



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
34 County Drive
Laconia, NH 03246
Phone (603) 527-5400
Fax (603) 527-5409

Christopher D. Boothby
Chairman
Meredith

Edward D. Philpot Jr.
Vice-Chairman
Laconia

Richard W. Long
Clerk
Belmont

Minutes
Belknap County Commissioners Meeting
March 25, 2009

Commissioner Boothby called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 9:00 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., Clerk Richard Long, and Debra Shackett, County Administrator.

1. Public hearing for CDBG (Gerald Coogan and Dana Nute): Commissioner Boothby opened the public hearing on the 2007 CDBG Flood Grant Relief Project at 9:14 AM. This is a required public hearing as part of the flood recovery program that the County supported and applied for back in June 2007. Mr. Coogan thanked the Commissioners for applying and sponsoring this grant. The grant totaled \$225,268. The money was available for residents in Belknap County and Merrimack County. \$200,000 was for residential rehabilitation and \$25,268 was for administration. To date, 12 household have been served. Commissioners asked Mr. Coogan if Belknap County has received any funds for sponsoring the CDBG. He said that there could be administrative cost, etc that the county could recoup for their direct cost. None have been paid to date. Mr. Coogan will get with Ms. Shackett on this item.

Mr. Coogan said that they project to expend \$43,000 through 6/30/09. Commissioner Boothby asked if that meant those funds that are left are still available for Belknap County residents. Mr. Coogan stated that in order for a person to qualify they would have to be a very low or a low income person. There are specific requirements. Mr. Nute explained in greater details. Commissioner Boothby asked how they made residents aware that they could qualify for these funds. They stated most went through the CAP (Community Action Programs) network. Commissioners asked if there were advertisements or public notices, etc. Commissioners would like copies of those notices and where they were posted. Commissioners were interested in finding out how people outside of the CAP network would have found about monies being available to them? What was the public education campaign? It should not just be for folks inside the CAP system. If everybody qualifies, then we may be missing a portion of our community by not getting the word out. Commissioners asked how many people from Belknap County received funds. Mr. Coogan said one household in Barnstead.

Commissioners stated that we are the sponsoring agency of \$225,268 and only 9% of the total has been used in Belknap County. Commissioners wonder about the intensity of the efforts to ensure that Belknap County residents were made aware of these funds and if they qualified. Commissioners want a good plan coming back to them for how they are going to advertise between now and the 6/30/09 deadline that there are still \$34,000 funds available for people to

try to obtain. There are 8 weeks remaining and Commissioners want to make sure that all Belknap County residents know. Mr. Coogan said that he would have a plan back to the Commissioners by 4/3/09.

Commissioner Boothby asked for public comment twice. There was none. The public hearing was adjourned at 9:27 AM.

2. Approval of minutes: M/Philpot, S/Long to approve the 3/11/09 non public minutes. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** M/Philpot, S/Long to approve the 3/12/09 Commissioners meeting minutes. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

3. Strategic planning: Ms. Shackett asked the Commissioners to mark their calendars with the 5/7/09 date as the next strategic planning session with Primex representatives.

4. PolEcon Research, Brian Gottlob report: Commissioners are trying to quantify the potential impact of HB2 and have asked Brian Gottlob to write up a proposal to provide them with information that would quantify the financial impact of HB2 moving forward. Commissioner Boothby explained in greater detail and opened up for discussion. Commissioner Philpot thinks it is an economic efficiency in asking Mr. Gottlob to break down the numbers by county and supports the retention of Mr. Gottlob to review the county specific report. That is a great tool for the Commissioners looking at County services moving forward. Commissioner Long thinks that it would provide us with a good substance and valuable information. It would be great if it could be made more user friendly for the average tax payer. Data would be well received in a graphic and power point format. Commissioner Boothby brought a late addition to the proposal if the Commissioners are amenable to it. Commissioner Boothby asked him to look at the Towns specific impact of HB2, not just county wide. When the Commissioners talk to the towns, it will be important to have that breakdown available to them. It would cost another \$500. This is a great segway in moving forward and meeting with Towns. There was discussion. M/Philpot to accept the Brian Gottlob report for services as amended not to exceed \$3,700. S/Long. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

4. Adjourn: M/Philpot, S/Long to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 AM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant