



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

Edward D. Philpot, Jr.
Chairman
Laconia

John H. Thomas
Vice-Chairman
Belmont

Stephen H. Nedeau
Clerk
Meredith

Commissioners Meeting Minutes March 23, 2011

Commissioner Philpot called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 5:36 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and started with the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Commissioners Edward D. Philpot Jr., John H. Thomas, Stephen H. Nedeau and County Administrator, Debra Shackett.

Approval of the meeting minutes: M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to approve the 2/23/11 non public minutes and the 2/23/11 regular meeting minutes. Unanimous approval. **Motion carries.**

Project ADAPT Grant, Superintendent Ward: Superintendent Ward spoke about what an excellent program this is and that it also helps to cut down on re-offenders coming back to the jail. Commissioner Philpot asked if this grant has been in place before. Answer: Yes. Commissioner Nedeau asked if any direct county funds will be needed. Answer: No. The monies go in and out. There is no match, just an in kind match, meaning no dollars, but a portion goes towards the Directors salary. It covers the portion of payroll costs the county would have paid anyway. Commissioner Thomas asked how long this grant has been utilized. Answer: Since 2004 it has been utilized in the jail. Commissioner Philpot stated that the Grant has been available on the website for public to review. Commissioner Philpot then asked if there were any public questions or comments on the grant. Reporter Ober asked how much it was for. Answer: \$63,195. Administrator Shackett updated the Commissioners that the county has complied with the terms and conditions of this grant. M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to authorize approval and signature for the ADAPT grant application for \$63,195. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Department update from Superintendent Ward: Superintendent Ward told the Commissioners that the population has decreased in recent months. The gym is now being used for recreational activities again. In the 1st quarter of 2011, 311 inmates have been processed thru. That averages about 100 inmates in and out each month. The top offenses that they are seeing revolve around drugs and alcohol. Part of the reason for this decrease is alternative solutions. A lot of the work release inmates are doing projects in the community. The farming program, if the budget passes ok, the intent is to triple the space used for the garden this year and utilize running the green houses longer for more fresh produce in the Nursing home, etc. There is also mention of

growing flowers in the garden for the grounds this year. Commissioner Nedeau pointed out the thank you letter from the Town of Sanbornton for the painting, brush clearing and maintenance work that the inmates have done. This has worked out great! Commissioner Philpot also mentioned that he read the Town of Gilford is assuming responsibility for maintaining their cemeteries and that Supt. Ward might want to consider reaching out to them and partner on this. Commissioner Philpot asked the public if there were any questions or comments on this update. There were none.

Update on law enforcement services for Barnstead: Sheriff Wiggin accompanied by Chief Kenneth Borgia briefed the Commissioners on the progress thus far. The Sheriff did a formal presentation to the Town of Barnstead last night on consolidating law enforcement services for Barnstead. The Sheriff said that there was no opposition expressed. The Town, police and elected officials that have been involved are all in favor and the Sheriff stated that they have been great to work with. The Sheriff met with Attorney Fitzgerald and is collectively headed in the right direction. Tonight, they came to the Commissioners for an open dialogue. The current police station would be used as a substation to be available for non violent warrants, investigations, office space for deputies, interviews, etc. Also, to take care of civil process in that area. Personnel wise, the Sheriff discussed adding 4 FT deputies (from current Barnstead PD) and assigning them to the Town of Barnstead. Not only does this benefit by no one losing their job, but the Town benefits by keeping the same familiar faces thru the transition. The Sheriff stated that Chief Borgia has been very helpful and supportive and that this has been a great process to go through for all. Commissioners complimented Chief Borgia for putting what's best for the community forward versus any personnel agenda, etc. It is very professional and to be commended. Discussion ensued around equipments, space, uniforms, etc. The sheriff gave the commissioners a consolidation plan with estimate costs and budget analysis. Selectmen LaRoche and Grillo from Barnstead also spoke to the Commissioners and are excited about this and would like to move forward as soon as they can. The Select board just needs to find out about legalities so that they are sure it is ok to move forward. In this economy, consolidation is the name of the game and the Board of Commissioners commended that the Town of Barnstead stands out with providing services, consolidating and still keeping quality of services, they are cutting edge and are to be commended for their thinking and actions. Commissioner Philpot asked for questions or comments. There were none.

Revision to personnel policy: Mr. O'Neil is recommending that the Commissioners approve the change as presented. Mr. O'Neil explained that when the personnel policy was completed in May 2010, sick pay pay out and vacation pay pay out for non union employees was not included. It is the same long standing policy that the county has had for years; we just want it included so that it covers non union employees (unions have it in their CBA's). It was simply an oversight in the document. M/Nedeau, S/Thomas to accept the recommendation as presented. Unanimous.
Motion carries.

Commissioners' committee reports: Commissioner Thomas stated that he would attend Economic Developments regular monthly meeting on 3/29/11 and also their annual meeting on 3/31/11 at 4:00 PM. Commissioner Nedeau said that he will be attending the airport authority meeting on 3/24/11. Commissioner Philpot will attend the conservation District monthly meeting on 4/7/11 at 5:00 PM.

Public comment: Commissioner Philpot asked if there was any public comment: Reporter Gail Ober, Laconia Daily sun asked if the Commissioners will recommend as to where the \$224,000 will be cut from the 2011 budget. Commissioner Philpot stated that the Delegation has not asked them for any input as to where it would come from at this point.

Non-public session: M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to enter into non public session pursuant to RSA 91-A; 3, II, (a). Commissioner Philpot took a poll of the board. Philpot-Y, Thomas-Y, Nedeau -Y. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** Commissioners were in nonpublic session at 6:25 PM.

Non public session concluded at 6:33 PM and the Board was back in a public meeting.

Adjourn: M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to adjourn at 6:33 PM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant