

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday March 19, 2012

PRESENT: Representatives Bulis, Sova, Gionet, Ladd, Townsend, Aguiar, Almy and White, Commissioners Cryans and Ahern, Executive Director Clough, and Secretary Martino.

EXCUSED: Rep. Brosseau

OTHERS: Joe Maccini and Bob Fagnant of Woodsville Water & Light, Maintenance Supt. Jim Oakes, Gil Richardson, Gary Petteplace, David VanHouten and Martha Richards (all members of the Alternative Energy Committee), Tara G. (Littleton Courier) Robert Blechl (Caledonian Record) and Rep. Suzanne Smith

Rep. Bulis called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rep. Bulis asked that everyone in the room introduce themselves and then asked Commissioner Cryans to give a brief outline on how the biomass project got started. Commissioner Cryans said that he had dragged his feet a little bit because he felt that the Jail project took precedence and he wanted to get that underway first. He recognized Martha Richards who along with other members of the Alternative Energy Committee began the quest for this project and their passion never waned. He said that the current Board of Commissioners has since voted to move this project forward.

Bill Root, President of GWR Engineering and Jules Chatot from Banwell Architects were the guest speakers, along with Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes. The presentation was on the proposed biomass project and was given via PowerPoint. There was accompanying paperwork which included the feasibility study and figures on savings to the County which would define the benefits of burning woodchips over burning oil.

Mr. Root explained how the biomass plant would work and which buildings would be tied into it. .

Mr. Chatot said that although the oil market can fluctuate greatly, the wood market seems to be pretty stable and fairly strong. In a letter sent from the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), to the County, Brad Simpkins offered support of the project and said that it would be beneficial to the local economy and conservation by helping to maintain working forests. Mr. Simpkins did not see any problem with securing wood for the project in the future.

There was a question and answer period which included actual savings, cost of chips, whether or not more labor would be needed to support the facility, and the option of adding an electrical component to the building.

Rep. Sova asked about running the plant 24/7 and creating electricity that could be fed back to the grid. Mr. Root said there would have to be a way to disperse the heat when you don't have a load. He said it would be like running a mini power plant which would actually cost more money. Supt. Oakes said that when BERC, (who did the original

feasibility study) looked at this option they found it to be a waste of money.

Joe Maccini and Bob Fagnant from Woodsville Water & Light were present and Rep. Bulis asked them to speak about how the biomass plant would impact their company. B. Fagnant said that if the County were to choose just the heat option then it would have no impact on WW&L at all. He said that in order to accept power back, they would have to renegotiate with their electrical contractor with whom they have a contract with from November of 2012 to February of 2015. He also stated that a big problem with the County creating electricity would be the relays and the up and down of the draw.

Rep. Bulis asked what Banwell is recommending and J. Chatot said that they recommend heat only option. Rep. Bulis said that he is not sold on the option of adding the electrical component. Supt. Oakes said that when they put the project out to bid there will be a base bid for just heat and then an add-on for the electrical option for future.

Martha Richards was introduced as the Chairman of the Alternative Energy Committee who began looking at this project in 2008. She introduced Gary Phetteplace, Gil Richardson and David VanHouten who have all been very committed to this project. She said that she feels that the biomass project will offer stability for the County as well as offering jobs in the community. She said there is also the benefit of getting off of oil and to see some savings for the County.

G. Phetteplace stated that all the studies he has been involved with have come to the same conclusion that the electronic component should not be considered because of the actual low production of electricity. G. Richardson echoed the sentiments of DRED by saying that there is a good supply of chips available in the area.

Rep. White questioned why the biomass wasn't considered during the time of the building of the Jail. Supt. Oakes replied that geothermal was considered a more viable option because of the fact that it both heated and cooled. D. VanHouten said the Jail was already underway when the Energy Committee was formed. He added that the engineering plan was paid for by a grant from the Dept. of Energy. There was discussion about the possibility that there may be some money left over from the Jail project to put toward the biomass project. He said that a grant to do the project was unlikely and it would probably have to be funded, however there are still some very good interest rates and he felt this would be a fiscally conservative decision.

Director Clough said that she has had some preliminary conversation with the banks and once there is approval from the Delegation she can get a better understanding of what the funding would look like.

Rep. Smith arrived.

Director Clough gave a timeline of what they would like to see as far as moving the project along and suggested that perhaps the Delegation could vote on the project approval when they vote on the Elected Official's salaries.

Rep. Bulis called a brief recess.

Rep. Bulis called the meeting back to order.

Rep. Sova was excused.

Rep. Bulis asked if anyone had any thoughts on the electrical stub option and Rep. Almy said that if the County would only receive 10% electricity, it wouldn't make any sense to add the stub. Rep. White said he would like to see the real market data on the cost of chips first though he feels he can support this project, but not the electrical stub.

Rep. Ladd agreed that the electrical was not a great idea and Rep. Townsend said he didn't see any reason to even spend money on the electrical stub for the project. Rep. Gionet concurred.

Rep. White recommended that the "T's" for the white building and the maintenance building be included for possible future connections in the construction and that local people be involved in the building of the project.

Rep. Bulis surmised that the Committee is in favor of the biomass project but for heat only option.

Director Clough will get this information out to the rest of the Delegation so they can go over it before the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Elliott said that there is a healthy balance in the general fund and that she has still not found a better interest rate in which to invest money.

Rep. White moved to accept the report of the Treasurer which was seconded by Rep. Almy. All were in favor.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Cryans gave the Commissioners report to the committee saying that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Jail will be on May 6th from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The budget is current being presented by the Department Heads and the Commissioners budget should be ready by the 1st of May.

Commissioner Cryans suggested that the Commissioners' public hearing on the budget be held on the 17th of May at 6:00 PM. There was some discussion as to whether or not this would work for the Delegates and it was determined it would. That date is confirmed.

Rep. Almy moved to accept the Commissioners Report which was seconded by Rep. White. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Census in the Nursing Home is 133 and in the Jail the census is 102 with 10 inmates out on electronic monitoring, 22 are being supervised in the Drug Court program with 8 of those in custody.

Director Clough reviewed the Variance Report which she said was on target. She said the Registry of Deeds may come in under revenue and Interest would also be below expectation. The County Attorney will likely be over expended.

Director Clough reviewed the Pro Rated report saying the County was slightly under revenue but that should come into alignment.

Rep. Aguiar moved to accept the report of the Executive Director which was seconded by Rep. Almy. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rep. Almy informed the Committee that they expect to finalize the Jail staffing report today.

COMMENTS OF THE DELEGATES

Rep. Ladd asked Director Clough if she could find out what the other Counties are paying their Elected Officials so they have that information when they go to vote on the salaries.

Rep. Bulis said that he appreciated the report from Director Clough on the Post Employee Benefits and asked if there were a lot of accrued liabilities for employees. Director Clough said yes, there was earned time and sick leave.

The next meeting date will be April 16, 2012. The committee will meet at 9:00 AM at the Jail for a tour prior to the start of the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None

11:57 AM Rep. White moved to adjourn which was seconded by Rep. Almy.

With no further business and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Sova, Clerk