

Belknap County Commissioners Meeting

February 20, 2008

Commissioners Conference Room

Commissioner Daigneault called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:00 AM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH.

Members present: Commissioner Daigneault, Chairman, Commissioner Christopher Boothby, Vice Chair, and Commissioner Richard Long, Clerk.

Attendees: Chris Rogers, Richard Grenier, Alan Robichaud, Marie Mora, Courtney Marshall, John Malm, and Nancy Cook.

Minutes of the Meeting

Christopher Rogers, Nursing Home Maintenance

Discussions on the Ozone Proposal: Christopher Rogers was back to share the references he received on the Ozone System proposal. He shared these letters of support with the board. See the proposal attached. The Nurses said they've seen less skin irritations and problems with residents since going to the Ozone in the Laundry. Commissioner Daigneault wanted Christopher to explain the Ozone system again since he was absent at the last meeting. Christopher said his plan is to pay for it with the savings generated in the utility budget lines. Those monies could be transferred over at the end of the year. Chris felt that it would be 14-15 months for return on investment – then we would really be saving money. Commissioner Boothby made a motion to purchase the Ozone System with service contract for \$23,495 (a one time purchase). Commissioner Long seconded. All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Richard Grenier, Superintendent Department of Corrections

Follow up on Genesis meeting and updates: Population in the building is 81, with 6 on the work release, and 2 on the bracelet program. The Superintendent discussed the e-mail received from Betsy Miller at NHAC reference three labor bill updates that she's currently following. 1. HB1127 which would enable the "governing body" (not the legislative body) to certify a bargaining unit of 3 to 10. 2. HB1436, which would enact a "mandatory evergreen (evergreen mandates spending after the term of the contract) clause" in state law and apply it to all contracts negotiated after the date of the new law. 3. HB1346 which would make "matters directly related to safety considerations" a term and condition of employment which is a matter subject to collective bargaining. Christopher wanted Rags to pass on his concerns to Betsy and then mail them to the delegation. Please pass on the word to commissioners and delegation members regarding the difficulties for each county (longer and more expensive bargaining sessions) and increased cost to the taxpayers due to the evergreen clause.

Superintendent Grenier needs a replacement for Harold Powell that took the job at the Court House – Rags would like to hire Clayton Lock on a part time basis at \$15.53 per hour for 12

hours per week. Then possibly hire another employee at 8 hours at \$15.53 per hour. Rags has approximately \$16,770 left in the budget from Harold. The Commissioners support this request.

The Department of Corrections has been sued in US District Court, Case number 08-cv-46-JL, Kenneth P. Saalfrank versus Town of Alton, New Hampshire et al. His attorney is Jeffrey Spear from Orr & Reno. Nancy has notified the insurance company – Ferdinando Insurance and St. Paul Travelers Insurance. The deductible is \$15,000.

A Corrections Officer has filed a grievance against the Jail for funeral leave for her great grandmother.

Letter from NHAC and Jail Superintendents to encourage county employees to participate in the NHAC. Ron White and Al Wright wrote the letter.

The sanding/salting issue around the complex was also discussed with the commissioners. A few problems with the Environmental Supervisor and having his people backup the plowing/sanding and salting at the home.

Also enclosed was an invite to a Substance Abuse Conference scheduled for November at the Grappone Center.

Alan Robichaud, Citizens Council

Updates and Discussions:

1. **March 4th Public Hearing Implications:** Al wanted to know what to expect at the March 4th public hearing? The board had no idea other than to be ready to defend his budget.

2. **Program Integration & Policy Summit with DHHS – Status Report:** Al and his council are still working on the proposal that was presented several months ago. Still looking at an entire juvenile justice system for Belknap County. Commissioner Christopher Boothby asked if the cost aspects would be different than before. He said that we are currently investing more than any other county in the state – that shows Belknap County’s commitment to juvenile in this county. Commissioner Daigneault said that there is no way he would consider putting Youth Services Center on the county taxpayers. We’re putting \$4.0 million into the Nursing Home now. Perspectives on Child Maltreatment, CHINS, and Juvenile Delinquency in Belknap County: A review of existing data and considerations for action planning. Fact 1: Since 2002, approximately 200 Belknap County children and youth have been court-ordered into out-of-home placement each year. Fact 2: Belknap County children most frequently placed in out-of-home care are those who have been neglected. Fact 3: Court-ordered placements of children into foster care, group homes, or the Youth Services Center are very expensive. A significant contributing factor is the 30% rise in the per diem rate for delinquency placements that occurred during 2005 and 2006. Fact 4: The average length of stay at the Sununu Youth Services Center for delinquent Belknap County youth increased in 2006 to the highest level since 2002. Fact 5: In the recent past, Belknap County has placed an average of 34 children/youth each year through CHINS petitions. The total costs for these CHINS placements are proportionally higher than abuse, neglect, or delinquency cases. Fact 6: These higher costs are exacerbated by ancillary expenses such as Guardian Ad Litem services, legal representation, and physical and other professional services, etc. in addition to the board and care expenses of placement. There was much discussion from the board.

3. HB1370 – Juvenile Justice Information Sharing – Status Report: Notion of sharing information between Belknap County. Bill went to committee, and now in subcommittee. Al feels it will pass (with minor changes to the confidentiality of the juvenile's name).

4. Convocation Report: Al provided the board with the results of the Convocation. He had 224 Registrants and 214 attendees. Total revenue received is \$4,956.98 and the expenses were \$6,004.06. Expenses over revenue were \$1,047.08. The Council only had to cover \$332.08 for the convocation. The commissioners were very please with this outcome.

5. Annual Report – 2007: Al provided a copy of his annual report to the board. It send via e-mail to Angela. A copy is attached.

6. Community Conversation About Our Youth: On Tuesday March 4th from 6:30 – 8pm at the Belmont MS Cafeteria. This is an opportunity for Belmont residents to talk together about the challenges of being a youth in today's culture and how to provide a supportive community environment for the town's youngest citizens.

Mr. Courtney Marshall – Nursing Home Administrator

Updates and Discussions: Courtney feels pretty confident that the state survey team will show up in early March. He feels they are ready and would just like to get it over with. The MOC survey done by Landmark was a good practice. He also feels that he can make huge strides in reducing our dependency on agency nursing. There is a process moving forward to eliminate the agencies altogether. Commissioners were very happy to hear this.

Courtney feels that the Dietary Manager should be a county employee. After meeting with a current employee at the home, Courtney thinks that this person is ready for the challenge and is already certified to fill this position. She's been with the county for 11 years. The Commissioners will support his decision in this area – they feel that stability is a big thing in the home and grooming from within.

Performance Evaluations were done on all employees last week. Also did a Medicaid rate snapshot dated March 31st for the August increase. It's critical that the MDS and Nursing department focus on these assessments in the coming months. Also has a financial impact.

Tuition Assistance Program: This will be reworked slightly. A survey is being done with the other counties to see what they do. Courtney supported Shelley Richardson to be the next candidate for the RN Tuition Assistance Program. Courtney will be meeting with Pat Watson to see what her intentions are.

John Malm – United Way Campaign and Photo for Press Release:

Wanted to thank the board for all their support with the United Way campaign. They reviewed the press release and photos were taken.

Nancy Cook and Marie Mora

Updates and Current Business: Marie and I want to discuss with the board a couple of issues with the board in reference to the payroll:

1. No Advance Payroll checks. Due to the new windows Budget Sense Finance software the Finance Department can no longer issue advance payroll checks. This has been an issue in the past and we would like the support of the board to make a motion that no further advance payroll checks will be issued. Commissioner Long made a motion based on Nancy's recommendation. Commissioner Boothby seconded. All in favor. **Motion carries.**

2. The Finance Department has been having a real issue of new employees on the payroll without receiving all the proper paperwork. Employees are not to start working until all necessary new hire paperwork is complete and furnished to the Finance Department. Vachon & Clukay also verify this information with the payroll clerk at the time of the annual yearly audit. This means W-4's, I-9, etc. Commissioner Long made a motion. Commissioner Boothby seconded is for discussion. All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Registry of Deeds: Thank you letter to Dick Ingram from Barbara Luther for all the hard work in his custodial duties in the Court House. It is much appreciated.

Human Services: Received a categorical update from Carol Schonfeld after paying the December 2007 State Bill. Looking at a \$104,565 surplus. Also provided to the board were some notes that Carol prepared for Judy Pilliod to explain HB2. They are attached.

Nursing Home: The following copies of information were provided to the board: 1. Letter signed by the Commissioners offering Courtney Marshall the NH Administrators position. 2. The flowchart of the Nursing Model instituted in the Nursing Home on 2/11/08. 3. A copy of the Pre-DPH Mock Survey performed by Landmark Health Solutions. The Team Leader was Lee Moore. 4. The latest Agency totals year-to-date (2/14/08) at \$24,771.80.

Gunstock: The County received an additional \$11,402.60 from Gunstock for additional income above the \$150,000 received in 2007.

Conservation – Jan Hooper's Retirement Party: There will be a retirement party for Jan Hooper on March 2, 2008 at Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant. The event is from 12:30 – 3:30.

Belknap County Economic Development Corporation: Their annual meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2008 at the Church Landing in Meredith. Please RSVP not later than March 13 to BCEDC. The keynote speaker this year is Russ Thibeault, Applied Economic Research.

New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC): Enclosed in the letter were the Court granted a motion to continue the merits on HB2. Belknap and Coos will cosponsor the annual conference held this year at the Mt Washington.

Change to the Family Medical Leave Act: There have been some changes to the FMLA reference Caregiver, Active Duty, and Intermittent Leave. Nancy's working on the counties policies and will incorporate this language into them.

March Dates: The Belknap County Commissioners approved the following dates for their meetings in March: Wednesday, March 4, at 5:00 pm. and Wednesday March 19th at 8:00 am. Just a reminder that the Public Hearing on the Budget is Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00 pm. There was also discussion on who would write the annual report for 2007. Angela will prepare up some notes and Dick Long will write the submission.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 10:20 am.

Nancy E. Cook, County Administrator
& Finance Officer

Attest: _____
Philip Daigneault, Chair

Christopher D. Boothby, Vice Chair

Richard W. Long, Clerk