

Minutes  
Belknap County Commissioners Meeting  
January 28, 2009

Commissioner Philpot called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 7:43 AM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH.

In Attendance: Chairman Christopher Boothby (arrived at 7:50) Vice Chairman Edward Philpot Jr., Clerk Richard Long, and Debra Shackett, County Administrator.

**1. *Nursing home tail policy:*** Ms. Shackett informed the Commissioners that this item is now complete and the county is covered.

**2. *Primex Health Training seminars:*** Representatives from Primex have given numerous training sessions that are open to all Belknap County employees and their spouses, etc. Anyone who has insurance with the County. These have been very informative for the employees to ask questions and learn more about the coverage that Harvard Pilgrim provides.

**3. *Updates on budget sub committees:*** Ms. Shackett informed the Commissioners that the subcommittee meetings are all done with the exception of Citizens council who will formally meet again to take a vote on their recommendation.

**4. *Telephone system:*** Ms. Shackett inquired about Vonage. One down fall to this type of service is that if your electricity goes out, the phones and alarms that are on this system will not work. Ms. Shackett is obtaining more information on this item.

**5. *Website:*** Ms. Shackett showed the Commissioners our new home page and asked if they have had time to look at the new website. Commissioners thought it was better than it was but could still use some work.

**6. *Auditors:*** Ms. Shackett reminded the Commissioners that the auditors will be here the first week of February.

**7. *Historic county records:*** Ms. Shackett informed the Commissioners that all of the old books that are in our storage room will be moved down to the vault in the Courthouse to keep them protected and preserved.

**8. *Approval of 1/14/09 minutes:*** Respectfully request the approval of the public and non public minutes from the 1/14/09 Commissioners meeting. M/Long, S/Philpot to approve as presented. Unanimous.

**Motion carries.**

**9. *Gunstock Mountain Resort Management (Greg Goddard, Robert Durfee):*** There is legislation that is being proposed (House Bill 253) that the Gunstock Area Commissioners are seeking support from the Belknap County Commissioners on. The bill has been introduced by Rep. Pilliod and is co-sponsored by Reps. Bolster and Boyce and by Senator Sgambati. Mr. Durfee presented a memo outlining their request. Gunstock Commissioners have been engaged in strategic planning initiatives that they hope would include creating partnerships with private equity partners who may be willing to invest on improvements and expansion at the resort.

This is the first the Belknap County Commissioners have heard about the proposed change in legislation (HB 253). It aims at changing the laws that were established in 1959, chapter 399. This proposed change actually eliminates the Belknap County Commissioners from the process by relinquishing their power regarding the use of the real estate property of Gunstock. (Gunstock is owned by Belknap County but managed by Gunstock Commissioners) While the Belknap County Commissioners think Gunstock Area Commissioners are taking positive steps towards trying to expand the resort and think outside the box, they are adamantly opposed to being eliminated in the process. There were discussions.

Commissioners asked when the hearing for this legislation would take place. Mr. Goddard told them that it would be tomorrow (1/29/09) at 2:30 PM. Commissioner Philpot and Administrator Shackett will plan to attend and to testify against this proposal and to reincorporate Belknap County Commissioners role back into this legislation.

**10. Policy on grant writing (Sheriff Craig Wiggin):** The Sheriff told the board that monies from the Department of Justice will be available in the near future. Based on an audit that was performed last year on a grant in the Sheriff's department, certain requirements will need to be in place in order for the Sheriff to apply and receive those grant monies. Mainly, we must provide them a copy of written procedures that the County has in place for applying for grants. The Sheriff and Administrator Shackett have met to discuss. They will put together a set of procedures with respect to the administration and the implementation of any grants county wide. This will include all progress reports and financial reports. These would need to be approved by the Commissioners and apply to anyone in the county that participates in federal grants pursuant to the Department of Justice. Commissioners concur.

**11. Maintenance updates (Harold Powell):** Mr. Powell updated the Commissioners that a new plow was purchased for the dump truck along with a new sander. The Maintenance Department will get through the season with this truck (10 years old) and Mr. Powell will request a new truck in the 2010 budget as discussed.

Mr. Powell also told the Commissioners about the need for dry chemical fire extinguishers in the vaults at the courthouse. This will be included as a request in next year's budget.

Mr. Powell is working on developing a master list of needed repairs and capital improvements for the next 5 years countywide. In the meantime, Johnson controls has started their engineering study at the county. Whether we go with that when it is all done will be decided at a later date. He can use some of those findings with his report. This is an ongoing item. Commissioners asked when he might be done with that. Mr. Powell said 3-4 months. Commissioners told him to put a 3 month time frame on it and he or Administrator Shackett can update the board on the progress every 30 days. Mr. Powell has also met with his subcommittee and informed them that things were underway to develop a countywide plan so that they have it in mind for next year's budget.

Parking lot: Harold will be hiring a company to do core samples of the parking lot in the spring. We need to find out where the ledge is and analyze it.

**12. Non-public session:** Per RSA 91-A: 3, II, (c). M/Philpot, S/Long. Commissioner Boothby polled the Board: Long/Y, Philpot/Y, and Boothby/Y. Commissioners were in a nonpublic session at 8:52 AM. Non public session concluded by unanimous vote at 9:17 AM. While in nonpublic session no actions were taken and no decisions were made.

**13. Update on Juvenile status with Judge Willard Martin (Andre Paquette, Brian Loanes, and Alan Robichaud):** Judge Martin spoke to the board about how the state of NH is in financial turmoil. There will be no new money allocated in the state this year for anything. DHHS budget will have to do a

relocation of existing funds in order to help with such programs (i.e.: RJJ and BCCC). We need to encourage our Senators and delegation to work within the budget at Concord. No one knows how it will work out.

Judge Martin gave an over view on SB2 and court ordered juvenile services. Commissioner Boothby asked if he had met with Senator Reynolds and Sgambati to inquire about the State assuming the financial obligation of Restorative Juvenile Justice and the Citizens Council. Commissioners reiterated the plan for the Restorative Justice and Citizens Council programs that they allowed BCCC and RFF one year to allow for finding alternate methods of funding their organizations in the future vis-à-vis private, state, etc. Judge Martin felt like he was being taken to task and did not appreciate it. There was discussion. Judge Martin has met with Senator Sgambati and Reynolds to start to engage on how these services are valuable to our community. They had a very good discussion. Judge Martin spoke of how this needs to be about what everyone involved can do for their community and children.

The board feels that for some time there has been a lot of talk but no action. Judge Martin is trying to work with the State to pay for court ordered kids (I.e.; restorative justice). This is not something that will happen overnight and there needs to be key relationships between State, County and community. There were extensive discussions. This is an ongoing process and Commissioners thanked Bud Martin for his time and effort in this difficult task.

**14. Non public session:** Per RSA 91-A: 3, II, (a). M/Long, S/Philpot. Commissioner Boothby polled the Board: Long/Y, Philpot/Y, and Boothby/Y. Commissioners were in a nonpublic session at 10:13 AM. Non public session concluded by unanimous vote at 10:31 AM. While in nonpublic session no actions were taken and no decisions were made.

**15. Wage Compensation:** M/L to increase the compensation of the County Administrator & Finance Officer reflective of 1/1/09, the 5.2% COLA that every county employee received on January 1, 2009 and a 2.5% merit increase with a review at the one year anniversary date. In addition a performance evaluation will be completed after the meeting with Primex on 2/5/09. S/Philpot. Unanimous Motion carries.

**16. Adjourn:** Unanimous vote and meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Angela A. Bovill  
Administrative Assistant