



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Christopher D. Boothby
Chairman
Meredith

Edward D. Philpot Jr.
Vice-Chairman
Laconia

Richard W. Long
Clerk
Belmont

Minutes
Belknap County Commissioners Meeting
June 16, 2010

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. arrived during the approval of the minutes, Clerk, Richard W. Long, County Administrator, Debra Shackett, Human Resource Director Norman O'Neil, Superintendent Daniel Ward, Sheriff Craig Wiggin.

Code of Conduct

Commissioner Long indicated he felt the code of conduct was very good, that if it was in their folder then it was enough. He indicated he did not feel it needed formal adoption. Commissioner Boothby asked for a motion – there was none made. Commissioner Philpot was arriving and not yet seated so the other two Commissioners' went on to the minutes until Commissioner Philpot was seated.

Discussion resumed with Commissioner Philpot present following approval of the minutes. Commissioner Boothby felt it was a good Code given they would not know who would be in the Commissioners seats.

M/Philpot, S/Boothby to approve. **Motion carries.** Commissioner Boothby & Commissioner Philpot in favor. Commissioner Long is opposed.

County Administrator Shackett noted the Code was intended as guidelines, nothing was punitive and it would be helpful for staff.

Approval of minutes:

5/19/10 non public, M/ Long, S/Boothby approved, Long & Boothby in favor, Philpot not present. 6/2/10 non public, M/ Long, S/Boothby, Commissioner Philpot arrived & minutes were approved, all three Commissioners' in favor. **Motion carries.**

Administrators Report – County Administrator, Debra Shackett

Courthouse Lease – The Courthouse leased was presented & signed.

Department Head Meeting – Several new policies were reviewed including those in handbook, Temporary Alternate Duty & Purchasing.

New Web site – is up and running. We hope to be able to provide video of Commissioners' meetings in the future. Commissioner Philpot noted it looked good.

Technology Committee met this week & heard a presentation from an outside vendor relative to their services. The Committee will hear from several others; develop and issue an RFP for Technology services and make a recommendation to the Commissioners'.

Facility Analysis – County Administrator Shackett & Commissioner Philpot met with the Architect last week to review preliminary drawings of the County facility; the Courthouse drafts are not yet ready. Commissioner Philpot noted the preliminary information shows good ideas coming forward for the long term as well as interim actions on how we can be more efficient & effective in the areas of energy, administration, safety & generally how to better utilize our space. Both Administrator Shackett & Commissioner Philpot noted department heads brought forward many good ideas about better ways to get the business of the County done.

Sheriff Craig Wiggin was present to discuss the following:

Authorization for the homeland security grant – Sheriff Wiggin explained his office had some challenges communicating with other jurisdictions and officers east of route 11-A. The problem was essentially Mt Major being in the way and the other 4 different locations did not provide the coverage needed to communicate effectively on the law enforcement channels approved by the FCC. The solution proposed is to put a redundant repeater on Mt. Prospect which is currently a receive only location. The department has been granted authority to proceed through the FCC provided the project is done by mid August. The project qualifies for 100% funding under the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP). The Sheriff indicates he has obtained 2 quotes from 2 providers in the area, Lily Pond Communication Service, Inc. and Ossipee Mountain Electronics; that given apples to apples comparison, Lily Pond presents the best price; Ossipee Mountain would be about \$600 higher. If the grant application is approved then the Sheriff will move forward.

Commissioner Boothby asks if the grant application is placed on the table until next meeting to allow for public comment would it be too late. The Sheriff responded it would not.

The grant will be posted on the website to allow for public review with further action postponed until next meeting.

Motorcycle Week – Sheriff Wiggin & Superintendent Daniel Ward discussed the progression of Bike week. Generally it has been uneventful to date with crowds acting well behaved. The

Sheriff expects activity to pick up given events such as Hill Climb at Gunstock and warmer weather predicted.

Superintendent Ward indicated they were moving some inmates to other locations in 3 other Counties in anticipation of increased activity and demand for services. He provided some general statistical data and will provide a full report following the conclusion of Motorcycle Week.

Commissioner Boothby noted a minor child of one of his employees was interested in learning more about the Sheriff's Office. He will provide her name to Sheriff Wiggin for a tour of the department at some other time.

Commissioners were invited to a tour of the Weirs on Saturday PM. Commissioner Boothby is unable to attend. The other Commissioners will meet at 8 PM on Saturday at Sheriff's Office for a tour in the Sheriff's vehicle.

County Conversations - 2010

County conversations are scheduled for all but Meredith. Potential issues for discussion include the Nursing Home. Discussion followed regarding the Nursing Home presentation from last month. Commissioner Boothby heard from a resident of Peterborough concerned about the sale of the Nursing Home. Administrator Shackett had one family member of a resident contact her expressing concern. Commissioner Long noted he heard from one individual who expressed concern as well. Commissioner Philpot noted that when Commissioners' are approached with an idea to save 3.5 million dollars they have an obligation and it is their job to listen. Commissioner Boothby noted it was good for the public & staff to understand & hopefully it will further discussion and he would be interested to hear what town officials have to say.

Additional topics for discussion include regionalization, what has happened since last year, what questions do they have, what is happening with cooperative purchasing group, discuss potential for shared juvenile officer at County level, Ladder Truck, Community Corrections.

Calendar Items:

June 30, 2010 Commissioners meeting at 7:30 AM

Commissioners Committee Reports

Commissioner Boothby: Wished candidates running for his Commissioner's seat good luck.

Commissioner Philpot: Nothing new to report.

Commissioner Long: Nothing new to report.

Public comment: Commissioner Boothby asked for public comment. Sun Reporter Gayle Ober, asked for an update on how the grant was being spent. The Sheriff indicated he would provide the latest quarterly report.

Superintendent Ward briefed the Commissioners on information he had obtained from a recent Corrections Affiliate meeting that indicated beds were being eliminated at the NH Hospital for those with mental health needs; that they would no longer accept detainees for IER which means they would go to the County Correctional Facilities to wait in line for up to 72 hours. These individuals would generally be brought to the facilities because they represented a danger to themselves or to others and the County will now be responsible for providing supervision, medical needs, evaluation etc. This results in costs being shifted from the State to County tax payers.

Commissioner Philpot noted this issue screams for a comprehensive approach with other stakeholders being involved to develop more efficient and economical approaches.

There being no further business the Commissioner Philpot moved to adjourn, S/Long. **Motion carries.** Meeting adjourned at 8:47 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman C. O'Neil, Human Resource Director