



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Chairman  
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John H. Thomas  
Vice-Chairman  
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Clerk  
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Commissioners Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 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.

**State School Property Update:** Matthew Lahey came before the board to give an update on the State School Property. In 2009, HB2 created the “Commission to Evaluate Long-Term uses of the Lakes Region Facility located in Laconia, NH”. He gave the Commissioners the final report of that study dated 6/30/2011. Overall, the State of New Hampshire does not want the property. The Commission is talking with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regarding environmental cleanup funds/grants that the City or County may be eligible for if they had an interest in the property. The state is currently having the property assessed, surveyed and the EPA is interested in the findings of this Phase II portion of the project. Attorney Lahey also told the Board that there is a lot of legislative discussion around this property. The City is awaiting the State’s appraisal of the property before they begin discussion around the possibility of obtaining the property. Subsequently, if the City passes on the property, then the County would be next in line. Commissioners would like to stay in close contact moving forward with Mr. Lahey so that they are apprised on all pertinent information if ultimately; the offer arrives on their desk. Commissioners thanked Mr. Lahey for this valuable detailed update.

**Memo of Understanding with the AOC (Administrative Office of the Court) on video conferencing:** The Commissioners had asked Administrator Shackett to obtain costs at the last meeting. The support the MOU, but wanted to know their costs prior to signing. Ms. Shackett told the board that it would cost the county \$51.00 per month to provide the proper broadband internet bandwidth. M/Nedeau, S/Thomas to approve the M.O.U. and to authorize the Chairman to sign. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**Prosecutions:** County Attorney Melissa Countway Gulbrandsen informed the Commissioners that her part time juvenile prosecutor gave his notice; his last day will be November 4<sup>th</sup>. She would like to fill that position as soon as possible and wanted to know if the Commissioners would consider making this position full time. She has enough money in the 2011 budget to cover the salary of a FT position in and would request the remainder in the 2012 budget. There are three key areas associated with this request. Juvenile Prosecutions; Assistance to Sheriff Dept. with their prosecutions; and relieving some of the work load/pressure from the current demand of the asst. county attorneys. There has been a 100% increase in felonies in the last 8 years. There was discussion. The Sheriff stated that this would be a win win for both agencies and a much more efficient use of resources in both their offices. The

Commissioners stated the idea of the juvenile prosecutor stemmed from the county conversations with the towns and city. It has only been in place for about 3 months now and that there is no viable data yet. They understand about spreading the workload for the county attorney's office but that is not what the juvenile prosecutor was created for either. These are two very different issues. County Attorney Guldbrandsen then asked if the Commissioners would consider increasing the hours to 32.

**Approval of minutes:** M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to approve the 10/05/11 Commissioners meeting minutes as written. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** M/Nedeau, S/Thomas to approve the 10/15/11 nonpublic minutes as written. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

**Administrators report:** The County Administrator and Finance Director have been working diligently on the 2012 budgets. Ms. Shackett has been attending various meetings in the community. The energy grant (for the jail boiler and the control system on the nursing home) just had its first drawn down and we have paid the first bill. NACO contacted Administrator Shackett regarding a survey that she filled out. Consultant David Bennett met with Genesis, Ms. Shackett has talked to LRUW and a lot of the agencies are talking together and trying to brainstorm ways of providing services better.

**State School Property:** Commissioner Nedeau asked if some time could be set aside on the next agenda for the Commissioners to have further discussion on this property. Commissioners concur and time will be designated on their next agenda for this.

**Commissioners Committee Reports:** Nothing new to report.

**Public comment:** Chairman Philpot asked for public comment. Mr. Tom Tardif of Laconia commented on the video conferencing that was discussed earlier in the meeting and he stated that it would cost \$1500 per month. Commissioners corrected Mr. Tardif that it was in fact only \$51.00 per month. Mr. Tardif then spoke in length about a Grant (Exercise Training Grant at the middle school) in the Sheriff's Dept. Mr. Tardif had numerous questions. The Commissioners asked Mr. Tardif to forward the questions that he had in writing to Administrator Shackett so that she could provide the requested information.

**Adjourn:** With no further business to come before that board, M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to adjourn at 7:16 PM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant