

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
September 11, 2018

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer & Piper, County Administrator Libby and Admin. Asst. Norcross. Commissioner Ahern joined the meeting via telephone according to RSA 91-A:2, III (a). Commissioner Ahern was not able to attend the meeting in person. Telephone participation was at his request and it was noted that all votes taken would be taken by roll call.

OTHERS PRESENT: Farm Manager Kimball, Beth Wyman, Deputy Register of Deeds and County Attorney Saffo.

FM Kimball arrived and gave the following report:

1. Currently milking 76 cows. We are shipping 5,600 lbs. daily, averaging 69lbs per cow.
2. Price of milk dropped over a dollar, now at \$17.51 per hundred weight.
3. Going to be cutting our 4<sup>th</sup> grass crop at the end of this week. Corn is almost ready to cut, within the next two weeks.
4. Farm stand is doing well. Summer vegetables are almost done. Potatoes and winter squash now.
5. Cows are still struggling with the heat. It has been a hot, humid summer. Hopefully cows will get back on track now that temperatures are cooling off.
6. Need to set date for Woodsville Elementary School Pumpkin Day. Either October 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>.

FM Kimball asked about the interview committee for the Farm Manager position and who was on it. He discussed his feelings on the committee and who he feels should be on it. Commissioner Lauer stated that they will be discussing it further and will take his thoughts into consideration.

Deputy Register of Deeds Wyman arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds**  
**Kelley J. Monahan Register**  
**Report to Commissioners**  
**September 11, 2018**

**August Revenue**

County Revenue 8/2009	\$ 79,119.71	State Revenue 8/2009	\$ 451,161.32
County Revenue 8/2010	\$ 82,306.17	State Revenue 8/2010	\$ 561,433.92
County Revenue 8/2011	\$ 92,307.55	State Revenue 8/2011	\$ 665,294.40
County Revenue 8/2012	\$ 91,223.74	State Revenue 8/2012	\$ 599,279.08
County Revenue 8/2013	\$101,189.73	State Revenue 8/2013	\$ 732,258.24
County Revenue 8/2014	\$108,609.67	State Revenue 8/2014	\$ 1,103,613.12
County Revenue 8/2015	\$ 95,930.06	State Revenue 8/2015	\$ 1,105,181.76
County Revenue 8/2016	\$ 96,422.98	State Revenue 8/2016	\$ 839,186.88
County Revenue 8/2017	\$ 92,220.96	State Revenue 8/2017	\$ 954,372.48
County Revenue 8/2018	\$105,668.54	State Revenue 8/2018	\$ 882,151.68

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**Foreclosures**

2009 121 year to date  
2010 151 year to date  
2011 146 year to date  
2012 131 year to date  
2013 96 year to date  
2014 84 year to date  
2015 70 year to date  
2016 67 year to date  
2017 55 year to date  
2018 29 year to date

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley J. Monahan

Commissioner Piper noted the strong revenue numbers and the low foreclosure numbers.

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes of the September 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Lauer had an edit.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Piper moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. 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 the motion passes.

The Commissioners signed check registers 8-9; 1027; 1033-1038.

CA Libby submitted the DoC Superior Court Report for the month of August for the Commissioners to review.

CA Libby submitted a CDFA Drawdown – NHARDC - \$9,332 for Commissioner Lauer to sign.

CA Libby stated that the Executive Committee Meeting will be held September 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

CA Libby stated that the Commissioner’s Annual Report Dedication information needs to be in by the first week in October.

**Commissioner Issues:**

Commissioner Piper attended the NHAC Executive Committee meeting last Friday at Primex. She stated that they held a brainstorming session on what they thought the mission of the NHAC should be because of some suggestions that things could run better. The biggest feedback was an increased profile and communication from the office itself and having more coordination. They discussed the value of attending the NACO Conference as there are grants out there that are

available that people will not know about without attending the conference. The availability of the grants is an example of the benefits that attendance at the NACO and membership in the NHAC provide but that County Commissioners and members of delegations might not be aware of because of the lack of communication from the Office of the NHAC. There is an Executive Committee meeting Wednesday morning at the Annual Conference to continue the brainstorming session.

Commissioner Lauer and Commissioner Piper attended Roberta Berner's retirement party last Thursday.

CA Libby submitted the MS-45 for Commissioner Piper to sign.

CA Libby requested to go into nonpublic session.

**MOTION:** \* 9:45 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.

\*10:06 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.

Atty. Saffo arrived and gave the following report:

**Office of the Grafton County Attorney**

**Lara Saffo, County Attorney**

**September 11th, 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**
- **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.**

### **Space**

My main focus for today's meeting is to discuss office space for the county attorney's office.

As you know, the Office of the Grafton County Attorney has maxed out its space in the courthouse, and is utilizing one office in the Alternative Sentencing building, and three office spaces in the administration building. This means employees are located away from the remainder of employees. I am trying to get more employees into the administration building, but employees to date are concerned about being isolated. They have preferred a tiny office near the law library, that is inadequate. We are using locked space in the administration building as well for a file cabinet for confidential information.

We have appreciated the county's willingness to work with our requests for additional space on site at the county administrative building, and hoped it would work better. Unfortunately, to date all but one employee has found it difficult at best.

We have considered other space at the county complex, such as the law library. However, that proved not to be an option. From past conversations, I am aware that the commissioners are looking at the county complex's space as a whole, and I would ask that you expedite that process as quickly as possible. If there is not adequate space at the county complex, the only other options are renting space off site, or building additional space at the county level. Both require expenditures, which would have to be budgeted in February.

Again, I greatly appreciate the county's willingness to let my office, at my request, try options in available space. After moving attorneys and support staff around, it is evident it is not going to work long term.

I would note that one prosecutor is going to the Alternative Sentencing building. This is something new we are trying, but I believe it had great potential to effectively and efficiently coordinate the alternative sentencing programming with prosecution. This would improve the justice system.

### **Bail reform**

We continue to collect data and work on bail reform, as the new statute went into effect on September 1, 2018. We already have one situation where an officer traveled from Campton for a bail hearing, only to find, after waiting in court, that defense decided not to contest the cash bail. We are reaching out to the court

and the defense bar to see if video conferencing for bail hearings is an option, at least in the first instance. If so, we will use the Lifesize cloud conferencing system the county already owns. Hopefully this will be a possibility, I hope to see dialogue on this shortly.

**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.

**Sex Crimes Unit**

Attached please find a summary of the Model of RSVP, the Best Practices for Prosecutors Responding to Sexually Violent Predators. It is just created to assist in explaining this model. I hope you find it informative.

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.

Atty. Saffo requested to temporarily adjourn the meeting.

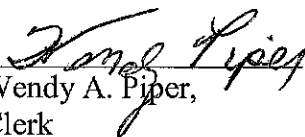
**MOTION:** 10:16 AM Commissioner Piper moved to temporarily adjourn this meeting for the purpose of consulting legal counsel. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”; Commissioner Ahern “yes”; Commissioner Piper “yes” Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and 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.

10:21 AM Commissioner Lauer reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Ahern stated that Susan Olsen from Warner has been in contact with Jim Oakes to go over information regarding Grafton County potentially seeking a new supplier for its electric utility needs at the County Complex. CA Libby stated that S. Olsen will be attending a Commissioner meeting at the end of the month to discuss where they are at in the process.

10:27 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Wendy A. Piper,  
Clerk