

FTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
March 10th, 2020

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer, Morris, Piper, County Administrator Libby and Administrative Assistant Norcross

OTHERS PRESENT: Supt. Oakes, Farm Manager Knapton, Shelley Hadfield – Grant Administrator, Katelyn Robinson (NCIC), Justin Slattery (BEDC), Anne Duncan Cooley (GRDC), Denise Roy-Palmer (WEDCO), Pam Sullivan (WREN), Caitlin Farrar (WREN), Tracey Secula (Lakes Region Planning Commission)

Commissioner Lauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Morris participated by phone according to RSA 91-A: 2 with the reason being that she was unable to attend due to health reasons. Telephone participation was at her request. It was noted that all votes must be taken by a roll call.

Supt. Oakes arrived to open bids for FY21 Off Road Diesel. He noted that the bid solicited propane as well out of habit but realized after the fact that last year they entered into a two (2) year agreement for propane therefore it did not need to go out to bid this year. Two (2) bids were received as follows for the off road diesel:

Thompson – 5100 gallons \$2.499/gallon
Perry's Oil/Patten's Gas - \$2.189/gallon

Supt. Oakes stated that he would like to contact both companies to confirm that these prices are still good as the oil prices are volatile.

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the March 3rd meeting. Commissioner Piper thanked Commissioner Lauer for following up on her request to discussion on health insurance coverage for Elected Officials. She stated that that she understands this has been an issue for quite some time, and she is happy that HR will be able to make a change to the health insurance contract that will improve the situation.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from the March 3rd meeting. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”, Commissioner Morris “yes”. Commissioner Lauer. Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

Farm Manager Knapton arrived and gave the following report:

March Farm Report

- Grain bid: Cargill, our current supplier, came in with the lowest concentrate cost per cow per day. All things considered, our history, our current storage capacity and price, I would recommend staying with Cargill at this time and re-evaluating annually. A near future consideration will be on site storage, which will allow more buying options/flexibility.

MOTION: Commissioner Morris moved to accept Cargill's bid for feed supply. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer "yes", Commissioner Piper "yes", Commissioner Morris "yes". Commissioner Lauer. Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and the motion passes.

- Month by month income and expenses for the farm.
- New England Dairy newsletter and Agri-Mark price forecast handouts predicting milk price and market factors for 2020.
- FUN STUFF:
 - The markets have turned and now we don't have enough eggs! Harman's Cheese, Ariana's Restaurant, Aldrich's Store and on farm sales.
 - Horses are coming to plow on May 2nd with rain date of May 9th
 - Mushroom logs have been cut and we are ready to inoculate. Grant application with NCIC for the project. Gourmet varieties include Shiitake, Snow oyster, Hen of the Woods, Wine Cap and Almond Agaricus possible organic certification for 2021
 - Cut flowers, giant zinnia and various sunflower varieties, CART
 - Garden seeds are in
 - Field rotation for sweet corn and potatoes. Acidity, etc.
 - Meeting April 1st with Kurt Ruppel, "Understanding the Value of Forages" local farms bring forage samples and as a group we compare our own samples to the model presented.

FM Knapton noted that she is attending a Primex Seminar on dealing with human aggression. She stated that the seminar is being held by a Correctional Officer and at the end they will bring in actors from UNH to see what they have learned. She stated that she is looking forward to this and feels this is a good seminar for her to attend.

Supt. Oakes returned to the meeting stated that he had called the two (2) companies who submitted bids and prices are current.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to accept Perry's Oil/Patten's Gas bid of \$2.189/gallon for 5100 gallons of off road diesel. Commissioner Morris seconded. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer "yes", Commissioner Piper "yes", Commissioner Morris "yes". Commissioner Lauer. Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and the motion passes.

The Commissioners signed check registers 41;1132-1135.

Register of Deeds Monahan arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners
March 10, 2020**

February Revenue

County Revenue 2/2009	\$65,090.84	State Revenue 2/2009	\$266,375.04
County Revenue 2/2010	\$54,282.72	State Revenue 2/2010	\$347,089.92
County Revenue 2//2011	\$71,304.59	State Revenue 2/2011	\$554,448.96
County Revenue 2/2012	\$60,013.56	State Revenue 2/2012	\$266,312.64
County Revenue 2/2013	\$58,687.26	State Revenue 2/2013	\$230,022.72
County Revenue 2/2014	\$47,224.49	State Revenue 2/2014	\$313,878.72
County Revenue 2/2015	\$41,010.42	State Revenue 2/2015	\$234,774.16
County Revenue 2/2016	\$56,795.44	State Revenue 2/2016	\$387,897.60
County Revenue 2/2017	\$55,338.00	State Revenue 2/2017	\$363,739.20
County Revenue 2/2018	\$66,783.98	State Revenue 2/2018	\$604,101.12
County Revenue 2/2019	\$53,290.14	State Revenue 2/2019	\$417,800.64
County Revenue 2/2020	\$58,146.62	State Revenue 2/2020	\$442,978.56

Foreclosures

2009 25 year to date
2010 35 year to date
2011 29 year to date
2012 22 year to date
2013 13 year to date
2014 13 year to date
2015 5 year to date
2016 9 year to date
2017 8 year to date
2018 2 year to date
2019 5 year to date
2020 6 year to date

1. The NH House Commerce Committee voted 18-2 to find HB1400 inexpedient to legislate on March 2, 2020. I testified in opposition on February. I have attached my letter.
2. The NH Municipal Association Attorney Cordell Johnston has submitted an amendment to SB425 to the Senate Election and Municipal Affairs Committee. I have attached my letter to the committee and the amendment. This legislation is unnecessary and is isolated to a situation in Hillsborough County. If approved this law will now affect every registry and municipality in the state. It will have a major impact resulting in the complete restructuring our 25-year policy with the municipalities of Grafton County and will have a minor effect on revenue.

3. NH Register of Deeds Association President Cathy Stacey and I testified in support of the study commission aspect of SB493 FN –A. We both requested that the study happen before any changes are made to the law governing LCHIP and that changes be made once as to not disrupt the recording process more than once. Last year after the Governor’s veto, the registries had to reject documents that included the new set fee. This is very troubling in what is called a “race state.” “Race to the courthouse” is the term used when one document claiming an interest in real property is recorded prior to another document. This system determines who is paid first when determining ownership and rights in court. First American Title sent our notices to all submitters noting the new charge of \$35.00. The Governor vetoed and we began receiving incorrect checks which required us to reject the entire package. We are hoping that the process can be reviewed thoroughly by the committee and changed only once. I am advocating for an increase in the percentage to the counties who collect and process the fee. Currently we receive 4% of the \$25 fee which equals \$1.00. The proposed increase to \$35 will result in \$1.40 to the counties per document.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley J. Monahan

CA Libby submitted a Tax Data Conversion Invoice for Livermore for the Commissioners to sign.

CA Libby submitted the DoC Superior Court Report for the month of February for the Commissioners to review.

2019 MicroEnterprise Mid Grant Public Hearing

Shelley Hadfield – Grant Administrator, Katelyn Robinson (NCIC), Justin Slattery (BEDC), Anne Duncan Cooley (GRDC), Denise Roy-Palmer (WEDCO), Pam Sullivan (WREN), Caitlin Farrar (WREN), Tracey Secula (Lakes Region Planning Commission) were all present for the public hearings.

10:00AM Commissioner Lauer opened the Mid Grant Public Hearing.

Members from each of the organizations took time to discuss different projects they are currently working on, various success stories and other statistics from their organizations. They all answered various questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lauer asked if there were any comments from the public. No members of the public were present.

10:30AM Commissioner Lauer closes the Mid Grant Public Hearing.

10:30 AM Commissioner Lauer Opened the 2020 CDBG MicroEnterprise Grant – Public Hearing

Shelley Hadfield, CDBG Administrator, explained that Community Development Block Grant funds are available to municipalities for economic development, public facility and housing rehabilitation projects and feasibility studies that primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. The purpose of the public hearings required for CDBG funding is to solicit the view of citizens on community development; furnish the citizens with information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities which may be undertaken under the Community Development Act.

CDBG funds are awarded on a competitive basis in New Hampshire and may be used for housing, public facilities, and economic development which have primary benefit to low and moderate income persons. A community or County can apply for up to \$500,000 a year for public facilities, up to \$500,000, up to \$500,000 a year for economic development projects, as well as up to \$500,000 a year in emergency funds. Planning grants are available for up to \$25,000. Up to \$850,000 is available for micro-enterprise grants statewide for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance to micro enterprises.

A handout is available describing the proposed project.

Commissioner Lauer asked if there were any comments from the public. No members of the public were present.

10:32AM Commissioner Lauer closed the public hearing.

10:32AM Commissioner Lauer opened public hearing # 1 – Grant Submission

Shelley Hadfield, explained that this proposal to be considered by the Commissioners is a CDBG Micro Enterprise grant to be submitted by Grafton County on behalf of multiple organizations statewide including GRDC (Grafton Regional Development Corporation), BEDC (Belknap Economic Development Corporation), WEDCO (Wentworth Economic Development Corporation), WREN (Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network), NCIC (Northern Community Investment Corporation) and CEDC (Coos Economic Development Corporation). The grant, for up to \$500,000, would be used to provide training and technical assistance and loan servicing to micro enterprises. The program has become very popular. We anticipate that 9 separate entities will apply for funding under two counties, Grafton and Cheshire. Some of those entities are collaborating. NH CDFA has raised the total amount of funding available to \$850,000 statewide. Because a municipality (county) can only apply for up to \$500,000 a year, Grafton County will provide funds to entities in the northern half of the state. Cheshire County will again apply to provide funds to entities in the southern part of the state. As with last year we expect that applications will exceed the amount of funding available.

Commissioner Lauer asked if there were any comments from the public. No members of the public were present.

10:33AM Commissioner Lauer closed public hearing # 1

10:34AM Commissioner Lauer opened public hearing #2 - Anti-Displacement and

Relocation Plan

Shelley Hadfield explained that if any displacement takes place as a result of this project, the Uniform Relocation Act must be followed, which requires that any displaced household or business in a project using any federal funds must be found comparable housing in a comparable neighborhood at a comparable price. There will be no displacement as a result of this project. Under the certification section of the application, the County will certify that the Residential Anti-displacement & Relocation (RARA) plan is in place, and in the event that it is discovered that this specific project does displace persons or households, a displacement implementation plan must be submitted to CDFA prior to obligating or expending funds.

Commissioner Lauer asked if there were any comments from the public. No members of the public were present.

10:35AM Commissioner Lauer closed public hearing # 2

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to support submission of a 2020 CDBG Micro Enterprise grant to provide funds to multiple entities throughout the state for the purposes of providing training and technical assistance to micro-enterprises and to authorize the Chair to sign, submit and execute any documents that may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG application and contract. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”, Commissioner Morris “yes”. Commissioner Lauer. Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to adopt the Grafton County Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for this project. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”, Commissioner Morris “yes”. Commissioner Lauer. Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

Opioid Discussion Update – CA Libby attended the NHAC Executive Committee meeting. At the end of the day the State is looking for the Counties and political subdivisions to buy into and support the trust language. The trust language will set up an opioid abatement trust fund. 15% of money coming to the State will go to the political subdivisions who have active lawsuits. The remaining 85% goes into the abatement fund where any political subdivision and the state can apply for monies to be paid out of that for opioid abatement. CA Libby stated that she feels the state wants everyone pulled into one group. They are meeting tomorrow at the DuPont group with Bonsignore and Napoli. She stated that Bonsignore agrees with everything the State is doing and Napoli does not. CA Libby stated that she will continue to keep the Commissioners informed.

CA Libby stated that she met with NHA Labore to discuss the Coronavirus. The Nursing Home has signs posted at the entrance with instructions on what to do before entering the building. They are following CDC protocol; cleaning high touch areas throughout the day. NHA Labore is concerned that there may be CMS regulations coming down because of the Washington State

Nursing Home, including screening people before entering the building. She stated that they are talking about the issue daily and following all protocols.

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner Piper attended the NHAC Executive Committee meeting last week. Henry Lipman from DHHS was there to provide an update on IDN funding. Rockingham County has approved their funding amount based on the revised request for \$5 million for this year from the counties. The NHAC has proposed an MOU with the DHHS that would require regular reporting and there has been a stall with that. They are working to finalize it. She noted that there will be a conversation that will go on called "Life After 2020", regarding what happens to the IDNs.

Commissioner Piper stated that she also attended the NACO meeting in Washington DC. She signed up for the Community Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee, feeling that the committee would be most helpful to their needs in Grafton County. The NHAC Delegation met with all NH's Congressional Delegates except Senator Hassan; they met with an aid from her office. They advocated that the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy be changed. She explained that when inmates are coming into the facilities they lose their Medicaid coverage. The problem for county jails is they lose their Medicaid funding for pretrial inmates so the county takes the hit regarding paying for healthcare for the majority of their population. Congresswoman Kuster has a bill that is trying to amend this and has recommended that the NHAC take an official position. Commissioner Piper stated that this has been done by the NHAC but Congresswoman Kuster also recommended that individual counties write to the Committee. Commissioner Morris asked for the bill information and stated that she wants to support it.

Supt. Oakes returned to the meeting to discuss an issue with the fuel bids. He stated that Travis Perry from Patten's Gas has told him that Osterman's, the parent company of Patten's Gas, will not honor the off road diesel bid without the propane bid being awarded to them as well. Supt. Oakes stated that that leaves them with one (1) bid for diesel from Thompson Fuels. CA Libby stated that their options are to accept this bid, take chances on the open market or rebid at a later date. The Commissioners discussed it with Supt. Oakes and agreed that he will budget for FY21 at the current price and rebid this in May.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to retract the previous motion and reject all fuel bids. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer "yes", Commissioner Piper "yes", Commissioner Morris "yes". Commissioner Lauer. Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and the motion passes.

11:21 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Morris,
Clerk