



## BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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# Minutes Belknap County Commissioners Meeting February 11, 2009

Commissioner Boothby called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 7:35 AM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and started with the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Chairman Christopher Boothby, Vice Chairman Edward Philpot Jr., and Debra Shackett, County Administrator. Clerk Richard Long was on a scheduled vacation.

**1. Incentive funds:** Ms. Shackett informed the Commissioners that she has information from Carol Schonfeld on how the incentive funds are administered. There are administrative rules from the State that dictate who will comprise the committee that gives out the incentive funds. There is approximately \$92-\$95 thousand that the Commissioners budgeted to receive this year. Ms. Shackett said that what we will actually receive is very much up in the air at this point given the State's budget situation. Members of the press asked: *What is the State's portion of how we receive those monies and where do they usually go?* Ms. Shackett will research and let them know.

**2. Leadership Lakes Region:** There was correspondence that was forwarded to the Commissioners for this event on March 11, 2009. Commissioner Boothby is committed to speaking to the group that day, and Commissioner Philpot will also try to be there. Commissioner Boothby thought he will focus the discussions on County Funding, where it comes from and where it goes. Then involve the audience in the discussions.

**3. Conservation District (Lisa Morin):** Ms. Morin spoke to the Commissioners for clarification on what kind of financials they are looking for from the Conservation District. Ms. Morin understood that the Commissioners are willing to give the Conservation financial support on a month by month basis while they go through the process of a full audit. Ms. Morin is working on this and wanted clarification. Commissioner Boothby stated that he wants a full audit of the Conservation District. In past years during the budget cycle, there have been challenges around knowing how the county funds were expended. This should help significantly in the financial accounting structure and financial controls for the Conservation District. Commissioners want Ms. Morin and her board to know that future funding is contingent upon this audit and that the Commissioners are more than willing to work with BCCD. They would like Ms. Morin to keep Ms. Shackett up to date on a regular basis with the progression of that audit. Ms. Morin thanked the Commissioners and will put be putting this out to bid.

**4. Update on Citizen Council (Andre Paquette, Alan Robichaud):** Mr. Paquette told the Commissioners that they are taking the first step towards unifying juvenile services to make them more cost effective and efficient. Over the last 5 weeks, they have met with the presiding justices in the Laconia family court, the supervising judge of the NH family courts and the presiding judge in the Franklin court. They have also met with numerous people including the regional support officer at DHHS, Laconia Prosecutor, YSB

Director, Judge Martin, Senators Sgambati and Reynolds, etc. They have also reorganized the RJJ advisory council to focus on reform of the juvenile system to make it unified. They have appointed a RJJ work group with some ex-officio members. Commissioners asked why Restorative Justice and Youth Services Bureau are not included. Mr. Paquette said they were invited. Commissioners said that they need to be treated as stake holders at the table. What Mr. Paquette said they are trying to do is to make the system as a whole as efficient as possible to maximize court orders. There was intense discussion. Commissioners stressed to Mr. Paquette that there needs to be more of a crisis mode, not a meeting mode and that they want someone to come to them real soon indicating how we can reorganize and streamline the juvenile services process in this county moving forward in order to convince the Commissioners to financially support these programs into the future. Mr. Paquette asked the Commissioners to be patient and to let them proceed. He is pleading with them to let them do their work. They will come up with a system and then begin discussions and ultimately court ordered service for juveniles. Mr. Paquette says that everyone is aware of the urgency and that all the best people are involved.

Mr. Robichaud told the Commissioners that they have been working on the Belknap County Service Integration Initiative (BCSII). Mr. Robichaud gave the Commissioners some documents that outline the goals of this initiative and timely frames that they are working within. There are five active Committees. There will be a meeting with Nicholas Toumpas, DHHS Commissioners next week to discuss the States need to support and invest in these types of programs. This is a work in progress. Mr. Robichaud said that if the Commissioners have any questions, that he would be happy to address them.

Around the issue of family triage and conversations that Mr. Robichaud had with Commissioner Philpot they convened with the United Way. There was a group of 25 people representing various agencies in Belknap County specifically to talk about what are we currently doing with family triage and what does that system need to look like.

Mr. Robichaud reported to the Board that he testified on HB 342. It is a legislative mechanism Mr. Robichaud testified in support of there being commission to study the juvenile court diversion law, but they also pitched the case on what they need from the State. Mr. Robichaud explained in detail. He will continue to testify. Mr. Paquette asked the Commissioners if they wanted them to continue moving forward with their work. Commissioners said yes, they would just like to be involved. Commissioner Philpot also indicated that he would be happy to call Jim Sawyer and have a conversation with him to help give his perception. (Mr. Paquette suggested this would be helpful to their cause)

**5. March meeting dates:** Wednesday March 11, 2009 at 7:30 AM and Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7:30 AM.

**6. Audit Engagement letters:** The Commissioners reviewed the two audit engagement letters from Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC. These letters have been reviewed by the Commissioners and they will sign them.

**7. Letter of resignation:** M/Philpot to accept the resignation of Human Services Administrator Carol Schonfeld with regret but also with great appreciation of the years of dedicated and faithful service that Ms. Schonfeld has provided to Belknap County for over 20 years. The Commissioners wish her all the best. S/Boothby. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** The current duties and roles of Ms. Schonfeld will be taken under advisement. Commissioners asked Ms. Shackett how this will impact her current duties with the increase of work. M/Philpot to ask Ms. Shackett to review and respond with her recommendations for a plan to the Commissioners. S/Boothby. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**8. Gavels in honor of Commissioner Edwin Chertok:** Commissioner Philpot has three gavels that were given to him by David and Freda Osman. Freda is the daughter of Edwin "Sonny" Chertok.

Commissioners are grateful to have these. Commissioner Philpot indicated he was speculating that these gavels were made right here in Laconia at Allen Rogers. Commissioner Boothby spoke of his great respect for “Sonny” for the years of services he provided to Belknap County. The reason there were three gavels was from what they used to refer to as “The Big Three”. This means the three Commissioners Edwin Chertok, Norman Marsh and Bradley Sprague. M/Philpot for the Commissioners to gratefully accept these gavels with their thanks to Freda and David Osman. S/Boothby. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** These gavels will be displayed in the commissioner’s office in honor of “The Big Three”.

**9. Approval of minutes:** M/Philpot to accept the regular minutes of 01/26/09, 01/28/09, 02/04/09. S/Boothby. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** M/Philpot to accept the non public minutes of 01/28/09 and 02/04/09. S/Boothby. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**10. Maintenance budget:** Ms. Shackett is requesting from the Commissioners permission to pull certain items in the other various maintenance budgets in the county and consolidate them in to the maintenance budget so that the Maintenance Director can manage them. Commissioners have no problem with that, but they would like to see the listing of these items.

**11. Energy savings study:** Ms. Shackett reported that Johnson Controls will be forwarding a report at the beginning of March with energy cost savings.

**12. Primex meetings:** The Commissioners and Ms. Shackett are trying to coordinate another strategic planning meeting. Commissioner Philpot will check his schedule and some dates will be proposed.

**13. Agenda:** Commissioner Philpot wants to propose an agenda which changes the format for future meetings. Commissioner Philpot explained what he was thinking. Commissioner Philpot gave this to Ms. Bovill to create so that we can start working with this new format.

**14. Insurance:** Commissioners asked Ms. Shackett if there were any updates from the Union regarding insurance. Commissioners want to know how we engage the union at this point in a process that they’re comfortable with that allows the county to make that transition. There have had several meetings, education sessions, etc. and now we need some follow up. Commissioners would like to hear the concerns from the Union representative, Ms. Anna-Marie Welch. Ms. Shackett will follow up.

**15. Refinancing a bond:** Ms. Shackett let the Commissioners know that the county has an opportunity to pursue refunding one of the county bonds (2.9 million bonds outstanding) at a much lower interest rate. The contact at First Southwestern, Bill Faziolli called to say it makes sense to do this. This would result in approximately \$235,000 in savings to the County. Commissioners concur and would like Ms. Shackett to pursue.

**16. Denise Beauchaine, Lakes Region Public Access TV:** Commissioners invited Ms. Beauchaine to the meeting to find out about having greater exposure of Belknap County Government business. Commissioners would like to have their meetings recorded and then played back. They would like to know what their options are. Ms. Beauchaine stated that if the county does not want initial outlay for equipment then it is a matter of contacting her office prior to a meeting and seeing if they have someone that can come to record it. They would need about 2 weeks’ notice and would provide a camera, microphone mounted on camera, and an operator. This would probably be a student. The second option is to hire a seasoned camera operator, Bob Daniels. Mr. Daniels has his own equipment and has been doing this for years. If the Commissioners would like to have some consistency and continuity, then this would be a good choice. The last option would be for LRPTV to loan out their gear to the county and they would train someone to operate it. Commissioners want to make sure that it leaves here with some

quality. Commissioners concur that they would like to utilize Mr. Daniels experience to do this for the County. Ms. Shackett will make arrangements.

**17. Non public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II, (c):** M/Philpot, S/Boothby. Commissioner Boothby polled the Board: Philpot/Y, and Boothby/Y. Commissioners were in a nonpublic session at 9:47 AM. Non public session concluded by unanimous vote at 10:14 AM. While in nonpublic session no actions were taken and no decisions were made.

**18. Adjourn:** M/Philpot, S/Boothby at 10:15 AM. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant