

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Highway

North Haverhill, NH 03774

June 13<sup>th</sup> 2017

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan, IT Manager Brent Ruggles, Farm Manager Donnie Kimball, Sheriff Doug Dutile, Maintenance Supt. Jim Oakes.

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

Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds  
Kelley J. Monahan Register  
Report to Commissioners  
June 13, 2017**

**May Revenue**

County Revenue 5/2009	\$ 81,485.33	State Revenue 5/2009	\$ 428,311.68
County Revenue 5/2010	\$ 73,723.38	State Revenue 5/2010	\$ 471,019.20
County Revenue 5/2011	\$ 67,760.52	State Revenue 5/2011	\$ 476,699.52
County Revenue 5/2012	\$ 86,262.71	State Revenue 5/2012	\$ 526,009.92
County Revenue 5/2013	\$ 89,545.78	State Revenue 5/2013	\$ 676,503.36
County Revenue 5/2014	\$ 69,213.64	State Revenue 5/2014	\$ 555,029.76
County Revenue 5/2015	\$ 85,133.90	State Revenue 5/2015	\$ 872,047.68
County Revenue 5/2016	\$ 79,686.90	State Revenue 5/2016	\$ 718,749.12
County Revenue 5/2017	\$ 85,288.55	State Revenue 5/2017	\$ 864,213.20

**Foreclosures**

2009	68 year to date
2010	100 year to date
2011	93 year to date
2012	85 year to date
2013	74 year to date
2014	76 year to date
2015	48 year to date
2016	43 year to date
2017	33 year to date

1. In service to the municipalities of Grafton Co that share a boarder with the CT river, I used an internal program to provide each municipality with a list of all easements located in each town dating from 1960-2017. This will save a great deal of time and money for the towns when trying to assess risk associated with the CT River Dams transfer of ownership.

Commissioner Piper stated that RD Monahan did a very nice job yesterday in presenting her budget to the Executive Committee.

IT Manager Ruggles arrived to request the Commissioners award a bid for the purchase of twenty (20) pc's at the jail that is budgeted in the FY17 capital budget. He received three (3) quotes as follows:

PCM-G Global - \$14,359.40  
Zones - \$16,735.40  
CDW-G - \$26,076.40

ITM Ruggles stated that he would like to sell the old units at the Department of Corrections and stated he believes they can get roughly \$150.00 a piece for those old units. He recommended giving the employees the option first to purchase these computers.

Commissioner Ahern asked how much was budgeted for this purchase in FY17. ITM Ruggles stated that he believes they budgeted \$15,000.

Commissioner Ahern moved to accept PCM-G's quote for the purchase of twenty (20) pc's in the amount of \$14,359.40. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners further discussed the issue of what to do with the old computers. The Commissioners agreed to sell them for \$200.00 per unit after each unit has been appropriately scrubbed of all County and DOC sensitive, proprietary, and confidential "materials".

FM Kimball arrived and gave the following report:

- 1) Currently milking 73 cows. We are shipping 5,700lbs daily, averaging 78 lbs. per cow.
- 2) Price of milk is still dropping, now at \$17.68 per hundredweight.
- 3) Pigs have all had their litters. Most of the piglets are sold, only a few are left.
- 4) Spring crops are all planted. Gardens are in as well.
- 5) Currently, working on chipping the 1<sup>st</sup> cut grass. Howard Hatch's crew is chopping it for us.
- 6) John Fullerton who oversees the garden is currently on vacation

FM Kimball stated that he is looking for permission to advertise for a part time temporary milker to get him through while his assistant herdsman is out on FMLA. He stated that it is too much for him and the herdsman to take on themselves. He stated that he is looking for someone to work forty (40) hours per pay period which totals roughly \$620.00 per pay period. He stated that it is not an easy job to fill so he would like to get this advertised soon. The Commissioners thanked FM Kimball for his work and going as long as he could being down the assistant herdsman.

Commissioner Ahern moved to advertise a part time temporary milker for the farm. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

FM Kimball, Sheriff Dutile and Supt. Oakes arrived to discuss the county property being closed to vehicle traffic as requested by the Commissioners. FM Kimball stated that the constituent that has expressed concerns approached him a couple of weeks ago to state that he hunts up on the back property and was not happy when he was told that he was not allowed to drive his vehicle up there. FM Kimball stated that he explained that people were driving through the fields tearing them up and dumping trash. Sheriff Dutile handed out pictures that were taken back in 2013 and 2014. He noted that he has had people contact him when they shoot deer and ask if they can bring their trucks up there to pick them up and he has allowed them to do that. He stated that the system they have in place has worked great and have not had any complaints. Supt. Oakes stated that he would echo what has been said and that it costs money and time to fix up the roads when they are torn up. He stated that the land is still open to public use but restricted to vehicle use and all the issues they used to deal with have gone away.

Commissioner Ahern stated that he received a call from this gentleman and was lead to believe that he was disabled. He stated that he is a firm believer in private property rights. County land is tax payer land and does not feel it is right for people to be driving on hay fields and dumping in the shooting range. Commissioner Ahern suggested considering that if someone wants to have vehicular access to the top where the shooting range is, they should go to the Sheriff's Department or Farm to get a permit to have vehicular access and if they break any rules on that permit their permit will be revoked. Sheriff Dutile stated that they have not had any issues in the two (2) years since this policy was put in place until now. Commissioner Ahern stated that he is concerned about limiting the access on public property to tax payers. Commissioner Lauer stated that she does not feel that there is a problem; they have one (1) complaint. Supt. Oakes stated that he would advocate leaving it as is. There have not been any issues and the county has been good about allowing vehicular access for those who have requested it to go pick up an animal that has been shot. Sheriff Dutile told Commissioner Ahern to have this gentleman call him and if he is disabled he would give him permission to bring his vehicle up to the shooting range so he has easier access to hunt. Commissioner Lauer stated that the Commissioners had a tour of the land a few weeks ago and the condition of the road is excellent.

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Piper had several edits.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check register 1197.

County Administrator Libby read a "thank you" note from former Sheriff's Department Captain Chad Morris thanking Commissioner Ahern and Commissioner Lauer for attending his Retirement Party.

CA Libby submitted a CDFR Drawdown Request for MEDC/Alice Peck Day in the amount of \$234,081 for Commissioner Lauer to sign.

CA Libby advised the Commissioners that she has been in touch with Communications Director

Andross and he was contacted by Fire Chief Solomon from Conway Village Fire District in regards to the letter that the Commissioners received from them. She reviewed the information obtained with the Commissioners and said that she and Director Andross would be following up more on this and that she would keep them updated.

CA Libby stated that the County had received their proshare payment this morning in the amount of \$1,492,988.00

### Commissioner Issues

Commissioner Ahern stated that, in reference to Commissioner Piper's question as to whether grant money might be available to help finance the replacement of the sewer line, they received an email from CA Libby regarding the financing on the sewer line and that there is possibly a loan they can take out to replace the sewer line. CA Libby stated that this project is not scheduled to start till next spring. The easement is in process and as far as she knows there still has not been any waiver from state or federal government to allow wheeled vehicle access on the railroad bed to allow them to fix the lines. CA Libby stated that she has never done any financing through the USDA but is told that it is possible. She stated that she would have to look at the numbers and see if it makes any sense as far as taxes go to pull the \$105,000 out of the budget and then have a payment for thirty (30) years with a 2.75% interest rate. The Commissioners and CA Libby agreed to look into the matter further to see what route is the best for them to take.

Commissioner Ahern stated that in looking at ITM Ruggles' monthly reports it appears to him that they seem to have a problem with some of their employees that do not have computer skills. He asked if when they are recruiting employees should they not have some type of computer skills assessment. CA Libby stated that certain jobs within the county computer skills are not a requirement but it is something worth looking into. The Commissioners further discussed the issue and agreed that it was something they wanted to look further into.

11:00 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned

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Wendy A. Piper, Clerk