

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
August 14th 2018

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

OTHERS PRESENT: FM Kimball, Atty. Saffo

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

Commissioner Lauer asked for a moment of silence for former Register of Deeds Bill Sharp who passed away this weekend.

FM Kimball arrived and gave the following report:

1. Currently milking 78 cows. We are shipping 5,800 lbs. daily, averaging 69 lbs. per cow.
2. Price of milk went up almost a dollar, now at \$18.90 per hundred weight
3. Finished chipping 3rd cut, had a really good crop. Waiting on the weather to make some hay for horse customers.
4. Farm stand is doing well. Started digging potatoes.
5. Cows are still struggling with the heat. Not seeing the production we normally do because of hot, humid days.
6. I am going on vacation next week.
7. My retirement date is set for November 30th 2018.

FM Kimball expressed concerns regarding the new farm manager hiring process. The Commissioners stated that they reviewed and updated the farm manager job description last week and will be approving it later in the meeting. CA Libby explained that the process will be to post the job internally and see if there are any applicants. They will then post the position publicly and hold one (1) set of interviews for both internal and external applicants. She stated that the hope is to get people who are more knowledgeable of farming to do the interviews. FM Kimball expressed concerns about going outside for the farm manager because this farm is not like other farms; he stated that it will be hard to find someone to fill this position. He went on to discuss other concerns with the Commissioners and they thanked FM Kimball for discussing them.

CA Libby handed out the attached letter for the FY 19 Tax Anticipation Note recommendation.



Grafton County Treasurer
Karen Liot Hill

3855 Dartmouth College Highway Box 1
North Haverhill, NH 03774
(603) 787-6941 * (603) 252-2542 – Cell
karenliothill@gmail.com

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Commissioners:

Requests for bids for Tax Anticipation Notes were sent to all banks that have a branch located within Grafton County. These letters were sent out on July 22, 2018 with bids due back by the close of business on Friday, August 10, 2018.

We received proposals from five (5) banks. I have attached a spreadsheet that details the banks that were sent the RFP and the response that was received if any. This spreadsheet shows the various different proposals and requirements that were provided by the different financial institutions.

Based on the bids that were received I am recommending that we accept the proposal from Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank at 2.40% for our FY 2019 Tax Anticipation needs. Although WGSB's overall percentage rate is slightly higher than the 2.37% from Passumpsic Bank, the overall borrowing costs are lower with the proposal from WGSB. Passumpsic Bank would require that we obtain an opinion letter from legal counsel, the last time that was done was in 2010 and at that time the cost was over \$3,000. Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank has a practice of waiving the requirement of an opinion letter with their municipal and county customers for their short term borrowing needs. This results in saving money on borrowing costs.

County Administrator Libby did a comparison using last year's borrowing schedule and the difference in interest expense based on that information would be \$439.32, therefore, the savings in the interest expense is lost with the cost to obtain the opinion letter from legal counsel, which would cost an estimated \$4,000.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. I welcome your questions and thoughts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Liot Hill
Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2019
Tax Anticipation Notes

| Bank | Bid Received | Rate | Opinion Letter |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|
| Passumpsic Savings | Yes | 2.37% | Yes |
| Woodsville Guaranty Savings | Yes | 2.40% | No |
| Union Bank | Yes | 2.50% | Yes |
| Mascoma Savings | Yes | 2.55% | Yes |
| Northway Bank | Yes | 2.70% | Yes |
| Bank of NH | No Response | | |
| TD Bank | * Declined to bid | | |
| Franklin Savings | No Response | | |
| Meredith Village Savings | ** Declined to bid | | |
| Service Credit Union | No Response | | |
| Ledyard Bank | No Response | | |
| Bank of America | No Response | | |
| Citizens Bank | No Response | | |

* TD Bank does not do a Line of Credit

**Meredith Village Savings is not in a position to be competitive currently.

Passumpsic Savings Bank offered three (3) Options

- Option 1 2.37% - No new Deposit Account
- Option 2 2.24% - Minimum of \$500,000 on deposit
for length of TAN plus 12 months following
- Option 3 2.07% - Minimum of \$2,000,000 on deposit
for length of TAN plus 12 months following

Option 1 is the only viable option as we do not have cash flow available to put a minimum of \$500,000 on deposit from now until December, 2020.

The Commissioners called Treasurer Hill to discuss the letter as she was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict with her business. The Commissioners discussed the proposal and thanked her for her work in putting together the letter and quotes from the banks.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to accept the proposal from Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank at a rate of 2.40% for the FY 2019 Tax Anticipation Note. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Atty. Saffo arrived and gave the attached report:

MOTION: 10:12 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.

10:14 AM Commissioner Lauer reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Ahern stated that constituents have contacted him regarding the Beckett school. A business owner reported to him that his business has been vandalized. He asked Atty. Saffo if the County Attorney's office is involved in this as he wants to be able to get back to his constituents and give them any information that he can. Atty. Saffo stated they have not received any requests to jump in on this case; they do not usually handle juvenile cases in circuit court. She gave Commissioner Ahern contact information for someone who will discuss the facts as to what is going on with the case.

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the August 7th meeting. All three (3) Commissioners had edits.

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

The Commissioners signed check registers FY 18; 1217 – FY 19; 1019.

CA Libby stated that she had sent the Commissioners the final review of the Farm Manager Job after their discussion and recommended changes from last week were added.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the revised Farm Manager Job Description. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

CA Libby requested to go into nonpublic session.

MOTION: * 10:29 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of the hiring of any person as a public employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (b) 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.

*10:50 AM Commissioner Lauer declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern 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 Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Drug Court Update – CA Libby stated that North Country Health Consortium (NCHC) hired Annie Crowley as the Drug Court Coordinator and she starts with them on Thursday. They have

not hired a case manager yet. She stated they are also planning to contract through the Sheriff's Department and Doug Moorehead for some additional program coordinating until they are fully staffed. CA Libby stated that they will make the full transition tomorrow. Grafton County will contract with NCHC for Dave Belanger to work with the Drug Court clients that he is currently working with. The county will get reimbursed for any expenses that are associated with Drug Court. The two (2) cell phones that Grafton County had were turned over to NCHC yesterday and NCHC is buying Annie's computer because it was purchased prior to the grant funding. The only thing left to work out is space. NCHC would like space in the white building for Mondays and perhaps another day during the week. CA Libby stated that she has asked NCHC to identify what they need. Commissioner Lauer stated that she is so grateful that this is having minimal impact on the clients.

CA Libby submitted the following CDBG Documents for Commissioner Lauer to sign:

Sub-Recipient Agreement – NHARDC
Professional Service Agreement – NHARDC - Pat Garvin

CA Libby submitted the proposal for the feasibility study at Cottage Hospital from Helms & Company for Commissioner Lauer to sign.

CA Libby requested to go into nonpublic session.

MOTION: * 11:06 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. to RSA 91-A:3, II (l) Commissioner Ahern 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.

* 11:11 AM Commissioner Lauer declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern 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 Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner Ahern stated that at the request of Commissioner Piper he attended the Tracy Community Housing ground breaking ceremony for Twin Pines Housing. He stated that when anyone approached him, he told them he was there on behalf of Commissioner Piper. He stated that he was disturbed with how many people had a hand in funding this as a number of agencies involved increases the amount of money being spent on administrative costs.

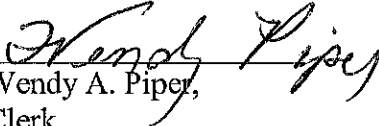
Commissioner Ahern was invited to two (2) events with Senator Shaheen at Plymouth State University on Wednesday August 8th. He stated he was very pleased to have been invited to the small group of Plymouth area officials and leaders to discuss issues important to their community. Commissioner Lauer stated that she attended that discussion as well and they brought up two (2) of the issues that were discussed which were lack of internet/broadband in the North Country and the issues of internet security.

Commissioner Lauer stated that she attended Drug Court Graduation yesterday. She spoke with Nancy Frank from North Country Health Consortium and she is very encouraged about the transition of Drug Court to the state.

Commissioner Ahern attended the get together at the Bridgewater Biomass Plant. There were several local public officials there. He stated that the current issue with the biomass plants is that if SB 365 does not get overridden it will impact the county as we will be paying a lot more money for woodchips.

11:22 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Wendy A. Piper,
Clerk

Office of the Grafton County Attorney

Lara Saffo, County Attorney

August 14th, 2018

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.

Justice must always question itself, just as society can exist only by means of the work it does on itself and on its institutions.

Michel Foucault (1926-84), French philosopher. "Vous Êtes Dangereux," in *Libération* (Paris, 30 June 1983; repr. in Didier Eribon, Michel Foucault, 1989; tr. 1991).

This week's summary is a little different. I am starting it with an article from the Valley News about an event held by Chief Sullivan of the Alexandria Police Department and Chief David Suckling of the Danbury Police Department. I commend the Chiefs for these efforts.

The Chiefs' concerns are well grounded. The message we are sending to children when school guidance counselors publically support an admitted sex offender, in front of the 14 year old victim, is clear. It is not about free speech. Its about what we say to our children, and what we reasonably expect them to learn from what we say, especially in the context in which it is said.

Guidance Counselor Abuse Trial Rattles N.H. Legal Community

BY ALYSSA DANDREA

Concord Monitor

In his 20 years as a law enforcement officer, Alexandria police Chief Donald Sullivan said he had never been so saddened and angered by the judicial process than on July 9. That day, nearly two dozen educators, school counselors and psychologists stood up for a child sex offender with the teenage victim seated feet away in a Rockingham County courtroom.

The sentencing of former school counselor Kristie Torbick made Sullivan furious as he thought about the sexual assault victims who might be silenced in the aftermath of the courtroom display.

“As professionals, we should be tearing down barriers, not putting them up,” Sullivan told the Monitor. “I’m now trying to combat the message victims are receiving. They need to know we are here, resources are available to you and we support you.”

Sullivan said he couldn’t stand by and do nothing on the heels of Torbick’s sentencing last month. Instead, he reached out to his community’s local crisis center, Voices Against Violence, and Danbury police to organize a community discussion about victim support services and ongoing prevention education work in local schools, which are part of the Newfound School District that previously employed Torbick. His goal for Thursday night’s forum: “to restore faith in the system.”

In Concord, Gilles Bissonnette, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire, couldn’t stay silent any longer for a different reason.

He questioned in a statement Friday the vilification of Torbick’s colleagues who spoke on her behalf, citing free speech protections under the First Amendment and in state law.

Character witnesses in the sentencing phase of a criminal trial are an important factor for a judge imposing a sentence. Seeing Torbick’s friends and former co-workers lose their jobs from Plymouth State University and Newfound Regional High School could undermine that phase of the justice process, he argued.

“Our justice system depends on such individuals feeling free to testify in court, including on behalf of individuals who have been accused or convicted of crimes,” Bissonnette said. “The chilling effect potentially created by these institutions’ decisions is deeply damaging to the fair administration of justice.”

SPEAKING OUT

For the advocates, parents, retired law enforcement and others who attended Thursday’s forum in Alexandria, their thoughts kept returning to Torbick. Many were still grappling with how someone entrusted with the care of students at Exeter High School could sexually assault a 14-year-old student on multiple occasions and yet receive glowing character statements following her conviction.

“I’ve seen so much of it,” former Alexandria police chief Harold “Skip” Reilly said of child sexual abuse. “It’s something a lot of people have to open their eyes up to. The thought is if you don’t see it, it’s not happening. It’s just not true.”

Reilly was among victim advocates, parents, two police chiefs and a retired judge at the Alexandria Town Hall, the site of Thursday’s forum. The gathering was the second of its kind to be held in the state since Aug. 1. On that night, the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Manchester YWCA held a similar event.

Even though weeks have passed since Torbick was sentenced to 2½ to five years in prison, her name still captures local and national headlines as her supporters resign under public pressure and are ousted by the educational institutions that once employed them. The

continued fallout has raised questions about how a community recovers when someone whose duty is to protect people — in this case, children — becomes a threat and turns the system on its head. And it's raised questions about the effectiveness of a criminal justice system if character witnesses fear speaking out.

THE CASE

The case against Torbick quickly drew decisive responses from people both in closed professional circles and in the broader community. Parents flocked to school board meetings in Bedford demanding answers and a change in leadership.

The firestorm began on July 9 when Torbick, 39, of Lee pleaded guilty in Rockingham County Superior Court to four counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault. Judge Andrew Schulman sentenced her to 2½ to five years in prison. She also received a suspended 3½ to seven-year prison sentence.

Prosecutors had asked for a five-to 10-year prison sentence — still far less than the decades she could have faced behind bars if convicted by a jury.

During the hearing, Assistant County Attorney Melissa Fales described separate occasions between December 2016 and January 2017 in which Torbick sexually assaulted the student, including in her home where she “hatched” a plan for the victim to babysit her children, the Union Leader reported. Fales said Torbick sent partially nude photos of herself to the student victim and they exchanged 23,000 text messages.

Twenty-three of Torbick's colleagues and acquaintances wrote letters to the court with many of them asking the judge for leniency on her behalf. The victim, who was seated in the courtroom, was brought to tears by their words and at one point had to leave the courtroom, Sullivan said.

Support for the student on social media was instant as victim advocates called Torbick's supporters out by name and demanded accountability. With public pressure mounting, the Bedford school superintendent and school counselor from Newfound Regional High School resigned, and Plymouth State University announced it would not rehire an adjunct teaching lecturer who had called the victim a “pursuer.”

Bedford School District Superintendent Chip McGee was the first to step down on July 27 following outcry over his decision to allow Bedford High School Dean of Students Zanna Blaney to provide Torbick with a character statement. Torbick previously worked as a school counselor in Bedford before taking the job in Exeter.

“It would be difficult for me to continue to lead the Bedford School District at this point because of circumstances beyond my control,” McGee wrote in a statement on the school district's website. “I do not want to become a distraction from the continued good work happening at Bedford.”

Plymouth State University announced days later that it had taken action against faculty members who had expressed their support for Torbick. President Donald Birx and Provost Robin Dorff said Aug. 1 that Nancy Strapko would not be rehired as an adjunct teaching lecturer or employed in any other capacity at the university, and that counselor education professors Michael Fischler and Gary Goodnough would be required to complete additional Title IX training before returning to the classroom.

The most recent resignation came Tuesday from Shelly Philbrick, a school counselor who once worked with Torbick in the Newfound Regional School District. As the case draws responses from all over New Hampshire, a state board whose profession has been negatively cast into the spotlight is also weighing next steps. The New Hampshire Counselor Association met on Aug. 6 and discussed the Torbick case. Association President Jonathan Cheney said in an email to the Monitor that the board will be making a statement in the next few weeks, although he did not elaborate further.

THE FALLOUT

In the case's aftermath, questions continue to surface about when it's okay for people in trusted positions to speak on behalf of the convicted, what information it's appropriate for them to share, and what ethical guidelines they should follow.

Plymouth State said it was not aware of the letters submitted by faculty at the sentencing stage and noted that none of the letters were written on university letterhead. However, the faculty who spoke in support of Torbick did so by identifying themselves with their university credentials.

Scott Hampton, whose organization, Ending The Violence, works with perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence said in an interview last week that he was "significantly disappointed" after reading excerpts from Strapko's letter, which includes details of her therapy sessions with Torbick. In her letter, she wrote that Torbick wasn't a "predator."

"Kristie takes full responsibility for her actions with her 'victim,'" wrote Strapko, a clinical psychologist. "I put this in parentheses because I am aware that her 'victim' was truly the pursuer in this case."

Plymouth State leaders responded by calling Strapko's comments "legally wrong and morally reprehensible."

Hampton said Strapko's comments show a complete misunderstanding for the sexual victimization process and the tactics perpetrators of those crimes use to identify, lure and abuse their victims — all while trying to escape responsibility for it.

"When I hear someone say 'it was really the victim who was the pursuer,' that's a profound misunderstanding of the grooming process," Hampton said. "Sex offenders will spend a tremendous amount of time setting up the sexual assault, and the assault is usually only a tiny, tiny fraction of the overall interaction."

In Strapko's five-paragraph letter, she devotes several sentences to telling the court about the challenges Torbick faced as a child. She wrote that Torbick survived cancer, sexual abuse and "horrific neglect from her mother," who suffered from substance abuse.

While not wanting to discount or minimize that trauma, Hampton said Torbick's childhood experiences don't excuse her actions as an adult. He said there is an implication that if we ask someone why they did something, eventually they'll provide us with some reasonable answer. But the problem is in the question, because there is no "good reason" for sexual abuse, he said.

"The purpose of the sex offender treatment program isn't to come up with 37 reasons why," he said. "I want them to tell me in no uncertain terms that this is why my behavior is unacceptable."

During the criminal process, it is common for both prosecutors and defense attorneys to ask family members, colleagues, clinical psychologists and/or treatment providers to speak at sentencing. Hampton said the Torbick case is an example of why professional communities need to develop more explicit ethical guidelines for how to respond to and follow through on those requests.

Goodnough, who previously served as Torbick's adviser and internship supervisor, was also among the Plymouth State faculty members reprimanded by the university in recent weeks. He told the court he once considered Torbick to be "among the top high school counselors in the state" and that "no benefit to society would be served by incarcerating her."

Regardless of the content of their comments, these employees have a right to say what they believe in court, the ACLU said in a statement Friday.

While the ACLU said it denounces sexual assault of any kind, its leaders also argued that silencing character witnesses is wrong and illegal.

"The public is not served, however, by silencing the free speech of citizens speaking in their private capacity," said ACLU of New Hampshire Executive Director Devon Chaffee said. "As a society, we can and must support victims of sexual assault and steadfastly uphold the rights of citizens to participate in the criminal justice process."

Moreover, state law specifically protects this kind of speech from public employees, Bissonnette said. State law mandates that "a person employed as a public employee in any capacity shall have a full right to publicly discuss and give opinions as an individual on all matters concerning any government entity and its policies."

Bissonnette said the law is intended to protect employees — like Strapko and Philbrick — out of a fear that public employers may terminate employees for unpopular speech done in an individual capacity.

“The actions of Plymouth State University and Newfound Regional High School are additionally concerning because they may deter public employees from, in their individual capacities, giving testimony in criminal court proceedings,” Bissonnette said.

THE FUTURE

Parents of Newfound School District students were more at ease Thursday night knowing the school counselor who had spoken on Torbick’s behalf would not be returning to her job this school year.

Chief Sullivan had encouraged other parents to take his lead and write to District Superintendent Stacy Buckley about Philbrick, not knowing of her plans to resign. Sullivan said his daughter will be a freshman this year and he did not want her to have any communication with a school counselor who’d backed Torbick.

“A guidance counselor is someone that students should trust,” he told the Monitor. “How can you trust someone that they’re going to have high ethical standards when they’re talking about how great a child rapist is? It’s appalling.”

Sullivan said to the dozen or so forum attendees Thursday that he hopes the public outrage following Torbick’s sentencing continues to spur important conversations throughout the state about sexual violence, which remains one of the most underreported crimes. He said the beliefs shared by Torbick’s supporters are not widespread and that they will be overcome by a greater message.

A student-led campaign in the Bedford School District is already turning the conversation in a more positive direction. Amid growing outrage, students drafted more than 60 letters to the Exeter High School victim — that’s three times the number of statements received by Torbick and counting.

The younger generation’s display of support to one victim should be emulated across the state to all victims, the Alexandria and Danbury police chiefs said. They added that it is especially important to reach those who may feel silenced and with nowhere safe to turn.

“We support people in this community and we are here for people in this community,” Danbury Police Chief David Suckling said. “It’s important for us to tell you, members of the community, put your hand up and we’ll be right there — we promise.”

(2)STATISTICS

Caseload at the Office of the Grafton County Attorney.

This reflects the caseload at the Office of the County Attorney. It does not reflect the workload, as we are involved in community partnerships (see below) and have additional responsibilities under New Hampshire Law¹.

Data for the first seven weeks of the year:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| January 1, 2018 to July 10, 2018 | 623 |
| January 1, 2017 to June 12, 2017 | 590 |
| January 1, 2016 to July 10, 2016 | 491 |
| January 1, 2015 to July 10, 2015 | 450 |

Victim cases for 2018 (to date)

Of the cases above, 266 had at least one victim. Many cases have more than one victim.

Felony first cases for 2018 (to date)

Of the referrals above, 182 were cases in which an arrest was made, and so we were subject to the expedited time frameworks associated with felony first. Eighty-six of those cases were individuals that were incarcerated so we had to be ready to file complaints, file probable cause affidavits, and represent the state in an arraignment within the next business day.

Year end data

From January 1, 2017 to November 20th, 2017, the OGCA received 883 referrals.

2. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Public Safety is improved, and we have a better justice system, when prosecutors are involved in partnerships with stakeholders. It is time consuming, and increases our workload (as opposed to caseload). But it is vital

¹ Additional responsibilities outside of traditional case review includes but is not limited to the following:

| <u>Topic</u> | <u>2017 calendar year data</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Review Circuit Court Petition to Annuls | 376 |
| Review Superior Court Petition to Annul | 56 |
| Review DCYF Referrals | 479 |
| Review Juvenile Petitions | 31 |
| Review and respond to Governor Warrants | 1 |
| Review IAD documents | 5 |
| Review untimely death reports | 153 |
| Review requests for One Parties Intercepts | 17 |
| Right to Know requests | 13 |

On call 24/7: for any felony arrests, untimely death notification, violent felonies, sexual assaults, and now any felony arrest. Each attorney is assigned one week, each attorney is on call at least 4 weeks a year.

Other matters: Conduct Trainings, Constituent Concerns, Legislative matters

to ensure best practices and better outcomes. It requires us to attend at least 18 meetings a month, just to be present at one meeting a month for these initiatives. Here are some of the community partnerships we are members of:

- a. Alternative Sentencing Initiatives
 - Drug Court
 - Mental Health Court
 - ASSERT
 - Halls of Hope
 - Plymouth Area Mental Health Court
 - Justice Involved Veterans Taskforce
 - Adult Diversion
 - Juvenile Diversion/Restorative Justice
- b. Grafton and Sullivan County Child Advocacy Center at DHMC
- c. Victim Witness Program for Circuit Court matters
- d. Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force/Cybercrime/digital evidence
- e. Sexual Assault Resource Teams
 - Plymouth Area Sexual Assault Resource Team
 - Littleton Area Sexual Assault Resource Team
 - Upper Valley Sexual Assault Recourse Team
 - Haverhill Area Sexual Assault Resource Team
- f. College initiatives/Prevention Innovations at UNH
- g. NH's Human Trafficking Coalition
- h. Protection of Older Adults
 - We are trying to focus on this right now and improve our collaboration and outreach. We currently provide training at the Aging Resource Center at DHMC, and attend one local group of stakeholders. We are hoping to work with more collaborative efforts.

3. Drug Courts

It was yet another inspirational commencement. Each commencement is a reminder of the importance of this program. It is well worth the time, effort and resources put into the program. Our prosecutor has to attend weekly sessions, again a part of her workload that is not reflected in case numbers, but vital.

One of the speakers, Alex Casale, provided a brief, excellent summary of the hard work in Grafton, which started one of the first programs in the state and paved for this program to grow throughout the state. As Mr. Casale pointed out, we have fought hard and changed what we are doing here for the state. He thanked us, and I again want to thank the many many people along the way

who have, and continue, to work hard on behalf of programs. This definitely includes you the commissioners and the delegation.

Each graduate had different messages, that were inspirational, and I thank them as well. The final graduate put together a slide show entitled "My journey . . . The best is yet to come!" Well said, and I know the best is yet to come for all the graduates.

4. Mental Health Court

Grafton County is incredibly fortunate to have active mental health courts. I am recommending that an Advisory Board be formed, using best practices recommended by our technical assistance. We have a workgroup with members that form many of the stakeholders and I am certain we will be able to recruit volunteers from the other stakeholders.

We will continue to work through the challenges, including the reality that court time is limited and we have been informed that in at least two of the courts there is no available court time through the end of 2018. The Court involvement is vital. We greatly appreciate the time constraints on the court system. My hope is that we work through the time constraints as much as possible, keeping the programs intact. When the court cannot commit to time, we go to the next best alternative, which is meeting as a team with participants outside of the courtroom, all the while doing anything we can to support the court system.

5. Bail reform

We continue to collect data and work on bail reform. I am concerned about the new statute and the impact it will have on safety. When the State requests PR bail, it is generally not contested. We will carefully monitor the data on each case where the State recommends cash bail and the reasons. This data will be helpful as we evaluate the new statute.

We also continue to educate the decisionmakers about the assessment form, which is designed for a state with a different statutory structure and different pretrial services. As noted last month, it is not mandatory for the court to follow the form, meaning the judge can deviate from its use. Nonetheless I have concerns with this form. For example, the prosecutor completing the form is identified as a "rater" of potential success while released. I am uncomfortable with this label or an implication that we feel we have accurately rated risk when we complete the form. So I am expressing this concern with the court. I do not object to Grafton County prosecutors answering any of the questions on the form at all.

6. Circuit Court Victim Witness Services

We are setting up office hours near the circuit courts, and are thrilled to be able to offer this service.

7. Sex Crimes Unit

We had the site visit from AEquitas. It appeared to go well, and we were commended about various efforts including our collaborative approach with the stakeholders. This follows the Model of RSVP, the best practices for prosecutors Responding to Sexually Violent Predators.

One thing discussed was the appropriate caseload for attorneys prosecuting sexual assault cases. The evaluator noted the time commitment is akin to homicides, and offered to assist me in explaining the time commitment. I look forward to collecting that data for your consideration.

A NOTE ON COMPLEXITY OF CASES

As you consider our numbers, I wanted to provide some numbers regarding complex cases. We have 21 pending aggravated felonious sexual assault cases, with many more files to be reviewed, three negligent homicide cases pending, with three more to be reviewed, a complicated animal cruelty case, and complex white collar crime cases. We had the arson of the Lebanon church, combined with, even worse, two significant stabbings completed by the arsonist, that the victims survived, but easily could have died from. This needs to be considered when looking at our numbers. I am working on a better summary for your consideration.

GRANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE GRAFTON COUNTY ATTORNEY OR THAT WE BENEFIT FROM

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 reports have been submitted.

b. VOCA Grant

This grant, and a supplement, includes \$85,000 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.

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 are participating in prevention initiatives for commuter college sexual assaults.

e. Sexual Assault Justice Initiative

This DOJ grant ensures best practices in investigating and prosecuting sexual assaults. All Grafton law enforcement agencies now have access to a full time investigator to assist in adult sexual assault matters. Prosecutors are benefitting from training by AEquitas, and they are coming this summer to conduct case review with us.

f. Human Trafficking Coalition

We are not directly receiving funding, but New Hampshire received a federal grant to combat Human Trafficking and we now have the ability to refer human trafficking cases to this entity.

Outstanding Grant Requests

There are two outstanding grants that Grafton County would benefit from:

- a. Department of Justice grant to include a child sexual assault investigator in Grafton County.
- b. Grafton County Roving Advocate grant
BJA grant for roving advocates for VOICES and Burch House.

Temporarily Adjourn to discuss a legal matter.

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