

Belknap County Commissioners Meeting of September 24, 2008 Commissioners Conference Room

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

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

Minutes of the Meeting

Alan Robichaud, Executive Director of Citizens Council on Children and Families

Organizational chart/Systems Change Initiative: Alan presented the Commissioners with a new organizational chart showing how the justice initiative relates to the council. This structure has no effect on the budget. Commissioner asked if there are any volunteers shown on the chart. Mr. Robichaud answered that all of the council members. Debra understood that it takes all these agencies and tries to get them toward more efficiently together to take better care of kids. Debra said that they are all out there doing their own things separately and if they can join efforts that would certainly be more efficient.

2009 Budget: Alan submitted his preliminary budget to Ms. Shackett. There are a number of initiatives underway using existing responsibilities and resources already in place. Commissioner Boothby reminded Alan that budgets should be submitted slim this year as the Commissioners are asking everyone to have more efficiency in how they do their work.

State and youth: Mr. Robichaud is concerned that that if the State does not pick up the youth and court diversions, that we need a system that serves the kids as a whole. Alan stated that if we don't invest in prevention than the taxpayers will be burdened by the cost. There were discussions. Commissioner Boothby needs to be able to justify a big chunk of money of juvenile justice services this year, next year, etc. that is tangible. Christopher said that Alan is doing all the right things but Commissioner Boothby is saying that he needs something more than that or he is not sure how much longer that County can fund what is a worthwhile project. Alan appreciates that but also stated that they have no control or authority of the non-profit sector that is providing these services to people. The Council has no authority to make anybody do anything. There is approx. \$230,000 in Alan's budget and Commissioner Boothby believes that more efficiency can be gained somewhere. Alan stated that ultimately that is true, but not in the time frame the Commissioner is saying. Commissioner Boothby said that he does not have the money anymore to pay for talk. He needs documented results for plans that are moving along quicker to justify a quarter of a million dollars (approx) when he is going to have to cut other services in the county to make up for the core of what we do which is to care for 100 Nursing Home residents. Commissioner Boothby also said that the Commissioners have talked to all departments/outside agencies about this, Citizens council is not the only one.

Evaluation: The council received 94 responses to the Councils survey of the Executive Directors performance and work in the community. Mr. Robichaud left this for the Commissioners to review.

Harold Powell, Maintenance Superintendent

Plow truck for county: Harold has three quotes for a new plow truck for the county. Banks Chevrolet is the lowest bid, but a minor amount. Harold says though, he does not want to have to travel there every time the truck needs services, etc. Harold says Cantins is local and can provide local service. The third one is from Irwin and the second lowest bid. It is down to a Chevy or a Ford. Whatever truck we buy, we will have to take the sander to the dealership and have the controls put on. Debra pointed out that there is no money in the budget. There was discussion. Commissioners said that the county needs to get thru with the current truck until December 31, 2008 and to purchase a plow for the existing truck to get us through this winter. The new truck has been tabled and should be requested in the 2009 budget. If it becomes an emergency to replace this truck then we will handle that situation if it arises.

Repairs to Courthouse: Conneston Construction Inc. will start the repairs at the courthouse on October 6th. It will take approximately 4-6 weeks and all employees have been notified.

Benches in the courtrooms: It has been brought to Harold's attention that some of the benches in the courtroom are broken beyond repair. These are dangerous. Harold recommended rearranging benches and budgeting for cycled repair of 6 or 7 chairs per year. This will be more efficient and a good solution. Commissioners concur.

Johnson controls: Harold is working with Johnson controls right now on a similar program like the 50/50 program the county did with PSNH. Harold believes that this is the way to go and he is working on a list of things that are needed in the county. For instance, the air handling systems, air conditioners, etc. There are twelve at the courthouse and one is huge. This year we have spent over \$4000 on repairs so far. This is one example. There was discussion. Harold and thinks that Commissioners should take a closer look at this. Debra asked the Commissioners if they were interested in having Johnson Controls come in. Debra said they have met with them and it is a very interesting and comprehensive program that the county can probably benefit. Commissioners would like to have them in to do a presentation.

James Carroll and Brenda Lonzo, County Attorney's Office

Request for transfer: Attorney Carroll told the Commissioners that he originally submitted a request for a \$15,000 transfer to the witness line item, which he now would like to revise down to \$5000. He went on to explain the reasoning behind this revision and witnesses in certain cases that his office has handled. There was discussion. Commissioner Boothby made the motion to authorize the transfer of \$5000 from 4110-0512 to 4110-0540 as requested by the County Attorney. Commissioner Long seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Richard Grenier, Superintendent of the Department of Corrections

Inmate population: 82 in house, 3 on work release and 3 on the monitoring system.

Farm Stand: The farm stand is done for the season. The Superintendent does not have a total tally yet, but so far they have donated over 1,312 lbs. of items donated to the Nursing Home, St. Vincent's and the Senior Center. It made \$4000 in revenue. Commissioners commended the Jail on a super job. This is great, the whole thing worked well for everyone.

Bracelet program: There is an estimated \$19,600 in savings YTD from the bracelet program. Work release, etc. will add to that savings.

Inmate Cook: Commissioners asked for an update on inmate Cook. There have been no problems with staff or inmates. There are currently 12 sentenced females in the jail. The thirty days are up on October 8 and she will be eligible for work release (at the discretion of the Superintendent). Eventually if all went according to the rules, she would be eligible for work release and then for the bracelet program, depending on behavior, etc an the proper time frames. This same for any and all inmates. Commissioner Boothby said that was not what he envisioned appropriate justice would be. Superintendent told Commissioners that is standard practice and he's concerned about treating inmates differently. That is the business of the Department of Corrections. Commissioner Daigneault understands where the Superintendent is coming from. Superintendent said that most of the inmates they have are sentenced felonies and he may an opinion about it, but he can't control it. There was discussion. Commissioner Daigneault said that this was a county employee and people on the outside might get upset if she is seen out on work release. We should remove her to prevent this conflict. The Superintendent said that if that happens, then have the Commissioners direct those complaints to him and he will handle. Commissioner Boothby and Commissioner Daigneault would like to see inmate Cook transferred to another County. Commissioner Long would like this decision to be at the discretion of the Superintendent in his professional capacity. It should be not different for inmate Cook then it is for any other inmate down there. Commissioner Long said that we need to allow the Superintendent to do his job and furthermore, we should not be inquiring about any inmates in the jail unless a situation is brought to the attention the Commissioners or the Superintendent makes a recommendation to the commissioners. Commissioner Boothby disagrees; he thinks it gives the appearance of a conflict. Belknap County should not have been involved in inmate Cooks incarceration at all. Commissioner Long thinks that he should let Mr. Grenier do his job. The Superintendent told the Commissioners that he does his job fairly and un-bias no matter who the inmate is it is no different for anyone inmate in the jail. All three Commissioners made their case and gave their opinions to the Superintendent.

Debra Shackett, County Administrator

Nursing Home: There was a letter from an employee at the Nursing Home to the Commissioners.

Outside agencies: Debra met with Economic Development Council this week to discuss their budget for 2009 and to discuss what loans they are currently involved in. Debra said it was a good discussion. Debra had invited them to find out what they do for the amount of money that they asked for in their budget every year. Economic Development has \$5 million in assets.

Copier Maintenance: Mac Durgin forward a service contract for the new photocopier in the Commissioners/Finance Office. Commissioners reviewed. Debra will sign the contract.

County car: It is broken down again and Debra asked the Commissioners if they wanted it repaired or auctioned off. This car is not used very often, certainly not used like it used to be. Commissioners want a report of past usage of the county car before they decide.

Citizen's council charter: Alan forwarded a charter, which he requested the Chairman sign on behalf of the Commissioners. This is in support of the council and there is no financial commitment involved. Commissioner Long supported having the chairman sign. Commissioner Daigneault seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Approval of minutes: Commissioner Long made the motion to approve the non-public minutes of the 08/27/08 and the 09/10/08 minutes as presented. Commissioner Daigneault seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** Commissioner Long then made the motion to approve the 08/27/08 and 09/10/08 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Daigneault seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

With no further business to come before the board Commissioner Long motioned, Commissioner Daigneault seconded to adjourn at 10:30. AM. Unanimous.

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant

Attest: _____
Philip P. Daigneault, Chairman

Christopher D. Boothby, Vice Chairman

Richard W. Long, Clerk