



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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John H. Thomas
Vice-Chairman
Belmont

Stephen H. Nedeau
Clerk
Meredith

Commissioners Meeting Minutes April 20, 2011

Commissioner Philpot called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 5:30 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.

Calendar items: Next Commissioners meetings are scheduled for May 4th and May 18th at 5:30 PM.

Approval of the meeting minutes: M/Nedeau, S/Thomas to approve the 04/06/11 minutes and the 4/13/11 work session minutes. Unanimous approval. **Motion carries.**

Project update: Administrator Shackett provided the Board with a spreadsheet of planned projects and an update on the status.

Community Corrections status: Administrator Shackett and Superintendent Ward are working together. The Superintendent prepared a list of consultants. Commissioners discussed wanting to go on a tour of Strafford County again (like the previous board). All three Commissioners think this is a great idea and Administrator Shackett will set this up.

Sidewalk: Administrator Shackett asked for clarification on the decision of the sidewalk here at the county complex. Commissioners would like the current sidewalk repaired (the one from co-op past sheriffs) and foresee a sidewalk on the side of the roadway in the future. Commissioners want to fix the existing walkway and direct all employees to use it! Send a clear message that this is the walkway that employees are expected to use instead walking down the middle of the road. Commissioner Nedeau wants to have a sidewalk by the road. Commissioners decided to fix the existing side walk, let's fix it now and fix it right, and eventually put a new one in according to the facilities plan.

County Conversations: Commissioners want to start scheduling meetings in the towns/city for the beginning of June. Commissioner Nedeau wants to make sure that the state budget is passed

first before they go to the towns. The County Conversations will be scheduled for mid to late June.

Community Corrections: Superintendent Ward stated that Strafford County did it right and it is a fantastic model. They created a program based on needs before the infrastructure. It is an excellent model. It could cut our population considerably. In jail construction, the most expensive thing to build is a hard cell. Space is needed for Community Corrections, program space, office space, day reporting center, etc. is much cheaper to build than the cells and they are multi-functional and using community resources outside of jail for these various programs is much more cost effective. A “multi-purpose” space in the Community Corrections plan can be used by various agencies. Another positive result is that less committed jail cells can be used for Federal prisoners or other agencies to generate revenue for the County.

Primex Health: The Administrator group discussed this and met with Primex, the county’s health care provider. All interested municipalities submitted information to Primex to get quotes on what their costs would be when combined with the county. It turns out that the towns will be better off without the county’ as their rates would increase if they combine with the county. The effort was made though to research and compare.

Administrator Shackett told the Commissioners that Primex has decided that after the upcoming year (2011), they will no longer sell Health Insurance. A committee will be formed to look into alternate options and everyone will be involved upfront.

LRMFA: Chief Doug Aiken called Ms. Shackett today to let her and the Commissioners know that he is retiring.

Employee Meetings: Commissioners want to schedule meetings with county employees and Ms. Shackett will get feedback from department heads at her next meeting on the best way to go about scheduling this. Commissioners would like to do this prior to the county conversations.

Commissioners Committee Reports: Commissioner Nedeau will attend tomorrow night’s airport meeting. Commissioner Thomas attended the most recent BCEDC meeting and met Karmen Lorenz the new Executive Director. David Haley is the new chair and there are 4 or 5 new members of the board. Commissioner Thomas is also on the advisory board for the community college and they met today. He gave an overview of new programs and really touched on the criticalness of the community college for New Hampshire’s economy and work force. Commissioner Thomas asked if the board would be willing to write a letter of support for the state to not cut funding to the community colleges. All Commissioners are on board to support and a letter will be sent to the HN Senators.

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 6:40 PM.

Non public session concluded at 7:02 PM and the Board was back in a public meeting

Adjourn: M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to adjourn at 7:04 PM to conduct their semi-annual tour of the Department of Corrections. Commissioner Philpot did a roll call vote. Philpot – Y, Nedeau – Y, Thomas – Y. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant