

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday April 18, 2011

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

OTHERS: Rep. Eaton

Rep. Bulis called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM after returning from a tour of the new Jail. Representative Gionet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rep. Bulis asked if there were any comments on the project and Rep. Aguiar said that it was all very mind boggling to see it all brought together. Rep. Bulis said that it was a very neat and clean construction site and efficiently well put together. Rep. Almy said it brought into perspective just how much it's going to cost to run.

Rep. Bulis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 28, 2011.

Rep. Sova moved to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Rep. Almy. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Elliott informed the committee what she had received for bids for the \$15.5M bond investment. Twelve banks were solicited. There were three who did not respond, three who said they could not bid and out of remaining six, only Mascoma and Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank had anything worth investing with. The following investments were approved by the Commissioners last Thursday.

\$1.5M to Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank for 12 months at 0.90%

\$3.0M to Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank for 9 months at 0.75%

\$4.5M to Mascoma Savings Bank to be invested in CDARS for 6 months at 0.65%

\$6.5M to Mascoma Savings Bank Municipal Investment Sweep Account at 0.60%

Director Clough said that the interest rate on the bonds for the \$15.5M was 4.05% and the previous interest rate a year ago was 3.38%.

Rep. Aguiar moved to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Rep. Townsend. All were in favor.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Burton briefed the committee as to what was going on saying that the Commissioners have been working on the budget and hope to tie everything up at their meeting tomorrow.

- He has been visiting the Selectboard's in his district and has attended six so far.
- In March Commissioner Burton and Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander attended the NACo Conference in Washington DC and had some "face time" with Senators Shaheen and Ayotte and Congressmen Bass and Guinta. Much of the discussion was centered on the over-regulation of nursing homes through CMS.
- Veterans were honored at a breakfast held by the Governor for County Week and 35 people from Grafton County received citations.
- There will be a Drug Court graduation on May 9th at 1:30 PM
- Mental Health Court is now underway in the County.

Commissioner Ahern added that there was some structural roof damage to the Administration building over the winter which is being addressed.

- Congressman Bass will be making a courtesy call to the Commissioners tomorrow at around 11:00 AM.
- The Commissioners will be meeting with Woodsville Water & Light on the 14th of June
- Grafton County Economic Development will have their annual meeting tomorrow night in Lebanon at the Fireside Inn and the GCEDC road tour will be from Bristol to Littleton on May 16th.

Rep. Almy asked when the public hearing would be held and Director Clough said it is tentatively scheduled for the 12th of May at 6:00 PM in the UNH conference room.

Rep. Almy asked if budget cuts in mental health will affect the Drug and Mental Health Court at the County and Director Clough said that they shouldn't. She said that Drug Court is funded by the County and Attorney Saffo seemed to feel very confident that the grant they have for Mental Health Court is very safe. She said that the Jail may be losing the Governor's Commission grant however.

Rep. Ladd asked if there was a plan to discuss the change in the cost of electricity when they visit with WW&L and Commissioner Ahern said that could be discussed.

Rep. White said he assumed that the reason for the visit was the water tank and the reply was affirmative.

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

Commissioner Burton excused himself

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Clough began with the census at the Nursing Home saying it was 133 and census at the Jail, 93.

Director Clough reviewed the Revenue and Expense Report saying that nine months have been completed at this time. The DoC is below revenue but the rest of the Departments look okay. Expenses look good and noted that the Mental Health Court is a 100% grant which will show in the Attorney's budget. The Farm is over expended. The Bond will eventually even out.

Director Clough then reviewed the Prorated Report.

Director Clough informed the committee that they should have received the new updated information regarding the impact the Jail has on taxes. This was sent out to all towns and to the full Delegation.

It is expected that the budget is to go out between April 22nd and May 2nd and beginning the week of May 16th the Executive Committee can meet to go over the budget. The tentative date for approval of the budget will be June 27th.

Rep. Sova asked why they had to wait until the 16th to begin looking at the budget and Director Clough said that statutorily it must be available no more than 20 days and no less than 10 days before the public hearing. Rep. Sova asked if it could be done by May 9th and then they could have their first meeting with the Dept. Heads on that day from 9:00 AM to 12 noon and then meet for the regular meeting on the 16th.

Rep. White said he would like to see an all day meeting to get things accomplished.

Rep. Ladd said he would also like to see a Dept. Head schedule so things could be followed sequentially.

It was suggested that they could do their all day meeting on the 23rd of May.

It was decided that the meetings would be held on May 9th from 9:00 to 12:00 PM and then if anyone wanted to go to the Drug Court graduation they could. The next meeting would be their regular meeting on the 16th and then they would have an all day meeting on the 23rd. This would still leave some time in June if needed.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Water Tank

The first item brought up was the water tank and Commissioner Ahern said that right now there is not a unanimous position amongst the Commissioners as to what they would

like to see done. He said that Supt. Oakes has been asked to provide a timeline and backup information about meetings and who was at the meetings and so that they can speak from a position of facts when they visit WW&L. He said that there was an article written in the local paper that caused some consternation.

Rep. Bulis asked if it was safe to assume that the valve would be open and closed by WW&L and not dealt with by any other means by the end of the budget and Commissioner Ahern said yes.

Rep. Gionet asked about the article and Director Clough said there were quotes by WW&L that stated they were not involved in the plan design of the tank which did not work and that they did not want to take over the tank nor did they want their taxpayers to have to pay for this either. She said that she would make copies of the article for everyone.

Rep. Gionet asked if there would be any exploratory drilling and Commissioner Ahern said there will be no drilling at this time and at least until after they meet with WW&L.

Rep. Aguiar asked if they will be discussing changes that could be done that would lead to WW&L taking the tank over and Commissioner Ahern said that there are a broad number of things to discuss, but again, there is no consensus among the Commissioners at this time as to how they want to proceed.

Rep. Bulis said he thought this should move forward as the County is their customer and WW&L is the provider.

Rep. Gionet asked if minutes are kept of the WW&L meetings and Director Clough said they are public meetings so she believes there should be.

Rep. White said he is deeply troubled by all the red flags that were not addressed prior to building the tank and that he has a copy of a letter from DES that was written to WW&L pre-construction stating that the tank was too low and would be a problem causing the water to stagnate. He said they owe it to the taxpayers to look at culpability.

Rep. Bulis questioned how involved the Executive Committee wanted to be in this issue.

Rep. Ladd said that for the Delegation to delve into this matter is incorrect and the Commissioners have the authority to deal with this. He added that knowing what he does of WW&L, the Commissioners shouldn't hold on to a lot of hope.

Rep. Almy said she didn't think any more time should be spent on this topic today, but the Commissioners should have a copy of that letter for their WW&L meeting in June. A copy of the letter was provided to everyone.

Rep. Sova concluded by adding that if the Commissioners do need some support that they should be encouraged to come to the Delegation.

Rep. Ladd said it should be kept in mind that the WW&L is not a public utility but a private money making machine.

By-Laws

Rep. Bulis welcomed comments as to the by-laws that were presented at the last meeting.

Rep. Gionet said that he would like to see travel expenses reviewed and said that he feels that when he comes to the County for something he should be reimbursed for travel.

Rep. Almy said she never puts in for travel when she comes to public events and said this is addressed on page 4.

Rep. Bulis said the statute is clear.

Rep. Ladd said there need to be a resolution on the issue of travel and said if they come for County business then they should be reimbursed.

Rep. Gionet restated that he shouldn't have to feel that these trips he makes are gratuitous and he should be paid.

Rep. Aguiar asked what the track record has been in the past and had anyone put in for reimbursements. Director Clough answered that by saying that Rep. Gionet asked for travel each time but that she doesn't think that if an invitation to an event is extended and people decide to attend that they should be reimbursed for that.

Rep. Sova said that perhaps the Chairman should make that decision so that the budget can be kept in line. Travel should be at the approval of the Chairman unless it is a required meeting.

Rep. White thought that Rep. Gionet had a point and that maybe coming to the County in an official capacity, reimbursement should be considered, but he also agreed that it should be at the pleasure of the Chairman.

Rep. Gionet said that if he needs to come to the County to speak to someone face to face about something that he doesn't want to discuss over the phone that he should be compensated.

Rep. Ladd said that meetings and sub-committee meetings should be the reason that payments are made and he doesn't feel that should be an open ended decision.

He said the question becomes whether or not social event should qualify.

Rep. Aguiar said that if the event is required then they can be paid but if not, you're on your own.

There was further discussion about this topic.

Rep. Gionet was adamant that one should be paid if they come to the County and Rep. Aguiar said parameters needed to be set.

Rep. Bulis said it would be best if everyone mulled it over until next time.

There was a discussion about whether there should be a section on "conflict of interest".

Rep. Bulis said he would like to see a document agreed upon by the committee so that it can be sent to the full Delegation. He said he would hope to have this done by next meeting.

Performance Audit

Rep. Bulis asked if everyone had a chance to look at the changes to the Performance Audit and if so, was there a consensus. Everyone agreed it satisfied all their concerns.

Rep. Sova moved to accept the proposal for the Performance Audit and authorize the Chairman to sign the Melanson-Heath Engagement Letter. This was seconded by Rep. Almy. The vote was unanimous.

Rep. Almy said that she has been pushing Senator Shaheen's Office about the CMS regulations and that the Senator's aide suggested that there are issues at a State level. Rep. Almy wondered if NHA Bolander could put something together regarding the

paperwork requirement coming from the State. She said that she would like to see all the Counties put something together.

Rep. Bulis said that in following the lead of the Commissioners, perhaps the Delegation could discuss and vote on the Northern Pass project at their meeting in June. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea.

12:10 PM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Sova, Clerk