

# GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH 03774

July 9, 2019

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer, Piper and Morris, County Administrator Libby and Administrative Assistant Norcross

OTHERS PRESENT: Farm Manager Knapton, Register Monahan, County Attorney Hornick

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

Farm Manager Knapton arrived and gave the following report:

## July Farm Report

- Farm stand opened yesterday, 7/8/19. New Farm sign and some beautiful old signs found above piggery were brought back out. Garden is absolutely beautiful.
- Donations from Country Ladybug Greenhouses delivered by Commissioner Morris, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, pepper plants and more, put in ground 7/3/19.
- Island first cut finished week of June 28<sup>th</sup>. Due to wet spring the island and the meadow down below were done in stages: 6/8, 6/17, 6/18, 6/19 and 6/27. Baled first of the Bancroft piece 7/5. This will also be done in stages due to the weather. In spite of the weather and the late state of vegetation, the feed we have put in has been perfect for dry matter. We did end up buying roughly 12T haylage. The cost was \$780.
- Field corn is growing well. Some sweet corn didn't germinate and had to be replanted. It seems to be leftover seed from 2018 that never emerged. We replaced 6/24/19.
- Most of the pigs have been sold. There is no market for cull pigs. We were fortunate to find a buyer in Orange, VT for 5 of the older animals, average weight estimate of 450-500lbs.
- Jersey heifer sold in Saratoga Springs, NY for \$2,700. We have been working on a small herd reduction by selling young, fresh cows and have an attentive buyer in Swanton, VT. These cows are moving for \$1,100 each.
- We are taking calves and piglets to the N. Haverhill Fair on 7/24/19. Lisa will also be judging 4-H exhibits on Wednesday.
- Two farm tours scheduled for August.
- Dwarf sunflowers to sell by the stem planted this year.

FM Knapton stated that she has a concern that has come to full light now that they are in the haying season. The condition of their farm equipment is not very good. She stated that she has a list of repairs for every tractor. She noted that she also has a farm truck down right now. She stated that she will get the Commissioners a list of the costs associated with these repairs when they get caught up with haying but wanted to inform them that there are many issues with the equipment right now.

RD Monahan arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds  
Kelley J. Monahan Register  
Report to Commissioners  
July 9, 2019**

**June Revenue**

County Revenue 6/2009	\$101,356.82	State Revenue 6/2009	\$ 592,480.32
County Revenue 6/2010	\$ 91,723.72	State Revenue 6/2010	\$ 676,525.44
County Revenue 6/2011	\$ 75,762.57	State Revenue 6/2011	\$ 520,156.80
County Revenue 6/2012	\$ 89,548.22	State Revenue 6/2012	\$ 622,855.12
County Revenue 6/2013	\$ 88,590.46	State Revenue 6/2013	\$ 715,272.00
County Revenue 6/2014	\$ 89,016.93	State Revenue 6/2014	\$ 806,696.64
County Revenue 6/2015	\$ 112,384.98	State Revenue 6/2015	\$1,141,892.16
County Revenue 6/2016	\$ 108,674.03	State Revenue 6/2016	\$1,163,662.08
County Revenue 6/2017	\$ 100,371.13	State Revenue 6/2017	\$1,029,234.24
County Revenue 6/2018	\$ 96,101.48	State Revenue 6/2018	\$1,010,388.48
County Revenue 6/2019	\$ 94,591.24	State Revenue 6/2019	\$1,049,511.84

**Foreclosures**

2009 86 year to date  
2010 116 year to date  
2011 115 year to date  
2012 101 year to date  
2013 76 year to date  
2014 86 year to date  
2015 47 year to date  
2016 53 year to date  
2017 37 year to date  
2018 22 year to date  
2019 302 – 280 = 22 normal year to date (unusual activity on time-share foreclosures)

1. Last week Strafford County experienced a Ransom-ware breach. The Registry did not have a dedicated internet line. These threats generally enter thru an email program. They brought the system down to one computer to record. In house searching of the records had to be suspended. I went with a dedicated internet line 3 years ago for security and speed. Fidler Tech has scheduled a meeting in August to discuss cybersecurity. Our data base is invaluable containing over 3 million digitized images and 24,000 subdivision plans. The city of Baltimore just suffered through this last month.
2. The LCHIP increase has not yet been signed into law but it is expected. The change from \$25.00 per document to \$35.00 will take effect October 1, 2019. We will be forced to reject documents that do not have the appropriate fees attached. When I testified on this, I had asked that the NH Bar Association and the Realtors conduct appropriate outreach and education for their members. This fee is attached to every deed, mortgage, mortgage discharge and plan. For those recording a deed and a plan together they are charged twice. This change will bring an additional .40 per document to the counties who do the collection and distribution of funds.



3. We continue to inform our users on additional webinar and live trainings that other NH counties are sponsoring. We are doing our best to educate all users.
4. I was served a subpoena for August 14, 2019 to appear in Grafton County Superior Court to escort an original document to present to the judge.
5. The NH Register of Deeds Association meeting that was held here at the Registry was very well attended and was a success. It is very beneficial to the organization to see other operations and workflow. We also toured the historic records storage and discussed emergency preparedness and the need to have disaster recovery plans in place.
6. This week I am conducting all staff performance reviews. I am also seeking input on changes that we may implement to the office since our software conversion. We are patiently waiting for the programming changes that will merge both systems and allow the billing to be more cohesive.  
I have spoken with Fidlar management on a few issues and they are coming to NH in August for a meeting.
7. I was very disturbed by the conduct and statements made by Representative Kermit Williams during what was noticed as being a full committee work session on HB 344, HB601 and HB599. I am drafting a letter to Speaker Shurtleff regarding this matter. Transparency in governmental proceedings is a priority with me. I will copy the GCBC with my letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley J. Monahan

Atty. Hornick arrived to discuss the adoption of a Civil Rights Policy. She explained that because they receive VAWA and VOCA grants from the Attorney General's Office to support portions of various employees' salaries, the AG's Office does periodic onsite reviews. She stated that they came and met with the office and reviewed how they keep records of the employees' time. The AG's office stated that there were three (3) items that the County Attorney's Office was not doing. The first was that they are required to have an intern. Atty. Hornick stated that they are able to get a waiver for this requirement as they do not have the space. They also do not have a specific grievance policy. She explained that she has spoken with other counties to see what they have in place for a grievance policy. She handed out a draft copy to the Commissioners and stated that this is a policy that Cheshire County's grant writer came up with. It is a general grievance policy and Victim Witness Coordinator Carin Sillars went through the policy and made some changes to make it their own. She stated that she has reviewed this with CA Libby and stated that it covers the policy that they need as a part of the grant and also will act as a grievance policy for the entire complex. She stated that as different departments are in receipt of, or applying for federal funding, this covers them as well. The Commissioners took time to review the policy. They discussed it with Atty. Hornick and asked various questions.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Civil Rights Policy as presented. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Grafton County Bar Association Letter – The Commissioner discussed the situation of the lawyer's lounge no longer being available for the NH Bar Association with County Attorney Hornick. Atty. Hornick asked the Commissioners any concerns about the new policy. Commissioner Piper asked about the Bar Association's belief that they do not have adequate space and asked how many conference rooms are available for them to use if the lawyers lounge is being taken away. Atty. Hornick stated that there are four (4) conference rooms and explained when these were used and by whom and why they were adequate for use by other attorneys. Commissioner Piper stated some of the reasons behind the decision that the Commissioners believe they have to make. They have heard from two (2) different County Attorneys as to why the lawyers lounge space is so important for the Attorney's Office to have. She stated that the leadership of Grafton County needs to protect county operations and to her the decision has been made. She does not see the need for another discussion. Commissioner Lauer stated that Kristin Ross, President of the Grafton County Bar Association, is more than welcome to come to a meeting. The Commissioner meetings are public and they are welcome to attend. Atty. Hornick stated that she thinks it shows a good faith effort but she does not believe that they have a vested right to the lawyers lounge and there is no binding contract in place. Commissioner Lauer stated that the decision has been made but it is a courtesy to listen to them. Atty. Hornick stated that one of the things Kristin Ross said to her on the phone was that she wants her to guarantee that she will not reserve any of those conference rooms for use by the County Attorney's Office. Atty. Hornick stated that she cannot make any blanket promise to anything like that. She stated that once in a while Victim Witness will need a conference room for a high profile case to give the victim a place to go for privacy during a trial. Commissioner Piper stated that a request for further discussion seems to be the bar association not wanting to take "no" for an answer; the Board of Commissioners have met previously with the Bar Association, have reviewed written testimony from them, and then have deliberated very carefully over this matter. Atty. Hornick stated that they have talked about possibly moving them to another space and she has insisted that it wasn't their intention to take away all space from them. They are looking for alternatives. Commissioner Piper stated that if they have this public hearing, she probably would not support offering space in the Administrative building as they are already short on space and the Commissioners currently have to share office space with the Farm Manager. The Commissioners further discussed this topic and stated that they will have the Grafton County Bar Association into a meeting to listen to their concerns but it needs to happen next Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners wrote a letter inviting the Grafton County Bar Association to next week's meeting.

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Piper stated that she added one sentence during NHA Labore's conversation regarding the nurse who is looking to obtain her master's degree that stated she is happy to hear of the advanced credentials and believes it will be very helpful for the nursing home.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Piper moved to approve the minutes from the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as amended. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioner signed check registers FY '19 – 1193-1194; FY '20 1000-1001.

The Commissioners reviewed the Superior Court Report for the month of June.



CA Libby requested to go into nonpublic session.

**MOTION:** \* 11:00 AM Commissioner Piper moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (l) Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”; Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Morris “yes” Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

\* 11:12 AM 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 Morris seconded the motion. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”; Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Morris “yes” Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner Piper stated that she attended the IDN subcommittee meeting with CA Libby and stated that that it looks like they are heading toward agreeing that the funding formula will be based on the number of Medicaid lives per county. She noted that Grafton County is responsible for a large amount of Medicaid lives. CA Libby stated that the amount they would pay is based on this new funding formula will be much higher than last year.

Commissioner Piper stated that she will be out of town on Tuesday July 23<sup>rd</sup> and will not be attending the Commissioner Meeting.

CA Libby stated that July 30<sup>th</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and the auditors will be here so she proposes not holding a meeting. The Commissioners agreed.

11:18 AM with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marcia Morris', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Marcia Morris,  
Clerk