

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy
North Haverhill, NH 03774
August 9th 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Richards and Lauer, CA Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: RD Monahan, Atty. Saffo

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

RD Monahan arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners
August 9, 2016**

June Revenue

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|
| County Revenue 7/2009 | \$ 95,760.75 | State Revenue 7/2009 | \$ 587,752.32 |
| County Revenue 7/2010 | \$ 78,183.24 | State Revenue 7/2010 | \$ 533,698.56 |
| County Revenue 7/2011 | \$ 73,874.23 | State Revenue 7/2011 | \$ 588,695.04 |
| County Revenue 7/2012 | \$ 97,870.23 | State Revenue 7/2012 | \$ 873,670.08 |
| County Revenue 7/2013 | \$ 91,743.32 | State Revenue 7/2013 | \$ 753,309.12 |
| County Revenue 7/2014 | \$108,609.67 | State Revenue 7/2014 | \$1,363,522.56 |
| County Revenue 7/2015 | \$ 95,930.06 | State Revenue 7/2015 | \$ 895,613.76 |
| County Revenue 7/2016 | \$ 96,422.98 | State Revenue 7/2016 | \$ 939,816.96 |

Foreclosures

2009 100 year to date
2010 134 year to date
2011 128 year to date
2012 120 year to date
2013 99 year to date
2014 95 year to date
2015 63 year to date
2016 66 year to date

1. July showed a spike in foreclosure filings with 14, almost double what we have been seeing per month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley J. Monahan

Atty. Saffo arrived and gave the following report:

Office of the Grafton County Attorney

Lara Saffo, County Attorney

August 9^h, 2016

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.**

(1) Boy Battling Illness Sworn as “Special Officer”

Posted Aug 1, 2016, 4:39 PM by Lebanon Police [updated Aug 2, 2016, 5:30 AM by Lebanon NH]

On Monday, August 1, 2016, Chief Richard Mello, Deputy Chief Phillip Roberts, Captain Tim Cohen and members of the Lebanon Police Department conducted a special “swearing-in” ceremony that was held at the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.



On Sunday, July 24, 2016, Lebanon Police Officer Peter Begin was approached at a David’s House Event by Gregg Wilson who explained that his 11-year-old son Gage was currently battling Acute Monocytic Leukemia and was being treated at the Children’s Hospital. Mr. Wilson also explained that his son wanted to be a police officer. Officer Begin took it upon himself to advise the shift supervisor of Gage’s interests and situation, which resulted in several

officers making a special trip to visit Gage that evening.

Upon learning of Gage and his battle, Chief Richard Mello decided that due to Gage's courage, bravery, and determination, he would be "sworn" as a Special Lebanon Police Officer at a ceremony on August 1st at the hospital. During this ceremony, Gage was presented with a framed "Oath of Office" and a special plaque. The Lebanon Police Officers in attendance found Gage's courage and determination uplifting and were honored to be part of "Team Gage" and to share the moment with Gage and his family

**(2) Successful Law Enforcement Night Out
Lincoln-North Woodstock Law Enforcement Night Out**



Over 1,000 people showed up for the Lincoln – North Woodstock Joint Officer's Night out. Lebanon also had a successful Nights Out.

(3) Statistics

I could not generate the reports in time, but will email you statistics and, if it's ok with you, ask Sam to post them with the minutes. Please note that I consider this report to have a 5% error margin. I am estimating the error of margin. Sometimes a case may be entered with the wrong crime type, or a case may qualify for more than one type of crime (why the referrals by type of crime is a larger number than referrals by agency). We also have a handful of "test" cases in the system, designed for us to try out modifications in Karpel.

(4) Training

a. Attending

The New Hampshire Court System held a day long training on plea negotiations, with an eye on improving the court processing of cases. The Court wants to speed up negotiations, and we are fully in support of that proposal. We have committed to , and are, providing plea offers early in the process and hope the defense can provide us with prompt responses.

(5) The Child Advocacy Center



The CAC continues to be busy. In June the CAC conducted twenty interviews, in July 16 and in August 5 to date.

We are working on revising protocols for minimal facts interviews by First Responding Officers. The CAC is also conducting trainings on their Title IX guidelines for working with schools.

I continue to work on providing space in the Plymouth Area - and am actively looking for a grant to give the seed money for a facility, as well as searching for ideas to provide this space and am open to all suggestions. Right now I am focusing on Community Development Block Grants.

The CAC created Advisory Board subcommittees (Outreach/Education, Sustainability, Policies and Board Commitment).

(6) SARTS

Haverhill Area SART

The Haverhill Area SART has approved its Mission Statement and reviewed the Upper Valley SART memorandum of understanding for all the stakeholders. We are developing an MOU for the next meeting for everyone to review. Cottage Hospital now has three trained SANEs, which is excellent news.

Plymouth Area

The Plymouth Area SART will be working on confidentiality issues surrounding sexual assault victim's medical and counseling records.



We are working on a review of adult sexual assault files.

We continue to participate in these invaluable initiatives. To learn more about SARTs please see <http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/sexual-assault-response-teams-sart-0>.

(7) Circuit Court

The Haverhill Police Department and the Office of the Grafton County Attorney hired a Haverhill Circuit Court Prosecutor, Lise Solbeck. She is in court today, but next commissioners meeting I would like you to meet her.

The New Hampshire Department of Justice expects us to oversee any issues with prosecution in Grafton County, including circuit court prosecution. We are receiving increased requests for assistance from Circuit Court prosecutors. This work is not reflected in our statistics, but is vital. Each month, our webpage, entitled the NH Prosecutors Network, provides more and more resources for Circuit Court prosecutors.

As explained earlier, this past year, a victim expressed reasonable concerns that my office was not aware of a new charge in circuit court. We have reviewed the costs associated with Karpel, and will be presenting this to the towns for the upcoming year budget cycle.

(8) New Court Initiative –Felonies First

I have been informed by the Court that we are on to start July 1st.

As noted above, the OGCA continues to consider manners to ease us into this initiative, so hopefully we will not need as many additional employees as has been anticipated. We now open files upon receipt, with no delay, so prosecutors can immediately begin their review. We have asking all law enforcement to send us a copy of all felony arrest complaints within 24 hours by e-mail, facsimile or hand deliver, whatever the agency finds easiest. We are receiving many charging documents.

A difficult transition for law enforcement will be preparing reports on an expedited basis when we have to file the charges. My concern is the only way to achieve this objective is overtime hours, which is not a fiscal option in many towns. We will be discussing this with the agencies, and assisting them in the next budget cycle as requested.

I have been reviewing a number of these referrals for early plea offers, and we are hoping this will expedite the processing of cases.

Once this initiative begins, we will be responsible for filing the complaints on Monday morning for all matters arrested over the weekend. This is a significant change in our responsibilities. Most counties have requested additional attorneys and some also additional support staff to achieve this objective, and we may have to add a Sunday shift in order to process the new arrests properly.

(9) Areas of needed expertise

Prosecutors in Grafton County handle the following types of cases, to name a few:

- Drugs
- Domestic violence
- Child sexual assault
- Adult sexual assault
- Abuse of Elders

Assaults – simple to first degree
Cybercrime
Failure to register as a sex offender
Gang activity
Internet Crimes Against Children
Negligent homicides – assault related
Negligent homicides – DWI related / Driving Under the Influence, Serious bodily injury
White collar crime – bank fraud, business fraud
White collar crime – financial exploitation of family members/the elderly
Computer fraud
Property related offenses (bank checks/fraudulent use of a credit card/willful concealment)
Property related offenses – burglaries and robberies
And more . . .

The training that prosecutors need to address these issues is significant for each category, hence our desire to start specializing.

(10) Participation in Alternative Sentencing:

a. **Adult Diversion**

i. This program is almost full.

b. **Drug Court**

We are now participating in weekly policy review meetings, which is incredibly exciting. These protocols are invaluable, and a guide for all team members. I also look for to the statewide recommendations on orientation for new team members. We do not need to start from scratch on that initiative, we can see what the Statewide coordinator, Alex Casale, comes up with first. Grafton County may want to decide if it is going to apply for the grants that are available. I am presuming this will be through the Alternative Sentencing Department. The Office of the Grafton County Attorney continues to participate in the weekly court sessions every Monday, and assist with protocol and form development. We continue to be willing to expand drug court to additional individuals provided we do not have to annul the offenses. We also are willing to expand when the State of New Hampshire provides a probation/parole officer, as the state does in other counties.

Regarding parolees, if, like the other counties, we receive a probation/ parole officer for drug court I support expansion to include parolees. The State is currently looking into what commitment they can make out of probation and parole to supervise higher risk individuals. However, without this support I cannot recommend this level of expansion. I look forward to future meetings where the County stakeholders meet again, with commissioner involvement, to determine whether it is appropriate to expand our program.

c. Mental Health Court

Shelly Golden has authorized the OGCA to reach out to her early in the process, well before sentencing, to determine whether she can be of assistance with individuals who are mentally ill. This is welcome.

d. Justice Involved Veterans

I am happy to report that Halls of Hope's Veterans Behavioral Health Track has opened. An excellent source of information about Veterans Courts is at <http://www.justiceforvets.org/>. We look forward to the expansion of this initiative.

(11)Grants

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 year for the grand is June 30th, 2016 – June 30, 20

b. VOCA Grant

We received the grant is for \$50,000 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. We have the official paperwork.

c. Haverhill Area Substance Abuse and Prevention Coalition

SAMSHA Haverhill Area Drug Free Community Grant

Our contact is: Drew Brown

Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator

North Country Health Consortium

Phone: 603-259-3704 x240

Fax 603-444-0945

We are waiting to hear if we received this grant. We believe we will hear by August. The Coalition continues to meet and

d. Roving Advocate Project

This grant is through the Office of Violence Against Women and provides funding for our crisis program advocates. It has been submitted and we are waiting to hear about whether it is granted.

e. AVAP grant

This grant has been submitted as well, to fund a criminal justice advocate for the circuit courts. We have receiving notification that we have been selected as a site. We are now working on finding an applicant interested in serving in Grafton County. We had one interview.

f. Sexual Assault Justice Initiative

This is a DOJ grant that we will benefit from. The hiring committee met to hire the full time adult sexual assault investigator, and we are waiting for a modification of the timeframeworks of the grant.

(12)Miscellaneous initiatives.

a. NH Prosecutors Network

This is up and running. I look forward to showing it to you.

b. Google Site for Chiefs

I hope to work on this initiative more in the near future.

c. PSU library

PSU has offered to provide library cards to members of law enforcement who wish to have a library card. The Office of the Grafton County Attorney will maintain a list to provide to PSU's library. Again, we greatly appreciate Plymouth State University's assistance in this initiative.

d. Intern Brochure

We have received numerous requests for students to intern. While we cannot accommodate all these requests, working with a PSU intern, we have developed a brochure of resources for students that we will post on line. Thank you to Lucas, our PSU intern, who wrote this brochure

Atty. Saffo then requested to go into nonpublic session.

* 10:09 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application

filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with anybody or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (e). Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner Lauer “yes” Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

* 10:26 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

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

The Commissioners and Atty. Saffo requested to go back into nonpublic session.

* 10:26 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) . Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner Lauer “yes” Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session..

* 10:30 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session
Commissioner Richards moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session in the event they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Atty. Saffo requested to go back into nonpublic session.

* 10:31 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) . Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner Lauer “yes” Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

* 10:42 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

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

CA Libby discussed the requirements for the NH Drug Offender Program Funding with the Commissioners. After reviewing the requirements she stated that Grafton County meets all requirements that are stated and asked the Commissioners if they want to apply for funding of up to \$150,000. The Commissioners were all in agreement to apply for the funding.

CA Libby stated that the majority of Delegation members that responded to her email are able to make it September 19th for a full Delegation meeting on the restructuring of the Jail bonds. She noted that they are look at a 10:00am public hearing on the 19th followed by the Delegation vote. The tentative closing date is October 14th.

CA Libby requested to go into nonpublic session.

* 10:54 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) . Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner Lauer “yes” Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

* 11:08 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

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

* 11:08 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) . Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner

Lauer “yes” Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

* 11:16 AM Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

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

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from August 2nd.

Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from the August 2nd meeting. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers 6; 1011; 1014-1020.

The Commissioners reviewed the Superior Court report for the month of July.

The Commissioners received an informational letter from Tri County Community Action regarding this year’s fuel assistance.

Commissioner Lauer attended the ground breaking ceremony for Littleton Food Co-op expansion.

Commissioner Cryans attended NHAC Dues committee meeting and stated that they are hoping to have something put together for the county conference.

11:45AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda D. Lauer, Clerk