



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Richard W. Long
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Minutes
Belknap County Commissioners Meeting
May 6, 2009

Commissioner Boothby called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 7:30 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 County Administrator, Debra Shackett.

1. Approval of Minutes: M/Philpot, S/Long to approve the 4/13/09 non public minutes. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** M/Philpot, S/Long to approve the 4/13/09 minutes. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** M/Philpot, S/Long to approve the 4/22/09 minutes. Philpot/Y, Long/Y, Boothby abstained from vote because he was absent. **Motion carries.**

2. Alida Millham, Chair and Liz Merry of the County Convention: Chair Millham and Ms. Merry came to the Commissioners meeting today to discuss their (County Convention) efforts to collaborate with Commissioners in reaching out to the towns and city in Belknap County. They want to be on the same page as far as expectations, values of services, etc at the county level and then they plan to attend a meeting of the select boards/counsel in every town and the city in June. Ms. Merry also asked about advertising the meetings and then keeping notes from each meeting for discussions at a follow up meeting. Commissioner Boothby volunteered to put together a draft format of a public awareness plan. There also needs to be a posting of where and when all of the meetings will take place once complete. Commissioners and County Convention will make this announcement together. There was also the discussion that there should be a format for the presentations to the towns/city. There should not be a lot of presentation talking, but rather more time for input from select boards to county representatives and that relationship. Then, questions at the very end. Chair Millham stated that she would try to make the effort to make it to every single presentation to have a consistent presence. In addition, it would be a good idea to have a one page questionnaire (like a survey) on the presentation, to gather input from the audience. That would provide crucial information moving forward.

Commissioner Philpot stated that this is the time to start opening new doors and leave the past in the past. To make a fresh start heading into the budget process jointly, this should make for a more unified, effective process as a whole. Ms. Millham will be briefing the full County Convention at their 5/11/09 7:00 PM meeting.

3. Motorcycle pad: There was discussion around this being installed by one of the entrances at the Nursing Home. Inmates had already started work on this. Commissioners said it would make better use if we were to find room in the parking lot that we can utilize from our existing resources, and in the future, approval should be sought before work is to begin on such projects.

4. County Attorney request for authority: Attorney Carroll presented the Commissioners with a proposal for temporary help in his office during the time that his two assistant county attorneys are on leave. M/Philpot, S/Long to approve as presented. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

5. Committee reports: Commissioners gave any updates that they had on their respective outside agencies. There was nothing that required action.

6. Non public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II, (a): M/Long, S/Philpot. Commissioner Philpot polled the Board: Philpot/Y, and Long/Y. Commissioners were in a nonpublic session at 8:10 AM.

Non public session was concluded by a unanimous vote at 8:50 AM. M/Philpot, S/Long to seal the non public minutes from today for 6 months. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

7. Lakes Region United Way (Randy Eifert, Jack Terrell and John Malm): The United way representatives came to the Commissioners to engage in discussions around currently funded programs and what role the United Way might play in ensuring a continuation of their services without undue burden on the county. United Way is willing to do their due diligence with the outside agencies to see if there is some common ground to plan and build upon. Then, at some point, they would like to come back the Commissioners with a proposal. They first wanted to get the Commissioners permission to do so. Commissioners told them that they could talk to whomever they want. Commissioner Boothby was glad that they came and asked first. United Way is trying to change the way they also do business given the nature of the times. If various outside agencies can be condensed with other agencies in our Belknap County Communities, everyone could benefit by not losing those important services while consolidating funding. With the economic changes that are taking place, we all need to come up with new solutions to old problems, collaboratively. United Way came to the Commissioners today with the purpose of getting the word out publically for the first time that they want to be at the table and be part of the discussions and solutions. To collaborate in these economic times and to be a part of the transition period of education, health and well being of our residents.

8. BYRNE/JAG Grant approval (Sheriff Craig Wiggin): The Sheriff told the Commissioners that he had all of the MOU's that were signed by the Chiefs for the grant. Commissioner Boothby wanted to know if those monies could be used for Restorative Juvenile Justice. The Sheriff indicated that is not what the Sheriff's Department and the towns in Belknap County have applied for, but rather for equipment, etc that could be obtained thru this stimulus that otherwise, would not be possible. The Sheriff said if you do that, what is in it for us? Commissioners want to revisit what the funds are ear marked for, but do not want to hold up the process of receiving these stimulus monies. Commissioner Philpot wanted to make sure that we are submitting the application correctly, etc. It is a procedural issue. Commissioner Philpot also wanted to ensure that of the \$35,000 that Belknap County Sheriff's Department is receiving, that our administrative costs are covered first, then the rest of the monies left can be spent on the

equipment that the Sheriff has proposed. There were discussions. Commissioners said that we should submit the grant as it is now, and if decided that we needed to amend in the future, we could do through the Department of Justice. The grant administration is for a multi-district grant that the Sheriff's department will administer. M/Philpot, S/Long to submit the application and support the grant based on the Sheriff's recommendation so that we may obtain the grant in the required time frame. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

9. Adjourn: M/Philpot, S/Long to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 AM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant