

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Highway

North Haverhill, NH 03774

April 3, 2018

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Bradley, Jamie Brooks, Kristin Ross, Supt. Elliott, Sheriff Dutile, Lt. Kelly, HR Director Clough, Nursing Home Administrator Labore

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

Grafton County Bar Association - Kristin Ross - President, Dave Bradley, Jamie Brooks – Public Defenders Office.

K. Ross thanked the Commissioners for giving them the opportunity to give feedback on the lawyers lounge as the issue was brought up in regards to the Attorney's Office potentially looking at that space to expand their office due to space constraints. She stated that she reached out to the GCBA members for their feedback on the space and received a fair amount of responses. She said that she was surprised at how many attorneys in Grafton County consider this space to be vital to them and their practice and while she understands not every attorney uses this space there are many who do. She discussed the various uses for that space stating that they are very passionate about that space and it would be a real hardship to the attorneys and their practices if this space were to be taken away. D. Bradley gave the history on how the courthouse came to be and how the lawyers lounge came to be as well. J. Brooks discussed his concerns from the Public Defenders standpoint stating how vital that lawyers lounge is to his office as well. The group had further discussion about the lawyers lounge and the Commissioners thanked them all for coming in stating that it was very valuable information that was presented.

DoC Supt. Elliott arrived to touch base with the Board of Commissioners regarding the RFP from the State of Vermont that he presented to the board last week. He stated that he was asked for more information and he has obtained that information. Supt. Elliott stated that in meetings with his Command Staff they all feel that they are not capable of handling this RFP, they do not meet any of the requirements. He brought Auralie Achilles from his Medical Department to discuss another viewpoint from a medical standpoint as to why housing Vermont State Prisoners would not work for Grafton County. A. Achilles stated that she has some knowledge of the Vermont Corrections System and one of the concerns for her is that Vermont seems to be in lawsuits more often than New Hampshire is. She suspects that the problem of writing policies that are so specific is that there is no room for anyone to use medical judgement. She stated that the medical personnel become so involved with the policies and trying to follow them that actual inmate care is less. She stated that if the Commissioners were to bring this broken system into the Grafton County DoC, our inmates are going to suffer as there is no way they will be able to keep up with all of the documentation. She went on to discuss other issues with the RFP stating that they will have to put many things in place including a pharmacy, more psychiatry and more medical staff. She stated that this will cost the county more money than it will bring in.

Supt. Elliott stated that according to this RFP he will need to hire a Dentist, full time Psychiatrist and a full time radiologist. Commissioner Ahern stated that he feels they are selling themselves short as they have a state of the art facility and could serve these Vermont inmates very well. He agreed that they cannot accommodate this RFP but feels attending that bidder's conference next week would be beneficial. He stated that they do need to get more inmates into the facility to fill empty beds. Supt. Elliott said that they are currently working on the contract to get Federal Inmate and will have more information on that for the Commissioners next month. After further discussion the Commissioners were in agreement to not have Supt. Elliott attend the Bidders Conference.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved that Supt. Elliott does not attend the Bidders Conference on the Vermont State Prison RFP. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Discussion:

Commissioner Ahern stated that he wants to follow up with the State of Vermont in regards to the RFP. Commissioner Lauer stated that she will email the contact at the State of Vermont to discuss their reasoning for not submitting a bid.

The Commissioners voted on the motion and all were in favor.

Sheriff Dutile and Lt. Kelly arrived to discuss the outright purchase of TASERS versus a five (5) year payment plan with no interest. Sheriff Dutile explained that the current TASERS are no longer warrantied or supported by TASER due to the equipment age. He explained that TASER is offering an interest free lease purchase that would spread the cost out over five (5) years for a total cost of \$13,000. This is the same cost to purchase them in one (1) lump sum. He asked the Commissioners whether they want him to spend the lump sum of \$13,000 or break it up over the course of five (5) years. He noted that the first year payment would be \$1,800 and then years two (2) through five (5) would be \$2,800. The Commissioners discussed the options and were in agreement to spread the cost out over five (5) years.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to allow the Sheriff to purchase the new TASERS in the five (5) year lease purchase plan he outlined. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

HR Director Clough arrived and gave the following report:

Grafton County Human Resources Report
 Karen Clough, Human Resources Director
 April 3, 2018

HR Activity Report (03/06/2018-04/03/2018)

- ***New Hires***

<u>Department</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Position(s)</u>
Nursing Home	6 (6 PT)	3 LNA's, 2 Dietary Aides, 1 seamstress
DOC	3 (2 FT, 1 PT)	2 CO, 1 Night Watchman

- **Separations**

Departments	#
Nursing Home	5 (3 Per Diem LNA's, 2 PT Dietary Aides)

Reasons:

Probationary Termination - 2
 Resigned no reason given - 3

- **Status Changes/ dept transfers:**

Department:

Leave of Absences as of April 2, 2018

Department	#	
Nursing Home – Nursing	13	(7 are intermittent, 9 for self, 4 for family)
Nursing Home – Non-Nursing	8	(7 are intermittent, 4 for family, 4 for self)
County Atty.	2	(2 Intermittent, 2 family)
HR	1	(1 self-intermittent)
TOTAL:	24	

Scheduled to orient April 4, 2018

Dietary Aide – 1 PT
 LNA – 2 (1 FT, 1 Per diem)

Current Jobs posted/advertised

Dietary Aide's
 LNA's (1.85 FTE's vacant)
 RN/LPN (6.15 FTE's vacant combined)
 RN- part time & full time DOC
 CO's

Other:

HR Director Clough stated that Health Trust Revisit Rates came back lower and Harvard Direct stated that they would revisit their rates as well. She stated that she will sit down tomorrow and review all the rates.

Nursing Home Administrator Labore arrived and gave the following report:

Grafton County Nursing Home
 Commissioner's Report
 April 03, 2018

Census:

Medicare: 6
 Medicaid: 93
Private: 29

Total: 128

Year-To-Date Numbers:

2018 Totals

Admissions (YTD) 21

Deaths (YTD) 16

Discharges (YTD) 4

Other Topics:

- 1) House Bill 1816
 - a. Senate HHS Committee
 - i. Senator Hennessy – NHA Labore asked the Commissioners their thoughts on inviting Senator Hennessy to a Commissioner meeting to discuss their concerns about Medicaid Managed Care. The Commissioners were in agreement that if Senator Hennessy is available they would like to extend the invitation. They also wanted to extend the invitation Senator Guida and Senator Woodburn as well.
 - b. PACE Programs – NHA Labore handed out a presentation to the Commissioners that Commissioner Meyers presented to the whole group of the Senate 553 Commission and then again for a state county finance meeting. He stated that the Commissioners can review the document if they would like. He discussed various things from the document with the Commissioners and answered questions regarding the PACE Programs.
 - c. 3/22 State/County Finance Meeting – NHA Labore stated that the big concern from this meeting was the Commissioner’s comments on Medicaid rates. He stated [they are projecting to hold current rates steady the first year but it was stated that they have to allow for capitalism in the system which means after year one (1) all bets are off and the NCO’s can potentially reduce reimbursement rates. NHA Labore noted that this has been their biggest fear from the start. He went on to discuss more details from that meeting with the Commissioners and answered questions.
- 2) Veterans Administration Survey – NHA Labore stated that they are expecting 3-4 surveyors from the VA this Thursday. He expects that because the nursing home has not had any veterans this survey should be quick. He stated that he will keep the Commissioners posted.
- 3) GCNH Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Plan – NHA Labore stated that he was hoping to get Commissioner’s Lauer signature. Commissioner Ahern stated that this is an insult to NHA Labore and his staff and he will not be voting in favor. He stated that they need to invite the State Senators to his meeting. He noted that New Hampshire is one of the three (3) top states in the nation for quality of care for Medicaid/Medicare residents yet we are the lowest reimbursed. Commissioner Ahern expressed more concerns about the contract stating that it is nothing against NHA Labore and his staff as

they do an excellent job. Commissioner Ahern would like this board to extend the invite to the elected officials from the Federal Level to attend one of their meetings.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to accept the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Plan as presented by the Nursing Home Administrator. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Discussion:

Commissioner Ahern stated that his vote against this motion is in no way a bad reflection NHA Labore or his staff. These companies need to know what officials at the local level are not in support of these programs.

The Commissioners voted on the motion. Commissioner Lauer and Commissioner Piper voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Ahern was opposed. With the vote being two (2) in favor and one (1) in opposition the motion passes.

4) Proposed Nursing Home Budget

- a. Food Purchasing Program – NHA Labore stated that the Commissioner Ahern had made a comment during his budget presentation that he wanted to talk about the food purchasing program. He stated that their contract with Fitz Vogt is through November 2019. Commissioner Ahern asked if the Nursing Home uses more produce from the farm if that would cut back on costs from Fitz Vogt. NHA Labore stated that they use whatever they can from the Farm but if more was available then yes they could reduce some of their purchases from Fitz Vogt. He noted that Fitz Vogt is not making any money off this contract. These dollars are being spent through US Foods and whatever is spent, is spent through US Foods. There is no mark up on products. NHA Labore stated that the purchasing program they currently have in place has been very well received from a quality standpoint and it has saved the county roughly \$65,000 in price markups.

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the March 27th meeting. Commissioner Piper had some edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from the March 27th meeting as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers 55-56; 1155; 1157-1158.

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

Proposed Agreement for Drug Court 7/1/18 – CA Libby gave the Commissioners a copy of a proposed agreement between the NH Judicial Branch and All of the Drug Court programs in the state for their review noting that she some concerns with this agreement. She stated that they were asked to let the state know by April 6th whether the county would be submitting a Drug Court budget for July 1st and AS Director Gilding has already responded before she saw this agreement stating that they will be submitting a budget. She explained that the agreement states that the county is a contractor of the state. The state can choose who works and doesn't work in the program but they are not employees of the state and all equipment purchase belongs to the

state. She stated that she has reviewed it and those are her concerns and the Commissioners can review it as well. She stated that they can discuss it further at Thursday's budget meeting.

CA Libby requested to go into nonpublic session to discuss a personnel issue.

MOTION: * 11:21 AM – Commissioner Ahern 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 Piper seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”; Commissioner Ahern “yes”; Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

* 12:40AM Commissioner Lauer declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor

Commissioner Issues:

Linda and Wendy attended the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council annual meeting. They were going to hear from Commissioner Myers but he wasn't able to attend and sent a proxy.

Commissioner Ahern and Commissioner Lauer attended the 4H young person's meeting. He stated that the kids wanted to learn about local government.

Commissioner Ahern stated that SB443 in relative to the jurisdiction of counties concerning retail electric supply was amended by Carroll County and is on the consent calendar in the house on April 5th. He will be doing his update on PBTV as something came up last week and he was unable too.

RD Monahan arrived and handed a document to the Commissioners for their review for next week.

12:43 PM with no further business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy A. Piper,
Clerk