

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday November 3, 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

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from October 20, 2009. Edits were made. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that a motion to expedite oral arguments was made to the Court in the Jail case on behalf of Grafton County. Director Clough said it still won't happen until at least December. She said that lawyers for the County expressed that the importance is due to the severity of the conditions in the Jail. The brief on the Elected Officials salaries is due on November 12th.

HSA Bishop arrived and gave the Commissioners her reports on expenses by town and where the County is in relation to the cap.

Commissioner Cryans said that he and Commissioner Burton attended the annual meeting of the NH Coalition of Aging Services on October 29th and suggested that HSA Bishop contact them as they may be able to shed some light on the aging population for the future. He also suggested visiting their website at www.nhpolicy.org.

HSA Bishop gave the Commissioners an update on the Incentive Funds saying that the rules are still being "reworked".

Commissioner Burton said that Commissioner Toumpas is looking at how to redo HS State contracts and that the thought is to eliminate some of the administrators and to consolidate. He said that there is a regional meeting at the Mount Washington hotel on the 13th and suggested that HSA Bishop attend. He said that if she does attend, that he would like a report back as to what transpired.

New HR Director Mike Simpson arrived for his first meeting with the Commissioners. He was welcomed and said that he was getting oriented with the departments and feels that it is going well so far. He said that he has spent quite a bit of time at the Nursing Home and that he will be meeting more with them next week as well as attending their orientation.

HRD Simpson had sent the Commissioners a report which discussed some of the current vacancies.

HRD Simpson said that he would like to publically congratulate HR Assistant Karen Clough on winning the Grafton County Employee of the Year award at the NHAC Conference.

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander and Finance Manager Bryan Patanovich arrived. NHA Bolander referred to HRD Simpson's discussion about vacancies by saying that two the nurses from the Philippines were leaving and that there were two other nurses that were leaving due to medical reasons. She said that they were contemplating looking at traveling nurses through December until any new hires become acclimated.

Commissioner Cryans asked about tapping into other resources and NHA Bolander said that nursing schools graduate in the spring and there are no current job fairs right now.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like to see the Department of Employment Security used as a source of employment in this area.

Commissioner Burton then asked if educational opportunities though Grafton County were being utilized and NHA Bolander said they were.

HRD Simpson said that he thought there were nurses "out there" looking and that ads will be going into six publications.

NHA Bolander stated that the census today was 130.

County Attorney Lara Saffo arrived at the request of NHA Bolander.

*9:55 AM – Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Richards "yes", Commissioner Burton "yes", Commissioner Cryans "yes". Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and that they would now go into non-public session.

*10:15 AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session and would seal the minutes of that session.

*10:15 AM - Commissioner Richards then moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Richards "yes", Commissioner Burton "yes", Commissioner Cryans "yes". Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and they would now go into non-public session.

*10:17 AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session and to seal the minutes of that session. The Commissioners then moved on to the next item of business.

NHA Bolander said that it's possible that the Medicaid reimbursement rate could decrease 5% in the future because of the number of Medicaid recipients at the Nursing Home.

Commissioner Burton commended NHA Bolander for seeking the State position of NHAC president and Commissioner Richards echoed that sentiment.

Commissioner Burton asked what the plans were for Veterans Day at the Nursing Home and NHA Bolander said they usually have people come in, or the Veterans may go out to lunch.

Grafton County Economic Development Council Executive Director Mark Scarano and NH Electrical Coop Executive Vice President of Strategy & Governmental Relations and GDECD Chairman Ray Gosney arrived.

Director Scarano began by saying that the Smart Grid means a lot to Grafton County and that Mr. Gosney had a lot to do with that. A grant had been received to institute the smart grid system. R. Gosney said that there is a three year installation proposal from the time that the award that was won and that the program should start deploying the second quarter of next year. He said that the NH Coop may receive another grant by Thanksgiving that would put New Hampshire on the map for the best technology.

Commissioner Cryans said that in speaking of technology, he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at MascomaCorp and noted there were a lot of employees now working there. He said that M. Scarano should be proud of the transition.

M. Scarano said there was more to come for Dartmouth Regional Technical Center(DRTC), (of which MascomaCorp was originally part of).

- DRTC II Expansion
 - \$4.3M was received from EDA which is NCC's largest EDA grant in the Northeast. Conservatively there will be 130 jobs created by DRTC and the federal government is very supportive.
- Plymouth Littleton Incubator
 - Plymouth State University has taken ownership with an interest in the NH Elect Coop. R. Gosney said that Plymouth State is partnering with the Coop to work on sustainable energy.
- North County Workplace Education Project
 - High school internships with business.
 - Estimated \$400K to get the project running over a three year period. They have received 10% of the money from the Dept. of Education but will be looking for more funding.
 - The hope is to attract young people back to the area post education.

There was a discussion about the loss in revenue experienced by the Coop.

M. Scarano gave the Commissioners a report which highlighted the increase in loans due to the added money provided by Grafton County in the last two years. This information will be provided in the GCEDC annual report.

M. Scarano thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and said that more CDBG grants will be pursued in the future.

There was a brief discussion about Northern Borders and where that project lies.

M. Scarano said that the CDFA has now included GCEDC in their application for loans for businesses to improve their energy efficiencies. He said the plan was to work as a larger group to be able to do more.

The Commissioners thanked the gentlemen for coming.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp and Fidler General Manager Paul Roth arrived inform the Commissioners that Fidler has taken over the business of Connor & Connor but that the current obligation with Grafton County as well as the expectations will continue status quo. Connor & Connor employees have been asked to stay on so, which they have as of this time so for all intents and purposes, it is as though nothing has changed. Grafton County is under a three year agreement with Connor & Connor.

The Commissioners signed a letter to Senator Gregg which discussed funding for the biomass project.

The Commissioners signed a Group II Certification form for the Jail.

NACo sent the County a report of 10 reasons to belong which outlined the things they provide to the County. The County's NACo dues are due in December.

The Commissioners initialed a name change on an approved grant at the Sheriff's Dept.

Director Clough presented a request from Human Services, IT and the Commissioners' Office to close on the 24th of December stipulating those employees use earned time for that day.

Commissioner Richards moved to approved the closing of the above named offices and that the employees should use earned time for that day, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans signed the monthly ARRA report for the Drug Court.

Director Clough reported that \$3.65M in TANs has been drawn down from Woodsville Bank, leaving a balance of \$350,000 and that documents from Mascoma Bank for the \$5M TAN will be ready for the Commissioners and Treasurer to sign next week. It is anticipated that we will need funds from Mascoma at some point in November.

The towns of Orange and Livermore have paid their taxes as of this date.

There will be a Farm Advisory Committee meeting on the 18th of November.

The Executive Committee will meet on the 16th of November.

Director Clough has been working with Moody's to review the Nursing Home bond rate which they affirmed as an A2 rating. Moody's did note that a lower fund balance could alter that rating.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that Rep. Ladd is looking to put together an advisory committee to investigate opportunities for the Armory building in Woodsville.

Commissioner Burton will not be available for the November 10th and December 8th Commissioner meetings.

Commissioner Richards has signed up for a webinar with the DOE on EECGG grants in hopes of gathering more information regarding funding for the biomass project. There will be another webinar on the 19th for the Rural Broadband Partnership Opportunities which Commissioner Burton would like to see. Director Clough said that it could be arranged to have that shown here at the County.

The Commissioners received thank you letters from Nancy Johnson for the dedication of Courtroom #1 to her husband William Johnson. Commissioner Burton said that he would like to have the letter put into the historical room under the Johnson file.

Commissioner Cryans gave Director Clough some census information from NHAC which he received at the annual meeting.

Commissioner Cryans spoke briefly of the meeting of the NH Coalition on Aging that he and Commissioner Burton attended, saying that it was very enlightening and that keynote speaker Robert Blancato from Washington DC was quite interesting.

11:48 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk