

Belknap County Commissioners Meeting

November 19, 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.

In Attendance: Chairman Philip Daigneault, Vice Chairman Christopher Boothby, Clerk Richard Long, and Debra Shackett, County Administrator.

Minutes of the Meeting

Nursing Home

Skilled care & census: Courtney Marshall, Administrator reported on skilled care and the census. Skilled care is going well and the billing process is working. As of today, there are five skilled and two in the hospital that will come back as skilled. There are currently 92 beds full out of 94.

Bed hold rate: Administrator Marshall also informed the Commissioners that he received a letter that under Federal guidelines, the Medicaid rate cannot exceed the customary charge to our non government supported patients. Commissioners had voted at a previous meeting to set the bed hold rate at \$100 per day for up to 10 days. Currently the Medicaid rate is at \$148.18 per day and the private pay is \$230. This is where the customary charges cannot be lower than the Medicaid rate. Administrator Marshall recommended that we raise our rate to be in compliance with Medicaid. Commissioner Boothby then made the motion to have the bed hold rate be comparable to the Medicaid rate at the Belknap County Nursing Home. Commissioner Long seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** This will be effective as of today's date 11/19/08.

Debra Shackett, County Administrator

Citizen's council: A charter was brought before the board at previous Commissioners meeting and the Commissioners unanimously voted (9/24/08 meeting) to sign it. That was misplaced, so Ms. Shackett has requested that they sign a new one.

Approval of minutes: Commissioner Boothby made a motion to approve the 10/15/08, 10/29/08, 10/31/08, 11/05/08 and 11/05/08 non-public minutes. Commission Daigneault recuzed himself from the 10/29/08, 10/31/08 minutes. Commissioner Long seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Budgets: The Commissioners asked the County Administrator to meet with all department heads to determine what specific computer needs exist for next year and to report back by Friday, 11/21/08.

UNH Cooperative Extension: The Commissioners have been contacted by many different people and have given a lot of thought to the Extension Service in Belknap County. Commissioner Long said that UNH is more of a County function then compared to other agencies. Commissioner Long motioned to put the Belknap County UNH Cooperative Extension back in the 2009 budget for the amount requested. Commissioners Boothby seconded for discussion. Commissioner Boothby had met with UNH officials and is aware that there has been a contractual agreement between Coop and County Government for years. He would like to hear public input at the 11/20/08 public forum before a decision is made. Commissioner Long said the Cooperative Extension is a household name and there are vital necessities provided by the UNH Coop that are educational. Commissioner Long reiterated his motion to reinstate UNH Coop 100% back in the 2009 budget. They have a viable function of County Government in the educational process, involving people within the county and they provide a valuable service to residents. They are fiscally responsible and always turn in monies that are unexpended in their budget back to the County. Commissioner Daigneault seconded. **All three Commissioners concur and the motion passes unanimously to reinstate the UNH Cooperative Extension back in the 2009 budget.**

Lisa Morin, BCCD: Lisa Morin, Director of Belknap County Conservation District, notified the Commissioners that she sent out a bulk mailing requesting a show of support for reinstating funding for the Conservation District. She told the Commissioners that a lot of people will be at the public forum tomorrow evening in support of BCCD. Commissioners welcome the input.

Administrator Shackett asked if she could post the preliminary 2009 budget on the website. Commissioners concur.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:55 AM.

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant

Attest: _____
Philip P. Daigneault, Chairman

Christopher D. Boothby, Vice Chairman

Richard W. Long, Clerk