

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

April 11, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer, Ahern and Piper. County Administrator Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: County Attorney Saffo, Register of Deeds Monahan, Chris Wellington & Anna Duncan Cooley – Grafton Regional Development Corporation

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

Atty. Saffo arrived and gave the following report:

**Office of the Grafton County Attorney
Lara Saffo, County Attorney
April 11th, 2016
Report to the Commissioners**

The Mission of the Office of the Grafton County Attorney is to pursue justice and promote the safety and security of the County's citizens, thereby enhancing the quality of life in Grafton County. We will seek to achieve these goals by:

- **Striving for just disposition of criminal cases through timely, efficient and effective prosecution.**
- **Ensuring that victims and witnesses of crimes are treated with respect, courtesy, and sensitivity as they cooperate with criminal prosecutions.**
- **Improving the criminal justice system by identifying areas of need and working collaboratively with other criminal justice agencies and the community to improve the criminal justice system.**
- **Encouraging and promoting crime prevention and early intervention initiatives.**
- **Identifying, promoting and implementing new and innovative approaches to solving crime problems.**

(1) Statistics

2017 Figures show that last year's increase continues to be not only sustained, but increasing

From January 1, 2016 to April 7th, 2016, we had received 226 referrals. This year, from January 1, 2017 to April 7th, 2017 we have received 285 referrals. Of those referrals, 163 of those cases had at least one victim. 77 of the cases were "victimless" cases. The 285

also includes referrals for grand jury subpoenas and pending investigations. Thus, last year's increase in case numbers continues to be even higher this year.

We may not prosecute some referrals. Also, some referrals have more than one charge (why there are more charges than referrals in the attached sheets outlining the new referrals by town and by type of crime).

Calendar year 2016 figures:

When considering this year's figures, it's important to note we had an increase of over 120 referrals from last year. In 2015 we had 750 referrals; in 2016 we had 894 referrals¹.

(2) Training

Last Friday, the NH Attorney General's office conducted an all-day training on trial strategies for prosecutors. Four people from our office attended. Many thanks to the Campton Police Department for continuing to make their facility accessible. Associate Attorney General Jane Young contacted me after the training to express how impressed she was with team Grafton.

(3) Community Partnerships

We support the building of strong partnerships and collaborations with law enforcement, all members of the criminal justice system, and the communities we serve.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Attorney General – County Attorney meetings
AG Child Abuse and Neglect Conference Committee
AG Protocol drafting: Adult Sexual Assaults, Human Trafficking



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

We participate in three types of meetings for the Grafton and Sullivan County CAC at DHMC.

¹ Our workload is increased also because (1) We were scheduled to begin felony first on July 1st, 2017 but it was moved up last fall to April 1st, 2017. This will result in a significant amount of additional work. The Court recently presented in Grafton County and explained that the other counties showed a 12% increase in referrals once felony first began. This would be in addition to the jump in referrals noted above. In addition, the complexity of cases has continued to rise. We have arsons, a first degree assault for shaking an infant, negligent homicides by inappropriate driving of a motor vehicle, a negligent death investigation, drug related death investigations, adult sexual assaults, child sexual assaults, just to name a few that are pending right now. These numbers reflect the case workload, it does not reflect other responsibilities, such as Public Safety Initiatives, Petitions to Annul, One Party Intercepts, Responding to Untimely Deaths.

Case review meetings: Twice a month we have meetings to review all pending cases, and provide a status on past interviews.

We have one meeting in Lebanon once a month

We have a meeting in Littleton and Plymouth (alternative locations) once a month.

Director and Advisory Board meetings. We have meetings six times a year to discuss the program, and often have supplemental meetings to discuss a specific issue, such as sustainability.

The CAC continues to experience high numbers:

CASES

COUNTY	MONTH	#FI
Grafton	March	15
	April to date	11 – with 12 more scheduled
	Feb	25
Sullivan	March	10
	April to date	5 – with 2 more scheduled
	Feb	9

The CAC has submitted its application for National Children’s Alliance reaccreditation.

Plymouth area CAC site: We have been fortunate to have raised almost all the money needed to fund the interview room at Whole Village. The money will be paid directly to Whole Village from area police departments. I am still trying to find 1,800 for the technical equipment. We have been fortunate to receive the installation costs for no cost. This will save many agencies significant resources (the time it takes to drive to other locations, mileage).

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

Drug Court

We have weekly team meetings, followed by the open court session every Monday. There may be additional hearings as well, in addition to required trainings.

Other drug initiatives: Haverhill Area Substance Abuse Coalition (Cottage Hospital)

We participate regularly in other initiatives.

Justice Involved Veterans Task Force

This group meets monthly, and this year presented enabling legislation that I testified in support of. We can attend these meetings telephonically.

Mental Health Court

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We have not been able to attend these meetings each month, but try to attend as much as possible.

Adult Diversion

We work with the adult diversion as well.

FIRMM

We look forward to working with this sentencing alternative as well

STATEWIDE SOFTWARE/PBK

We participate in monthly statewide software meetings to enhance the use and efficiency of our statewide prosecutor's software.

This includes working on the Uniform Charging Table for the State of New Hampshire, and specifically developing elements of offenses for everyone to use in New Hampshire

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE TEAMS (SARTs):

We have monthly meetings in each of the Sexual Assault Resource teams, an initiative we hope to expand to the Littleton area this year:

Haverhill Area SART

Plymouth Area SART

Upper Valley SART

We continue to participate in these invaluable initiatives. To learn more about SARTs please see <http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/sexual-assault-response-teams-sart-0>.

NH HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION

We are a member agency with the New Hampshire Human Trafficking Coalition.

Prosecution initiatives

NH Prosecutors Sexual Assault Workgroup

(4) The Grafton County Victim/Witness Program

I have attached a report from our Victim Witness Program.

(5) Felony First

A new NH law restructuring felony case processing, known as Felony First, started April 1, 2017. In drafting my budget, I had hoped we would not start until July 1, 2017 (which was the initial indicators). As noted in last spring's budget presentation, other counties requested additional positions to accommodate felony first:

Belknap County: received funding for one attorney, hired

Coos County: received funding for one attorney, hired

Hillsborough County: this year asking for five attorneys, two support staff, two victim witness personnel

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Merrimack County: receiving funding for two attorneys and one support person
Cheshire County: Year 1(they were the first to implement) one attorney,
Year 2 a part time support person
Sullivan County: received funding for one attorney, hired
Rockingham: two prosecutors, one support person.

We have hired a support person temporarily to assist us. I have been reaching out to law enforcement to develop a referral system that works for them, and have met with the Circuit Court prosecutors, and the Chiefs. A final program has been developed, and handouts are being drafted.

(6) Grants

a. VAWA Grant

We received this grant, for \$30,000 towards the cost of a prosecutor to handle in part domestic violence and sexual assault cases. The year for the grand is June 30th, 2016 – June 30, 2017. The reports have been submitted.

b. VOCA Grant

We received the grant is for \$50,000 towards our Victim Witness Program. It pays for some of the costs of a Victim Witness Coordinator and for a new program, in our case Circuit Court Prosecution services. We have the official paperwork and are accepting referrals. It has already proven beneficial. The reports have been submitted.

c. Haverhill Area Substance Abuse and Prevention Coalition

This prevention initiative is for the SAU 23 catchment area.

d. Partnership with UNH – Prevention Innovations Research Center Collaboration

We received this grant and are participating in prevention initiatives for college sexual assaults.

e. Roving Advocate Project

We did not apply for this grant, but are continuing to look for opportunities.

f. Sexual Assault Justice Initiative

This is a DOJ grant that we will benefit from. The hiring committee hired the full time adult sexual assault investigator, and the grant has begun. The grant manager/prosecution consultant position is being advertised.

(7) Areas of needed expertise

- a. Arson
- b. Drugs
- c. Domestic violence
- d. Child sexual assault
- e. Adult sexual assault
- f. Abuse of Elders

- g. Assaults – simple to first degree
- h. Cybercrime
- i. Failure to register as a sex offender
- j. Gang activity
- k. Internet Crimes Against Children
- l. Negligent homicides – assault related
- m. Negligent homicides – DWI related / Driving Under the Influence, Serious bodily injury
- n. White collar crime – bank fraud, business fraud
- o. White collar crime – financial exploitation of family members/the elderly
- p. Computer fraud
- q. Property related offenses (bank checks/fraudulent use of a credit card/willful concealment)
- r. Property related offenses – burglaries and robberies
- s. And more . . .

(8) Adjourn to discuss legal matter.

9:13 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to temporarily adjourn this meeting for the purpose of consulting legal counsel. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Lauer stated that they will now adjourn this public meeting for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel. The public must leave the meeting room and the door will be closed.

9:30 AM Commissioner Lauer reconvened the meeting.

Chris Wellington and Anna Duncan Cooley from the Grafton Regional Development Corporation arrived to discuss some changes that will be taking place within the staff with the Commissioners. C. Wellington stated that he will be leaving GRDC for personal reasons and Anna Duncan Cooley will be taking over as Executive Director. He stated that he wanted to make sure that he met with the Commissioners to introduce her to the board. A. Cooley discussed her background and stated that she is very excited to fill the role of the Executive Director of GRDC.

Register of Deeds Monahan arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners**

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March Revenue

County Revenue 3/2009	\$ 79,919.92	State Revenue 3/2009	\$ 339,039.36
County Revenue 3/2010	\$ 69,702.17	State Revenue 3/2010	\$ 550,008.00
County Revenue 3/2011	\$ 64,590.75	State Revenue 3/2011	\$ 472,625.76
County Revenue 3/2012	\$ 77,217.55	State Revenue 3/2012	\$ 491,521.92
County Revenue 3/2013	\$ 64,184.04	State Revenue 3/2013	\$ 328,493.76
County Revenue 3/2014	\$ 58,794.91	State Revenue 3/2014	\$ 468,992.64
County Revenue 3/2015	\$ 63,276.39	State Revenue 3/2015	\$ 488,918.40
County Revenue 3/2016	\$ 59,655.76	State Revenue 3/2016	\$ 412,800.96
County Revenue 3/2017	\$ 64,669.62	State Revenue 3/2017	\$ 512,222.40

Foreclosures

2009 39 year to date
2010 58 year to date
2011 50 year to date
2012 47 year to date
2013 45 year to date
2014 49 year to date
2015 26 year to date
2016 31 year to date
2017 20 year to date

1. Fidlar Technologies has raised the cost on Tapestry from \$5.95 per search to \$6.95. This will be the first cost increase since 2006. Increasing cost in processing the newer chip cards was their justification. I agreed to an increase in the print cost to \$3.00 per page, making us uniform with the other NH counties using the Tapestry convenience search program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley J. Monahan

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the April 4th meeting and April 6th budget meeting. The Commissioners had a few edits from the April 4th meeting.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from the April 4th meeting as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from the April 6th budget meeting. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

County Administrator Libby submitted a Professional Service Agreement for the Friendship House CDBG with Donna Lane who the Commissioners had previously selected as the Grant Administrator for Commissioner Lauer to sign.

CA Libby submitted the following CDFA Paperwork for the Micro Enterprise CDBG Application for Commissioner Lauer to sign:

- Determination of Environmental Exemption and Release of Funds – GCRD
- Determination of Environmental Exemption and Release of Funds – NCIC
- Determination of Environmental Exemption and Release of Funds – WREN
- Municipal Certification
- Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Plan
- Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report

CA Libby submitted the GCDoc Superior Court Report for the month of March for the Commissioners to review.

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner Ahern stated that the Alexandria Biomass Plant is scheduled to close down at the end of this week due to economics and not getting the return that they need

Commissioner Piper attended the NHAC Executive Committee meeting. Both Commissioner Lauer and Commissioner Piper attended the Commissioners Council meeting but a quorum was not present so no business could be transacted. She noted that House Bill 1 and House Bill 2 did not pass the House.

Commissioner Lauer noted that there is a Medicaid Managed Care meeting at Cheshire County this Friday.

9:57 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned

Wendy A. Piper, Clerk