

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday September 20, 2010

PRESENT: Representatives Mulholland, Ford, Laliberte, Aguiar, Preston, Gionet and Williams, Commissioners Cryans, and Richards, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

ABSENT: Representative Friedrich

OTHERS: Harold Brown and John Chamberlain.

Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM

Rep. Williams moved to approve the minutes from the July 22nd meeting which was seconded by Rep. Preston. All were in favor.

Rep. Williams moved to approve the minutes from the July 26th Delegation meeting which was seconded by Rep. Ford.

Rep. Preston asked whether the Executive Committee should be approving the minutes of the full Delegation. Rep. Mulholland said that she felt that the Executive Committee was given the authority to make those decisions and had also approved them in the past.

When the vote came down, all were in favor.

Rep. Williams asked if there was any update on the water tank and Director Clough said that they had until the beginning of October and that three consultants had put in bids that were reviewed by Supt. Oakes. A company out of Littleton was hired and the work had begun. A full report will be forthcoming. Rep. Williams said he would like to be sure to get a copy of the report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sievers presented a report for the committee which included investments for the Jail bond money. \$500K that was previously invested in a three month CD with Community Guaranty Savings Bank was transferred to Woodsville Guaranty this month to pay for Jail expenses. Other CD's will mature in 6 and 9 months.

The Commissioners have accepted a bid from Meredith Village Savings bank at a rate of 1% for the Tax Anticipation Notes. Director Clough projects that the County will need to borrow approximately \$2.5M which is less than was needed last year.

Director Clough noted that interest earned from the Jail bonds has been dismal because of the low rates.

Rep. Williams moved to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

Treasurer Sievers excused herself from the meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Cryans gave the report:

- A two year mental health court grant has been approved and the County Attorney's office will be setting up a Mental Health Court.
- Retired Supreme Court Justice Broderick will be speaker at the next Drug Court graduation on November 17th at 10:00 AM at the Courthouse.
- There will be a GED graduation on September 30th at the Jail at 10:00 AM
- Union negotiations are still in progress.

Commissioner Cryans said he would like to have a tour of the Jail site the next time the Executive Committee meets and suggested the members wear appropriate foot attire.

Rep. Williams asked what the hold up was with the negotiations. Director Clough said that the Union wants to have an Agency Shop and the County opposes that, adding that she believes that negotiations are close now.

Rep. Preston asked what portion of employees are dues paying and Director Clough said that there are about 170 Bargaining Employees and only 50 of them currently pay dues.

Rep. Williams said that he saw some of the well drilling equipment over at the Jail site and asked about the wells. Director Clough said that they had to drill extra wells and that there were certain wells that couldn't be drilled. There will be an additional field of eight more wells. She said that once those are done the system should work as designed and should be as efficient as expected.

Rep. Preston asked who was finically responsible for the added wells. Director Clough said that the County will incur some of the additional expenses.

Rep. Gionet asked why the certain well couldn't be drilled and Director Clough replied that they had problems with the sides collapsing in.

Rep. Preston moved to accept the Commissioners' Report which was seconded by Rep. Ford. All were in favor.

Grafton County Economic Development Executive Director Mark Scarano and new GCEDC board President Bill Webb were on the agenda for a brief overview and update of events. Commissioner Cryans wanted to note that the Valley Business Journal had an article about the expansion of the DRTC incubator which M. Scarano played such a big part in.

M. Scarano said that this has been a good year, but trying. He said there are some challenges coming up and one project being worked on that will affect the eastern part of Grafton County.

B. Webb said that they have been looking at developing an incubator in the Plymouth area for quite some time now but didn't really have a place. They knew they wanted to get PSU on board but without a definite building that was hard to do. The DOT had a building that they took by eminent domain and the price was right. If approved, they will be able to take over the building and PSU is willing to partner with them and run a program on entrepreneurship. He said they will be looking for money for the fit up next year and said this will be a great opportunity for the Plymouth area.

Rep. Aguiar asked who would be running the program and B. Webb replied that a member of PSU faculty will run the program and there will be some graduate students as well. He said it was too early to see exactly how the structure will work.

Rep. Ford said she was very impressed at the outreach of PSU.

M. Scarano said that there will be a 25,000 square foot expansion of the DRTC and that there has been very strong economic success in the area because of it. He said that if anyone were interested in touring the facility he could set it up.

In the North Country GCEDC is working on the North Country Workplace Education program which pairs high school students with local businesses. The purpose is to attract and retain skilled labor in the rural communities and it is a way to keep people who are already in NH, interested enough to stay. The businesses actually work with the students who then go on to community and/or a four year college. The business then keeps track of the student and the thought is that they will hire them back on in the future. A \$235K grant from the Governor's discretionary fund was received to continue the project. There will be three high schools and nine businesses taking part in the program.

GCEDC is starting a strategic planning process which will update their existing one bringing them more up to date with the times.

The Revolving Loan Fund has provided more loans and received more inquiries than in the past. \$330K in total was financed for four different loans. Rep. Mulholland asked what the interest rate was and M. Scarano said it runs between 6 and 7 percent. Rep. Williams asked about collateral. M. Scarano said they usually don't have problems getting the money back and that they are either second place to the lead bank or their loan is unsecured saying that GCEDC takes higher risks.

Rep. Ford spoke highly about the workplace education program and said that Commissioner Burton was a great supporter as well.

M. Scarano said that Celdara Medical will be moving into DRTC and has received a \$180K grant with the expectation of creating nine new jobs.

Commissioner Richards said she would like to see the education program expand to the Enfield/Canaan area.

B. Webb thanked the Commissioners and the Delegation for their continued support and noted that under the leadership of Mark Scarano many new programs have been implemented. He said that the new strategic plan is a very important part of understanding what is needed in Grafton County.

The two gentlemen were thanked for their information and for coming in.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Clough passed out a sheet which outlined where the \$17.5M from the Jail bonds money was invested.

The final total for the guaranteed maximum price on the Jail project has come in. Originally the cost for construction was projected at \$31,154,000., and has now been reduced to \$28,991,000 which is \$2M less than estimated. The total cost for the redesigned building is \$34,200,000.

The second round of bonds will be issued around February and the amount will be below the projected \$17.5M.

Estimated completion of the project will be in April 2012 and right now everything is on schedule. The masonry is scheduled for October 4th and the steelwork for October 18th. The goal is have the three enclosed sections to be able to work inside in the winter.

NIC will be onsite October 11th to work with the transition team who currently include three in-house staff members. A new Training Sergeant will be starting today and he came from the Sheriff's Dept. Director Clough said there are many locals working on the project and on any given day there are around 50 people working onsite which is providing a boost to the local economy.

J. Chamberlain asked what the contingency percentage was. Director Clough replied that it is 5% on the owner's side and the Construction Manager is also carrying 5%.

Moving on, Director Clough said that census at the Nursing Home was 130 and the Jail was 94 with 7 out on electronic monitoring and 20 in Drug Court.

The monthly variance report was reviewed.

Revenue: Many Departments are lagging behind which is usual at the beginning of the year.

Expense: Three Departments are over expended but should come back in line.

The prorated report was reviewed.

Rep. Ford moved to accept the Report of the Executive Director which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

Human Service Director Nancy Bishop had a request of the Executive Committee. She asked that \$11,150 was allowed to be removed from her Long Term Care budget line to be used to pay the balance of the cost of a generator that was purchased through a grant

for Horse Meadow Senior Center. The cap for Long Term Care had been reached and there is money available in that budget line.

The total cost of the generator with a propane tank amounted to \$36,250. The grant awarded to the County was \$17,700. Horse Meadow put in \$1400 and Cottage Hospital has funded \$6000. Horse Meadow acts as the temporary shelter for both the County Nursing Home and Cottage Hospital in the event that they lose power. The remaining balance for the generator is \$11,150.

Rep Gionet moved to approve using the extra money in the Long Term Care line in the HS budget to pay the balance of the generator which was seconded by Rep. Williams.

DISCUSSION:

Rep. Aguiar asked what the relationship is with Cottage Hospital and Director Clough said that Cottage and Grafton County have collaborated to share the Horse Meadow Senior Center space in the event of an emergency. Rep. Aguiar asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of the generator. Director Clough said that she believes that the County will assume ownership of the generator and will take on all the responsibilities. Rep. Aguiar said he would like to be sure and see that in writing so that they didn't have another issue like the water tower. Director Clough said she would make sure to have that.

When the vote came down, all were in favor.

Rep. Mulholland asked HSA Bishop if there was a report from the incentive meeting that was held last week. HSA Bishop replied that there was not at this time. Rep. Ford said that there were some complaints about the way the meeting went and noted that there was no information provided to committee members until a day or two before and there didn't seem to be anyone in charge of the meeting.

Rep. Mulholland said that she didn't see any excuses why information couldn't have been prepared for people well ahead of time.

Rep. Williams said that incentive funds should be brought back to the County to be dispersed.

Rep. Williams asked HSA Bishop how things were working out with all the changes that had been done with Human Services. She said that because of legislative decisions, the County has taken on the largest portion of HHS in long term care. Director Clough said that next year there will be an enormous increase since FMAP money will be gone. The committee thought that perhaps that needed to be discussed in Concord and that changes should be considered.

Rep. Mulholland informed the committee that Representative Ward had resigned from the Executive Committee as of August 13th so there will be an eight member committee through November. She also noted that both she and Rep. Laliberte made it through their primaries.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be October 18th at 9:00 AM.
Rep. Williams will not be able to attend.

There will be a tentatively scheduled full Delegation meeting on the 6th of December, after members are sworn in on December 1st, in Concord. The reorganization of the Executive Committee will take place on that day.

10:43 AM Rep. Williams moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar.
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk