

Belknap County Commissioners Meeting of May 6, 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 Philip Daigneault, Chairman; Commissioner Christopher Boothby, Vice Chairman and Commissioner Richard Long, Clerk.

Attendees: Alan Robichaud, Carol Schonfeld, Richard Grenier, and Angela Bovill.

Minutes of the Meeting

Alan Robichaud, Executive Director, Citizens Council

Policy Summit/Symposium: Al reminded the Commissioners of the meetings that he has been having with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other State officials on collaboration with services. There have been several meeting with the Commissioner and his Division Director leading up to the meeting date of June 5, 2008 for a policy summit for issues related to kids that are involved in the system. That has taken a different turn due to budget cuts and other diversions going on within he DHHS. There fore they will still convene members of local organizations (not state) and begin to frame the issues they want to discuss with the State in terms of the needs to simplify services. Commissioner Toumpas is still very interested in what we are doing in Belknap County and wants to see more of that kind of activity going on around the State. He is just not in a position to commit to sitting down at this point. The local organizations are still going to sit down and meet on June 5, 2008 for a symposium on integrated services delivery for children and families. This will take place at Meadow brook, Center Stage Café from 11:30 am – 4:30 pm. There was discussion. Alan invited the Commissioners to attend this event. Alan also told the Commissioners that he is trying to get \$1K to help pay to get this going.

Meeting with Commissioner Toumpas: The Council has a meeting on Friday morning, May 16, 2008 from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. Commissioner Nick Toumpas will be attending this council meeting and Alan wanted to know if the Commissioners would be able to attend. Commissioner Daigneault will attend. Alan also invited 4 new perspective council members to this meeting to observe and to see if they might be interested in becoming members of the council. They are always looking for new people.

House Bill (HB) 1370: This is the bill that was introduced through Alida Millham for the Juvenile Justice Information Sharing. There was a slight amendment made, but it is still in the works. It needs to go before the Senate floor.

Angela Bovill, Commissioners Administrative Assistant

County Attorney: There was a letter to the editor that County Attorney James Carroll wrote 5/5/08. The letter was praising law enforcement professionals for all of their timely and profession response to a tragedy that occurred on Rt. 11 claiming the lives of two young men.

Nursing Home: There was a copy of the article that appeared in the newspaper about the volunteer diner at the Nursing home. Commissioners Daigneault and Commissioner Long attended this dinner along with their wives. It was a very nice event.

Outside Agencies: Angela received a copy of a letter from Cybertron to let all of their clients know that they will be increasing their prices for service effective July 1, 2008. Angela does not believe it affects us because we are operating under a signed contract. Angela will ask Jon Rich to confirm, it probably will not affect the county other than if he is called out for services or items beyond the scope of the contract. Angela will get back to the Commissioners after she talks to Jon.

NHAC: In reference to co-hosting the annual conference at the Mount Washington Hotel, Commissioner Boothby stepped in and said that he was able to speak with Sue Collins at the NHAC meeting on Friday and let her know that we would not be able to co-host the event this year and thanked them for doing it. Angela also typed a letter to the Coos County Commissioners to thank them for doing so under the circumstances.

Letter from David "Skip" Murphy: Mr. Murphy sent a letter to all three Commissioners asking them to updates their website and to add minutes, notices and all pertinent information on the website. This will gain more openness in public government and make it convenient for all taxpayers to access this information. Commissioners concur that would be a good idea. Commissioner Boothby made the motion to post the Commissioners meeting minutes, meeting notice and budget on the Belknap County Website. Commissioner Long seconded for discussion purposes only. Commissioner Long questioned who puts their budget on line. This is something Commissioner Daigneault would like to put on a disc and send to the library to be accessible for anyone who wanted to review just as the City of Laconia does. This item will be tabled for discussion at the end of the meeting.

Carol Schonfeld, Human Services Administrator

Report on HB2 impact, (cap) and (MOA): Carol had submitted a memo dated 5/1/08 stating that based on discussions regarding the MOA draft dated 4/17/08, that her previous supplemental request for \$175,007 for INC an HCBC line items be stricken, as they would not be necessary. She also submitted a report, which indicated the amount budgeted for July 2008 thru December 2008 for those categories and the amount necessary based on our share of the CAP at 5.2% of 99M. The difference in budgeted vs. MOA was that we did not have a credit amount indicated when the budget was written and also that we would be processing a greater amount of the CAP in 2008 and the balance in calendar year 2009. The report also noted there is no mentioning of INC and HCBC recoveries at 100% and the indication that parental reimbursement would only be 5%.

On 5/5/08, she submitted a revised report as she now understood that the counties would be processing the bills by paying their share of the CAP based on twelve monthly bills with the first bill having the credit deducted.

Carol understood that we intended to monitor the billings as we had in the past to be sure that the clients being billed were in fact Belknap County residents so that when the term of the agreement ends, we would not have assumed clients that were not our responsibility. If this was the case, we would be paying bills as presented and as stated above, would be paying down more of the CAP in 2008. She indicated we would not be able to determine if the bill has injured us if we do not monitor.

Commissioner Boothby indicated that he went to the meeting with the thought process that it was better to monitor, but came away with a different perspective. The concept being that the CAP is there for a reason and the overall bill will be significantly higher. He indicated that Belknap County's payment is based (just like every other county in the State) on our historical percentage of the total amount. We are at 5.01%. So, we take our percentage of the \$98 million and divide it by 12 and pay over the course of the year. (1/12 each month). Commissioner Boothby says that it will save us money because we will save on TAN's and interest can carry over the bill. From a cash flow perspective, Commissioner Boothby believes this is the best scenario. This agreement (CAP) is good for 2008, 2009 and they are trying for 2010 also. Christopher says that it is a good deal. Commissioner Daigneault said that the whole idea behind auditing the bill was the State has made mistakes time and again saying this is our liability when it turns out that it is not, Commissioner Long concurred. There was discussion. Commissioner Boothby then made the motion for Belknap County to support in principal the Memo of Agreement (MOA) between the New Hampshire Counties and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), including the 12 equal monthly payments, according to the most updated version with a final vote to be contingent upon viewing the final document. Commissioner Long seconded. Commissioner Daigneault voted NO. Majority rules. **Motion carries.**

At the end of the meeting the Commissioners requested that Carol prepare new line item numbers for INC and HCBC based on the County making 12 monthly payments based on the CAP and forward them to the Commissioners by the end of this meeting so that they may adjust the budget total.

Richard Grenier, Superintendent of the Dept. of Corrections

Part time Nurse: The Superintendent informed the board that his part time nurse is quitting. She is going to work full time at the Nursing Home. The week that she leaves, the full time nurse, Donna Mc Queen will be on a scheduled vacation. The Superintendent wanted to give a heads up because he will probably have to use contract nursing over that week to cover shifts. That is no problem.

Farm program/hours worked: The Superintendent also felt that he needed to tell the Commissioners that Ed White, his former Lt. has been putting in a lot of hours to get the farm program up and running. The monies for his pay have been coming-out of the regular staff line item. The Superintendent said that money wise, he will be ok it is just more hours than the Superintendent intended, but he said that they will be all right.

Inmates/laundry item: The Superintendent said that inmates that work in the Nursing Home laundry have been running into some problems. There have been issues with the some staff that work with the inmates and their attitudes. There was discussion. The Superintendent met with Nursing Home personnel to address some of these issues. Commissioners reminded the Superintendent that laundry duty should be a privilege for inmates; they should not feel like it is a punishment. The Superintendent brought up a discussion about a furlough for inmates and the Commissioners said absolutely not. Commissioners think that the inmates should have positive

reinforcement for a job well done, but can not agree to a furlough. The Superintendent met with the New Dietary Manager at the Nursing Home and had a really nice meeting. In the future the Dietary Manager will plan to write policies for employees on how to treat inmates that work in the kitchen and also do some training.

Discussion Letter from David “Skip” Murphy continued: The Commissioners continued with their conversations on what to post on the County website. Commissioner Boothby then amended his motion to post the minutes of Commissioners meetings, the dates of Commissioners meetings and a disk with the County Budget at the Laconia Public Library for the public to view. Commissioner Long then seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Non-public session: Commissioner Boothby then made the motion to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91:A-3, paragraph II, (b). Commissioner Long seconded. Commissioner Daigneault took a polling of the Board. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** The board was in non-public session at 9:30 AM.

The board concluded non-public session by unanimous vote and was back in a public meeting at 10:15 AM. While in non-public session, no actions were taken and no decisions were made.

Angela went to get the copy of the changes in the Human Services budget so that the Commissioners may make the final numbers and vote on the 2008 Belknap County Budget. There were discussions. Commissioners calculated the changes into the budget.

Since this budget was produced, there have been things that materialized that have had changes. The budget was produced for March 6, 2008, it is basically the Commissioners budget, but what happened is that the supplemental pages that we mailed out were in addition to the Commissioners budget that were never voted on. There were also changes in the revenue that have taken place since the Commissioners budget and some items that the delegation had restored during sub committee hearings. Now we have to reduce the budget also as a result of the changes in the Memo Of Agreement between the State and the counties with HB2. There was discussion.

Commissioner Boothby then made the motion to accept the 2008 Belknap County budget in the amount of \$26,114,021, with the revenue in anticipation of taxes to be \$14,084,442 or a 6.59% over the 2007 County Budget and to direct the treasurer to recommend to the County Convention the borrowing of Tax Anticipation Notes (Tan’s) in the amount up to \$14,084,442. Commissioner Long seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** Commissioners will present this budget to the County Convention with request for their approval.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 10:55 AM.

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant

Attest: _____
Philip P. Daigneault, Chair

Christopher D. Boothby, Vice Chair

Richard W. Long, Clerk