

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
North Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday June 14, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans (late), Omer C. Ahern Jr. and Raymond Burton. Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

9:02 AM Commissioner Ahern opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sec. Martino.

Commissioner Ahern recognized R. Blechl from the Caledonian Record who asked if Supt. Oakes was scheduled to talk about the water tank. Director Clough said he was not on the agenda for that reason and that the meeting with Woodsville Water & Light was going to be held this evening beginning at 7:00 PM. Mr. Blechl did not stay.

Farm Manager Kimball arrived and began with his report to the Commissioners saying they were milking 68 cows, shipping 9800#'s of milk for an average of 72#'s.

70 acres of corn have been planted although they are a bit behind because of the wet ground.

40 piglets have been sold with another 30 still to be sold. FM Kimball said a piglet was brought to the Bath School for a fund raiser which was to help raise money in the name of Mr. Amsden and was to go toward a playground fund. Commissioner Burton brought in a flyer which showed the event and said that commended FM Kimball for responding to a community request.

Commissioner Burton asked about inmate labor and FM Kimball replied that he has had a lot of help with the garden which looks very good.

Commissioner Ahern asked what kinds of sprays are used on the vegetables and FM Kimball said he generally uses Sevin and Provado, which he said is organic and requires a license to spray. He said he is the only one who sprays the crops.

Commissioner Ahern asked how many acres of potatoes were planted and FM Kimball replied ten, which is the same as last year.

9:25 AM Commissioner Cryans arrived after being held up by a downed tree in the road.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and asked if anyone had any edits or corrections. None were made.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2011 as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough reiterated that the meeting with WW&L was this evening at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Burton asked if anyone has looked at the legal responsibilities of WW&L to the County and Director Clough said that they operate a public water distribution center and are governed by the DES. She said that they *can* negotiate their electric rates, but they don't *have* to.

Supt. Oakes arrived. He said that he would like to see WW&L deregulate and offer better rates for all the rate payers. He said that when Rep. Ladd presented the bill in Concord, it only addressed rates for the County. He said Rep. Ladd was not present to defend the bill when it came up.

Supt. Oakes said that he had spoken with Dead River regarding the purchase of propane tanks. He said it would cost \$800 per existing tank (5 in all) to purchase what is currently in the ground. As far as the cost of tanks for the new Jail, Dead River estimated the cost to install new tanks and all the accessories needed to go with them (6 in all) would be \$45K. Supt. Oakes said if the County wanted to do this then the time to make the decision would be now.

Commissioner Burton asked for Supt. Oakes recommendation. He said they need to figure out what makes the most economical sense.

There was a discussion about the costs, what the difference in propane prices might be if they owned the tanks and maintenance costs.

Commissioner Ahern said he feels the County needs to own their own tanks in order to get the best cost of propane. He said he feels that's the reason why there are propane companies who won't bid on the propane.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there would be any money available in the construction fund to purchase the tanks and Director Clough replied yes.

Commissioner Burton agreed with Commissioner Ahern that it would be best to own the tanks. He said the more the County could control the better.

Commissioner Cryans said that his only concern was that if something goes wrong after purchasing them, then it's the County's problem. It was noted that the tanks that are currently in the ground are close to ten years old.

Commissioner Burton moved to buy all the propane tanks on the complex which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

There was a discussion about doing all the tanks at the same time and whether or not there would be a better deal cost wise.

Director Clough said that money for the purchase of tanks for the Jail project could not be used to purchase the others.

Commissioner Cryans asked if Supt. Oakes was comfortable with this motion and Supt. Oakes said he would like to take the readings from the current tanks to make sure they're all good and he'd like to see that added to the motion.

Commissioner Ahern said he would like to see two separate motions made. Director Clough agreed with that since they are two separate actions.

Commissioner Burton withdrew his motion and Commissioner Ahern withdrew the second.

Commissioner Ahern moved to purchase the existing in-ground propane tanks, contingent upon proper verification of the tanks by Supt. Oakes. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to authorize SMRT to specify and bid out the purchase, and installation of new propane tanks and appurtenances for the new Jail which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

Supt. Oakes asked if the Board would approve of him calling the propane companies and letting them know what is going on and see if they would consider putting forth a bid. Commissioner Cryans said he was okay with it as long as Dead River was the first one called.

Commissioner Burton said he would ask that all bidders be contacted by close of business today.

Commissioner Ahern moved to amend the normal bidding process for propane as time is off the essence and new circumstances have presented themselves, i.e. the purchase of tanks by the County, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

County Attorney Saffo arrived with her report *(see attached) which she reviewed. Atty. Saffo brought in the manual (Enforcement Training Manual for Elder Abuse and Exploitation) provided by the AG's office to show the Commissioners.

Commissioner Cryans asked how Atty. Saffo was feeling about the Mental Health Court so far and she replied that she expects to hear pleas and sentencing within the next few days and feels good about it.

Commissioner Ahern asked about the increased caseload and whether there were specific areas things were coming from. Atty. Saffo said that there is an increase in the prescription drug use and that there has also been a spike in elder abuse.

Sheriff Dutile and Human Resource Director Simpson arrived.

The Commissioners took a brief break
The Commissioners resumed their meeting.

It was requested that the Board, along with the Sheriff and HRD Simpson go into non-public session

10:45 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 Burton seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”; Commissioner Burton “yes” Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and will now go into non-public session.

11:13 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session moved on to the next item of business.

Sheriff Dutile and HRD Simpson left.

UNH Dairy Specialist Mike Lunak arrived to brief the Commissioners on his position with UNHCE which include holding an annual dairy conference, counseling farmers on risk management and finances and personal farm visits. M. Lunak covers both Coos and Grafton County.

Commissioner Burton asked M. Lunak what his relationship with the State Veterinarian and he replied they do workshops together and that the Vet. is a great resource for him. There was a brief discussion about animal abuse in the County and the change in the laws. M. Lunak said that he is part of the Governor’s Commission on animal abuse but it is all very legal. Commissioner Ahern said the biggest thing would be education so the public understands what is and is not abuse in regard to farm animals.

Commissioner Burton asked how many farms are in Coos and Grafton County and M. Lunak replied that there are about 38 in Grafton County and 18 or so in Coos County. He said that approximately 130 dairies in the State ship milk. It was also noted that the laws regarding selling raw milk have changed and farms can sell up to 80 quarts a day.

Employee Council Board members Donna Wallis and Richard Thompson arrived to talk to the Commissioners about some new information that they were just made aware of regarding the new health insurance. D. Wallis said that when they attended the informative meeting on the new insurance that was given by Primex, they learned that the deductible, of which 75% is being paid for by the County, will run for a six month period. If an employee uses their insurance deductible from July 1st through September, they will be responsible for another deductible beginning January and going through to July. If they end up using their deductible from Oct. through December, it will carry over into the next fiscal year. D. Wallis said this is something that was not made clear to them during the negotiation process and in fact not until just now.

Director Clough said this was something that she was not aware of until just recently also and asked that when Primex gave their informational meetings, that it be made clear. She said unfortunately, there is nothing that can be changed. She said this information will also be going out in a payroll stuffer for more clarity.

R. Thompson said that the Employee Council was under the impression that the deductible would be 75% covered and feels that is not true. D. Wallis agreed saying now they understand there is a second deductible that could be in play.

Commissioner Burton said there was nothing that could be done now that the budget has

already gone to the Executive Committee. D. Wallis said she understood that but just wanted the Commissioners to be aware that this was a surprise to them.

R. Thompson questioned whether or not there was a difference in charge to the County if they were only purchasing insurance on a calendar year vs a fiscal year. Commissioner Cryans said that insurance companies usually run on a calendar year basis and he said he was more concerned as to what would happen when Primex gets out of the business. Director Clough said that is something that the insurance task force will be looking at.

Commissioner Cryans said that he felt that someone should have highlighted this to the County as it would have been nice to know. R. Thompson said it might have entered into the negotiation factor.

Director Clough said this will probably only affect a small number of people and they were only looking at a three month period. She said people need to be aware that if they can, they should wait until October before having anything done. Commissioner Cryans said it might be something that can be looked at in a case by case basis should the issue arise. He said there are times when it's just not feasible to wait a period of time such as when having a baby. R. Thompson agreed and said that sometimes just for peace of mind it is important to have something checked so that it doesn't become a larger issue in the future.

Commissioner Burton asked if Director Clough would contact the carrier if something unusual should happen.

Commissioner Ahern said the bottom line is that everyone has to take a more active roll in their own healthcare and be more proactive.

Commissioner Cryans said he is troubled by this situation and the other two Commissioners agreed.

R. Thompson said he was surprised that it took this long for this to come to light.

The Commissioners thanked the Employee Council Board for bringing this to their attention.

Commissioner Cryans signed the Professional Service Agreement on the AHEAD II grant.

Director Clough said that the County Forester has put together a bid package for a timber sale at the County. She said that there is some volatility in the market so the plan is to put out the bid and see what comes back. It can always be rejected if it does not bring a suitable amount.

Commissioner Ahern said he heard that there was not a good market for red oak right now. Director Clough said that Forester Falkenham said that the demand for pulp is high.

Director Clough said that she had reviewed the audit bid from Melanson & Heath and

checked references which were all great. She said that she had heard from Mason & Rich who said that they can not audit their own work and sent the regulation that they were referencing. Melanson & Heath said this is something that they feel they can do. Director Clough said she is comfortable with choosing Melanson & Heath to do the audit, at least for this year until she has a chance to fully review and understand the regulations better.

Both Commissioners Ahern and Cryans said they didn't have any problem with having one auditor do everything instead of breaking it into two audits. Director Clough said it might be time for a change and to have a different company look at things.

Commissioner Ahern moved to accept the audit proposal from Melanson & Heath for one year which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said he would like to have a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners, to keep the Glencliff Post Office open. They all agreed. Commissioner Burton said he would have a draft letter for signature at the next meeting.

There was a discussion about the next Commissioner meeting as the Executive Committee had said that they too would like to meet on that day if they haven't made a decision about the budget by the end of day Monday. It was decided that if the Executive Committee was going to meet on Tuesday, they would have to wait until 10:00 and the Commissioners would take care of their business from 9:00 – 10:00.

Commissioner Ahern met with the Selectboards of Plymouth and Campton and will continue to meet with the other towns in his district.

Commissioner Burton will have his final Selectboard meetings in Landaff and Benton.

12:25 PM being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

Office of the Grafton County Attorney
Lara Saffo, County Attorney
June, 14 2011
Report to the Commissioners

- (1) Case management. We continue to see an increase in the number of cases being handled by this office. More specifically, last year, from January 1, 2010 until June 12, 2010, we received 228 cases. This year, for the same time period, we received 350 cases. We continue to see an increase in the complexity of cases being presented for our review. I have previously listed the types of cases we handle. Handling these cases remains our primary function.

- (2) Web page: We hope to begin adding data this week. I have drafted the initial statement and welcome page, and have identified numerous pamphlets and brochures to include on this page. Our victim witness department also continues working on its web page.

- (3) Case Processing Software. As noted last month, the selection committee made its recommendation, and we confirmed it was acceptable to Grafton County. The next step in the process is to present the selection committee's recommendation to the Executive Council for the Executive Council's review and consideration.

- (4) Public Safety Initiatives
 - a. The New Hampshire Partnership for the Protection of Older Adults
Law enforcement training occurred on May 18th, 2011. Roberta Bernier, the Executive Director of the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council attended, along with a representative from Adult Protective Services workers for the Lebanon area. Deputy County Attorney Melissa Pierce and Assistant County Attorney Mary Bleier conducted the training. The Partnership, under Tracy Culbertson's guidance, has issued its Law Enforcement Training Manual for Elder Abuse and Exploitation. It includes helpful tip cards. We will be handed these out to trained officers.

 - b. Child Advocacy Center at DHMC
The CAC continues to be extremely busy and effective.

 - c. Plymouth Area Sexual Assault Resource Team

After developing protocols that take confidentiality into account, the Plymouth Area Sexual Assault Resource Team conducted its first case review. This process reviews cases after the prosecution is complete, so we can learn how to improve future cases. The victim expressed her appreciation for this process and the interest the entire team took in her case.

d. Grafton County Drug Court Sentencing Program

Our numbers are increasing. Currently there are 18 participants, two plea and sentencing scheduled and two more individuals expressing serious interest in entering the program shortly. Another six offers are outstanding.

e. Grafton County Mental Health Court

As the attached document reflects, our plan was approved by the Council of State Government and we are officially in the implementation stage. I have copies of documents.

f. Lethality Assessment

Lethality Assessment training occurred at the Haverhill Police Department, in conjunction with The Support Center at Burch House. We now move to ensuring that all the police departments in the southern part of the county have access to this training.

(5) Training

The Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA's) National Training and Technical Assistance Center sponsors free webinars the second Tuesday of each month (known as the BJA's Second Tuesdays at 2:00 Webinar Series) the next one, today, is "sustainability."

(6) Misc

Our IT Department has reviewed the donated laptops. Each required around \$100.00 to make them fully functional, which included adding software. One is for the mental health court, another for our intern and investigator and the third for the courtroom (currently we have no computer to provide juries in the deliberation room because our laptops have all of our data on them). We will continue to seek to identify other surplus items that would be of assistance to the Office of the Grafton County Attorney.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions.