been restored and preserved at a cost of \$1000 each.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would welcome anyone who would like to visit the Complex. He added that Grafton County as a whole was a very diverse County and that although County government can be challenging, it is also very rewarding.

S. Davis asked the Commissioners if there were any plans to change the County Treasurer position from elected to appointed so that there is someone in the position who is properly qualified and Commissioner Cryans said that he hadn't seen anything out there about that. Commissioner Burton said the Sheriff and the Treasurer positions are in the Constitution and would require a lot to change them. It was noted that there is a fully competent staff to oversee what's going on as well as an audit that provides oversight.

Rep. Aguiar said that he had noticed being in the legislature that Counties are very independent of one another and do things differently. He said it would be quite a challenge for the State to tell the Counties what to do.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from October 13, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards noted that she will not be able to attend the meeting with the Littleton Selectboard.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners a monthly update on the Naco Rx Drug card saying that in the month of September 260 users saved \$7,836 for an average of 26.07%. Since the program's inception in September of 2006, users have saved \$291K.

A thank you letter was received from Chief Justice Broderick for the naming of Courthouse #1 in honor of Justice William Johnson.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that she had received the set guaranty maximum health insurance rates from LCG, which show an increase of 20%. She said that LGC is creating some Rx changes and that employees will be notified of those changes.

The attorneys for the County have requested a 15 day extension on the brief filing in the Elected Official Court case which will now be on November 12, 2009.

UNH Extension Advisory Committee will be meeting on the 26th. The Commissioners will be at the County Conference on that night and will not be attending.

The Commissioners received an email from a Woodsville resident requesting that they stop all grants immediately. Director Clough said that she didn't feel that there was enough information in the email which fully made clear the reason for the demand.

It was also noted that the Executive Committee voted to authorize the Grafton County Commissioners to apply for, accept and expend grants of federal and/or state aid as per RSA 29:8-a. on a yearly basis. Commissioner Cryans said that he felt that grants are essential to the County and recapped some of the grants from past years.

The Commissioners asked Director Clough to put together some statistical facts and prepare a letter in response to the resident for the Board to sign.

The Commissioners signed a thank you letter to Woodville High School for holding their meeting there.

There will be another GED graduation on December 16th. Commissioner Cryans discussed how powerfully emotional these graduations can be and said that there is a very competent staff who works to make these happen.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he has made his choice for a dedicatee of the Annual Report.

Commissioner Richards was thanked for bringing the meeting to Campton.

There was a discussion about a new Beebe River project which A. Foote said they hoped to get up and running. Commissioner Burton commended the Campton Selectboard for taking an interest in Beebe River.

Commissioner Cryans said that City Manager Gregg Mandsayer was stepping down.

There will be a ribbon cutting at the new MascomCorp headquarters in Lebanon at 4:00 PM today which Commissioner Cryans will be attending.

S. Davis asked Director Clough about her office staff wherein she described the duties of the four people she supervises. Director Clough said that she serves as both Financial Director and Executive Director.

Commissioner Cryans thanked the Town of Campton for the use of their building and commented on the wonderful historical artifacts in the room.

11:35 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

October 20, 2009

Commissioners Report

1. Population:	In-house:	125	Maximum:	25
			Medium	40
			Minimum north:	18
			Minimum south:	15
			WHOC:	12
			Max/Handicap:	00
			Lockblock/Seg:	15

Weekenders: 5 **Out of facility: 34**

2. Community Corrections Report

- a) Drug Court – supervising (18) *2 in custody**
- b) Electronic Monitoring – supervising (10)**
- c) Daily Work Release – supervising (0)**
- d) Community Work Program – On site potato's**

3. General:

- a) State layoffs – comment**
- b) Inmate dental options – Molar express**

4. Reminders:

- a) Thresholds Graduation Thursday November 12, 2009 6:15pm**
- b) CO Academy Graduation Friday October 30, 2009 11:30am (Allen's Restaurant – Boscawen)**