



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Edward D. Philpot
Vice-Chairman
Laconia

Stephen H. Nedeau
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Meredith

Commissioners Meeting Minutes August 21, 2013

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

Calendar items: Reviewed.

Approval of minutes: M/Philpot, S/Nedeau to accept the 08/07/13 minutes as written. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Administrators Report: Administrator Shackett gave the board a letter from the United States Board on Geographic names. The board received a proposal to make official the new commemorative name, Moulton Pond, for an unnamed lake in Belknap County. The Commissioners are receiving this letter because the Lake is in Belknap County. Administrator Shackett asked the Gilford selectmen to weigh in on this considering the Lake is in Gilford. They declined to have an opinion either way. Commissioner Philpot wants to do more research and give the proposal to a few constituents to weigh in on. Commissioner Nedeau would like to turn this over to the Gilford selectmen, and he would vote no on the matter. The Victim Witness Grant application has been accepted and needs the Chairman's signature. M/Nedeau, S/Philpot to accept the grant as presented. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** Ms. Shackett informed the board that there are many personnel issues in the county right now.

Commissioners' committee reports: Commissioner Philpot briefed members that Genesis is still looking into buying the building at the Laconia Airport. Commissioner Nedeau reported that there is an airport meeting at 4:30 PM tomorrow.

Deeds departmental update: Register of Deeds, Barbara Luther reported that it has been a good summer, and the registry office took a huge tax stamp the other day. The county receives 4% on that. The trend is moving upward slowly and foreclosures are slightly down. (5 per week, which is down from 15 per week). Administrator Shackett asked Ms. Luther how many PC's are in the

vaults and how often are they used. Ms. Luther stated that there are 7 pc's in the vaults and that at this time of the year around 10-12 people a day use them. Ms. Luther projected that the tax revenue this year will be approximately \$20,000 more than in 2012.

Jail Planning: Administrator Shackett stated that at last night's meeting, the committee decided to recreate a new community advisory committee for the jail planning process. Administrator Shackett will circulate a list of members to all. Meetings will now take place later on, after the work day. We will also start to televise these meetings on LRPA television. Discussions took place on one of the 6 options that are being explored. This option was the sending of inmates to Strafford County. This is not a viable solution. We all agree that a new jail is too much money; other options are needed and will be explored thoroughly with the reconvening of the committee. The committee has been looking into other options all along and will continue to. Once all 6 options are put together, we will re-convene with the Delegation present to review. Note: there are 146 inmates as of today. The jail only has enough staff to handle 87 (max 120). Once the numbers are this high, we can't provide services. We have 3 counties holding some of our inmates now. Superintendent Ward is being creative in accommodating this situation safely and his staff is doing a great job.

County Attorney's departmental update: Attorney Guldbrandsen reported that drug use/abuse is a major problem in this area, and there is an increasing heroin issue. This drug addiction problem is contributing to the rise in burglary and theft crimes. Drug court is going very well with Judge Carroll. It is resource intensive, but well worth the time. Currently, there are 7 participants in the program. The panel has weekly meetings. Overall, the County Attorney's office is in good shape. Attorney Guldbrandsen gave the Commissioners a heads up that she will be requesting a salary increase for one of her Assistant Attorneys in the 2014 budget. Currently, their budget is tight and the autopsy/medical examiner line is over expended currently, a transfer will be needed. Unfortunately, that is out of her control. Administrator Shackett stated that in the budget for the county attorney, they have other line items that they could pull from to help medical examiner account. Attorney Guldbrandsen said that she has been working closely with the Finance Director, Human Resources and Administration and they have a great working relationship.

Restorative Justice Departmental update: Executive Director, Brian Loanes reported that the adult cases are slightly up. This is a revenue source for their department. Mr. Loanes feels confident that his department will meet their projected revenue. The juvenile cases have come down slightly; believe it or not, juvenile cases slow down a bit in the summer. Generally once school starts, there is an influx of cases. Drug (recovery) court is going good. It is time consuming as Attorney Guldbrandsen stated, but it is well worth while. This court stems from the recommendation that was made in the David Bennett report that they are using as their road map. Mr. Loanes would like to see a mental health court implemented as the jail is not a suitable place for these people. Director Loanes also mentioned the office space he currently has at the courthouse and possibility of utilizing space in probate court as a long term solution.

Commissioners want to go back to the facilities design to see what was recommended for his offices space along with space in the basement, etc.

Public input: Commissioner Thomas asked for any public input. There was none. Administrator Shackett will schedule the County Auditors to come to the next Commissioners meeting to brief them.

Adjourn: With no further business to come before the board, M/Philpot, S/Nedeau to adjourn at 8:55 AM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant