



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Vice-Chairman
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Richard W. Long
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Minutes
Belknap County Commissioners Meeting
July 1, 2009

Commissioner Boothby called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 7:34 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 County Administrator, Debra Shackett.

Absent: Clerk, Richard W. Long due to a scheduled vacation.

1. Meeting minutes: M/Philpot, S/Boothby to approve the 6/17/09 minutes. Unanimous.

Motion carries. M/Philpot, S/Boothby to approve the 6/17/09 non public minutes. Unanimous.

Motion carries.

2. Cores Samples (Harold Powell, Maintenance Director): Mr. Powell has heard back from Rist Frost Shumway (RFS) regarding core samples in the parking lot at the County Complex. One important item in this process will be to find out if there is bedrock in the parking lot. RFS will dig three test pits. The money is in the budget and Mr. Powell respectfully requests that this be done right away. M/Philpot to accept the proposal from RFS and to start the engineering services for the parking lot assessment and proposed. S/ Boothby. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

3. Phone Service Proposals (Harold Powell): Belknap County currently has phone services provided by Fairpoint for local calling and PaeTec for long distance. Mr. Powell has obtained quotes from BayRing Communications and One Communications. Harold has also checked with other municipalities on their service and these two companies for feedback. Mr. Powell is recommending that the county switch from Fairpoint to BayRing Communications for our service provider at a savings of about \$20,000 per year. Commissioners asked about the contract. Ms. Shackett stated that it is a three-year contract to be signed. There was discussion. M/ Philpot, S/Boothby to accept the recommendation of the Maintenance Director regarding phone service and to transfer to BayRing and that this is for every facility in the county. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

4. Updates and part time nurse at the Jail, Richard Grenier, and Superintendent: Mr. Grenier reported that there are 81 inmates in the building. Some inmates are out on work release and

some on the bracelet program. Superintendent Grenier also reported that the bracelet program is still working great. The most current population consists heavily of pre-trial inmates. The Superintendent ran an ad in the newspaper to hire a part time nurse. He received two applications. One was very good. Mr. Grenier also met with Nursing Home management to find out possibilities of a nurse helping out at the jail. Superintendent wanted to keep the Commissioners informed.

5. Regional FEMA Board: Ms. Shackett told the Commissioners that she was made a member of the FEMA Board and attended her first meeting. This is relative to grant money for emergency food and shelter programs. Ms. Shackett stated that the County is not a recipient or a conduit of these funds.

6. BCEDC: Ms. Shackett informed the board that she will be meeting with members of the Economic Development Council this coming Thursday regarding retirement at 10:30 AM.

7. BCCD: Ms. Shackett received a status report regarding the Conservation Districts audit. The field work has been completed and Mr. Morin is trying to meet with the auditors to tie up loose ends. Ms. Shackett requests permission to release their 3rd quarter check. Commissioners approve. Commissioners will want to see what the auditors recommendations are once they become available.

8. Incentive Funds: Ms. Shackett expressed to the Board that the State of NH has put a "new twist" on things. The State will administer funds and will not require a panel (they intended to distribute the funds in the same way as last year...although already reduced proportionally). Commissioners wanted to make sure they understood, that they are saying that the county does not need to participate, that the State will determine local needs. Commissioner Boothby placed a call to John Harrington at the State (in charge of funds). Mr. Harrington stated that there was 35% less funds this year. They are taking all 2008 funded programs and will look at all of them. From there, they will pro-rate and factor in decrease to determine each programs dollar amount. Commissioners want input in this process, we are facing a real cost shift in Juvenile Services and wondered if there was any room there for flexibility. Commissioner Philpot asked what happens if the agency (from 2008) no longer exists, there are a lot of unanswered questions. Who will provide clarification on these entities? The county is trying to merge a few of the recipients from past incentive funds. Commissioner Boothby asked about the anticipated time frame for distribution of funds. There was discussion. Commissioners want it out in the record that they would like to see Brian Loanes Program highlighted in this whole process and that is where they would like the funds to go. Mr. Harrington said that he would request information from all County Administrators.

9. New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS): Ms. Shackett is requesting permission to reclassify 2 positions to part time (less than 35 hours/weekly). The positions are the Restorative Justice Director and the Court Diversion Counselor. There was discussion. There is one other position in question. Ms. Shackett has been working with the NHRS for all 3 positions to determine the best process. Commissioners want Ms. Shackett's recommendation before they act. They want it based on the position, not the person filling the position. They want to know

what the effect of this recommendation will have on the programs. Ms. Shackett will come back to the Commissioners with a report.

10. FMAP: Ms. Shackett updated the Commissioners that we received \$303,292 (it is a reimbursement for long term care and HCBC) in FMAP money. Ms. Shackett also told the Commissioners that there is a possibility that there may be deficits in those two line items thru to the end of the year. If that ends up being the case, we may need to obtain a supplemental appropriation. Ms. Shackett is in contact with DRA to work on this matter. The next quarterly reimbursement is expected at the end of September.

11. Proshare: Belknap County received \$545,000 nursing home revenue. Additional MQIP payment is expected today for \$153,000. Approximately \$200,000 of this is unanticipated revenue, which will help reduce the nursing home tax burden.

12. Human Services budget: Ms. Shackett informed the Commissioners that the May payment of the State bill put us over the CAP. Commissioners would like Ms. Shackett to report back at the next meeting how much time it actually takes to analyze the State bill.

13. Cash flow: Ms. Shackett reported that the County should not need to borrow money until September. Commissioners discussed the desire to bill the towns/city twice a year.

14. Laconia Federal Building: This has been designated as surplus property by the Federal Government. Commissioners would like to take a closer look at this.

15. Flag raising Ceremony at Belknap Mill: Commissioners are invited to attend and participate in flag raising ceremony on the fourth of July at 8:30 AM. Commissioner Philpot will plan to attend.

16. Final PolEcon report: Commissioners thought this was an excellent report. They instructed Ms. Shackett to distribute it to everyone and have it posted on the website.

17. Public comment: Commissioner Boothby asked for public comment. There was none.

18. Adjourn; M/Philpot, S/Boothby to adjourn at 8:53 AM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Admin. Assistant