

Carroll County Commissioners

Meeting

Minutes

April 7, 2010

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Chip Albee, Dorothy Solomon

Public: David Babson, Daymond Steer, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Nate Giarnese

Meeting called to order at 8:16 am by Commissioner Albee

Public Input

1. Henry Spencer: I missed a couple of meetings and I went over the minutes, but I had somebody ask me a question on when somebody is bidding for parts of a contract who do they apply to?

2. Commissioner Sorensen: Bonnette, Page and Stone.

3. Henry: And then they turn it over to you?

4. Com. Sorensen: They take the bids and then they bring their recommendations to us and then we vote on it.

5. Henry: If there is somebody they don't recommend for a reason, do they tell you why?

6. Commissioner Sorensen: They give us all the bids and the reasons why they selected who they did and why they didn't select others.

6. Babson: When will the public know who bid on these jobs and who got them?

7. Commissioner Sorensen: When we vote on them.

8. Commissioner Albee: We are setting a table up in this room, and it's going to have a full set of plans and a list of all the bidders, who bid what, and who was awarded the bid.

9. Babson: When did Evans come up? I don't recall hearing anything about it.

10. Com. Sorensen: Evans was for the site work and they came in second.

11. Com. Albee: They are a Wolfeboro Company, we sat here and talked about it. They were closer than Coleman to the lower bid and we might have been able to move. We would have had more discussion if they could have bonded themselves for the job and they couldn't and that was the issue.

12. Com. Sorensen: Coleman was \$90,000 more than Andrews.

13. Babson: Requests to ask other public if they recall this discussion. Both Maureen and Henry responded that they do not recall this conversation regarding the site work. Daymond Steers does remember this conversation regarding a bonding issue.

14. Com. Albee: This was the first bid we awarded.

15. Babson: Will you be listing the bids and the bidders?

16. Com. Albee: All that information will be and/or is available. It will be displayed in this room on the table in the back. They are currently on a sheet in our office and you are able to take a look at it.

17. Henry: When BPS receives the bids are they sealed?

18. Com. Albee: They open them before we see them, then we see if the bid conforms to what we are asking the bid for.

19. Henry: Other than trust, you have no guarantee that they are not finagling the bid, if they want someone in particular to do a job? Shouldn't bids be open in the public?

20. Com. Albee: On the other end of it, one of our mandates is having as much Carroll County participation as possible. We have made it clear that if two companies bid and are very close, we let the higher bid company know.

21. Maureen: When you go into non-public today, will you be going back into public after that in case something comes up that we should be present for?

22. Com. Sorensen: We won't go back into regular session after non-public.

MOTION: Commissioner Albee moves to go into regular session. Commissioner Sorensen seconds this motion. So voted.

Regular Session

1. Commissioner Sorensen: I got a phone call from North Conway Rotary that they are going to contribute \$2,500 to the bus and they are going to request that Wolfeboro Rotary match that. I have already approached Fryeburg Rotary to see if they would match it also. They get most of their money from North Conway businesses, so I can't see why they can't participate in Carroll County events. We do need a strategy for how we are going to go to Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, etc. Any accounts that we have now, for example Staples, we should be able to get some money from them.

2. Susan LeClair: I think a letter is the way to start with them.

3. Com. Sorensen: At our NH Association of Counties meeting on Friday, there was a big discussion about all the counties getting together and putting in a bid for electricity. Strafford County is saving \$70,000 a year because they buy through Trans-Canada and there is another county that is doing the same. So, the NH Association is doing a survey to find out where each county is. Grafton County apparently has their own electrical service company, not

public service or NH Electric, so they can't participate, but the other counties could. So, I guess there are six counties that have responded as of yesterday and somebody is going to be calling here today from Trans-Canada wanting us to sign up, but we are going to wait to find out if the Counties are going to put out a bid.

There is a meeting every month after our regular meeting of the NH Association of Counties to discuss regionalizing certain areas. There is something like 5,000 contracts through Health and Human Services that go out to non-profit and profit organizations and because of the budget cuts, they want to try and streamline that. A Commissioner for each county and the business administrator from each county would be on this committee to look at how we can regionalize or reduce duplication of effort and save some money.

4. Com. Solomon: They talked about the cuts of DHHS. They are trying to reduce the number of providers. There are presently about 8,000 providers and they are trying to reduce that to 400 or 800. It sounds like a big project. Yesterday, I attended a Carroll County Transit meeting and it doesn't look like the buses are going to arrive in time for summer. Probably not before September.

MOTION: Commissioner Albee moves to accept the minutes of March 31, 2010. Commissioner Solomon seconds this motion. So voted.

Cheryl Delisle, Jen Cormier, Susan LeClair - MVNH

1. Cheryl: Census: 101 residents, 9 skilled, 25 private, 67 Medicaid. We lost a resident yesterday. We have 8 people on the waiting list, so we should be able to fill those beds pretty soon. We have to do a little bit of moving of beds because we need two males to come in and there is only a female bed in each. It should be full again by the end of the week.

2. Com. Solomon: How do the residents who are going to be moved deal with being moved?

3. Cheryl: Some of them are fine with moving. It's a positive when we can move them from a door to a window. Some say no and if they say no, we can't move them. If the DPOA says no, we can't move them.

Infection Control Education: About a month ago, I went to an in-service that the State ran, CMS has put out an infection control plan that they want to see us get better at. Over the last two weeks, we have been doing in-services regarding the importance of hand washing and washing of equipment with alcohol instead of sani-wipes. Glucometers is a big issue - If we make one mess up with the glucometers, we can be put at immediate jeopardy, so we are really drilling that with the nurses and with the LNAs that do blood sugar tests.

Regarding the hot water booster for the laundry system, we are still waiting for a quote on that.

4. Com. Albee: We spoke briefly yesterday regarding the parking and that you are going to lose the parking on this end of the building. Employees will be able to park on the other side of the building on the lawn area.

5. Com. Sorensen: We are also going to have a parking issue on the 1st of August when they have the Agriculture Field Day, because they are looking at using the grassy area where the old jail was for tents and so forth, so parking will be done across the street for some of it and maybe even down below the jail.

6. Com. Albee: I did have a brief conversation with Brad Harriman who is the Public Works Director in Ossipee about getting that last little section of road on the paving schedule. He seemed to think that might happen.

7. Jen Cormier: In March, Sandi and I had a meeting with Family Council. They used to be a very active group, but we have lost that and I am trying to revamp that. I have offered my services to help facilitate that and they seem to be very receptive. We had about a 10% turnout. What I proposed was to have 1 or 2 family representatives from each wing who would take over each wing, so it's not the whole entire building.

8. Com. Solomon: I happened to meet with Harvey Stevenson yesterday and I mentioned to him that the Family Council needed a leader. He declined, said he couldn't do it, but asked him to try and find somebody.

9. Com. Albee: They are going to need someone to speak for them.

10. Jen: That's the issue that came up. I said I would be happy to be a liaison between administration and family council and they asked if that was something that could happen, so I am asking if that would be acceptable.

11. Com. Sorensen: I think that they should have a president.

12. Jen: I agree. We are having a hard time trying to find a person to take that role, which is why I had said why don't we break up the wings and have a family member for each wing.

13. Com. Albee: If you can treat this like a council where the wings meet and they come up with an agreed upon position and then you present that, I don't have a problem with that part of it.

14. Jen: I think that's what we are looking for.

15. Com. Solomon: I think that would be a temporary measure because once you go into the new nursing home, you will have four.

16. Jen: At that point and time, we will have different neighborhoods, so we might need to break it down to one for each neighborhood. We will deal with that when it comes up. Right now, we need to get the Family Council up and running and that is the goal. I have set up another meeting for April 25th. They were very interested in what is going on with the new home. We did speak about the bus and related issues with that and they were very supportive. We talked about fundraising and how they can help. We mentioned that there was a book sale coming up and a chowder-fest. In the past meetings, we have had a lot of family members show up from past residents. This meeting, there was only one from a past resident - everyone else that was there currently has a resident in the nursing home, so that's a positive. I would like to see the numbers go up and we can work on that. One of the family members brought up

the idea of the Lions Club maybe willing to do a dedicated fundraising for us, so a few ideas have been thrown out about that.

17. Com. Albee: My concern, although it hasn't happened in the short time I have been here, I would foresee that the Family Council could take a position that would need advocacy and I don't think you can be the advocate for them.

18. Jen: I am an employee of yours, but also in the position I am in, part of my job is to look at the residents and their rights, so I am kind of in a unique position.

19. Com. Albee: From that standpoint it's fine, but it's when the Family Council decides that they want to take a position on some operational issue or some functional issue. They need to have somebody to speak for them.

20. Cheryl: I think if they rotated it, if there are going to be 4 representatives, maybe we could change that person every quarter, then there is not one person dedicating the entire year.

21. Com. Albee: I don't know that we have done a very good job in participating in the Family Council from our end of things.

22. Com. Sorensen: The situation before was that you have to be invited to the residents council to participate or be there and we have been there several times before when we started talking about the nursing home. Then we had a problem with meals, they didn't like certain food. I think in the past, they had a strong president and she did a lot of good things. There was one resident that wanted to have a seat or something to watch the construction. I think you need to look at that and see where that could take place. There is going to be a fence all the way around it.

23. Com. Albee: I talked to BPS yesterday about the fence. The fence along the nursing home parking area is going to be chain link, so they will be able to see. They have thought about having the observers from the nursing home.

24. Cheryl: The residents are excited about this and they are all asking about it.

Susan LeClair, MVNH Bus

1. Com. Albee: Did you talk the local dealer about servicing the new bus?

2. Susan: I haven't heard back from them yet, but I will send another email. The price of the bus did change a little bit from my original report. I had them make some adaptations. We have raised another \$1,000. What we still need is \$46,000. The extra money came from adding an additional wheelchair spot that I needed in a different location and that's not something that we can do.

3. Com. Albee: What was the trade allowance?

4. Susan: We are not going to trade. They were going to give us \$800. We know of somebody that's willing to give us \$1,000.

5. Com. Albee: I think we need to advertise it in the paper, put it out for bid and state it's conditioned upon the delivery of the new bus.

6. Com. Sorensen: Should be put a minimum bid of \$1,000.

7. Com. Solomon: If we don't put a minimum bid of \$1,000, then the bidder of that amount may bid a lower amount.

8. Com. Sorensen: See what you have to do with the bus company to hold that bus.

9. Susan: What would be the time frame that I am asking them to hold it?

10. Com. Sorensen: Ask for 60 days. Have we asked the Rotary that if we get a \$5,000 donation, that we will put the Rotary wheel on the bus?

11. Susan: When I send out the letters, should I state that we are willing to put logo or sponsor on the bus with a minimum donation of \$5,000?

12. Com. Sorensen: Yes. Draft a letter and get together a list of companies that we do a lot of business with, vendors, etc.

13. Com. Albee: Are any of you involved in the groundbreaking ceremony? How are things coming along?

14. Cheryl: Sandi and I will be attending.

15. Susan: We got a price from Tents Are Us that was half the price of Marshall Rental Center, so we are going to go with them.

16. Com. Albee: Rob is on board with planning of food and beverages?

17. Cheryl: Yes.

18. Com. Solomon: Is there anybody at the nursing home who would care to attend the monthly meetings or at least every so often attend the meetings for the NH Association of Counties? Jason was there and he does find some interesting information and you might find this to be helpful for you as well. There is a separate nursing home session.

19. Com. Sorensen: There is a nursing home affiliate there and Lory is always there to report. The correctional superintendents have 2 or 3 people that come.

20. Com. Solomon: Every so often you might find this of interest or value.

21. Cheryl: I will ask Sandi. When are these meetings held?

22. Com. Solomon: It's the first Friday of every month at 10:00.

Jason Johnson - HOC

1. Current population is 51 in house, 0 weekenders, 3 transfers, 2 electronic monitors, and 17 on pre-trial release and 1 out to another county for court for a total in population of 74.

2. Total number of admitted inmates for the week was 13 (8 repeaters) and total number of released inmates for the week was 16. 3 came in for simple assault, 1 in for warrant, 1 in for protective custody, in for operating after suspension, 1 in for receiving stolen property, 1 in for breach of bail.

3. Farm has been taking out an average of 5 inmates per day. They have twelve available.

4. We received a call from the Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department about assisting with clean-up after Wakefield Pride Day. We will take a group of four to six inmates on Saturday, May 15th at 1600 and bring them to Sanbornville and help pick up from the festivities. We will be responsible to clean up from the Parks and Recreation building to the town beach.

5. We needed to send an inmate out to a specialist earlier this week. The doctor requested two officers to escort the inmate. The inmate was classified as a minimum security inmate who by policy does not require a two officer escort. Upon arriving to the doctor's office, the doctor refused to see the inmate because there were not two officers. We need to schedule an appointment at another facility.

6. The new law library is now activated. This went into effect last week.

7. We took a female in from Rockingham County on an administrative transfer and we had to ship one down to them.

8. The State lab is in today to conduct training for the staff on the use of the PBT (preliminary breath test), DNA collection, and conducting drug screens.

9. There is an interesting article that I am passing over to you guys in the latest ACA magazine regarding the costs in corrections. In 1980, 1.84 million people were under correctional supervision either confined or in the community. Today, there is nearly 7.2 million people under departmental supervision. This includes both prison and jail population. The current number in US is 303 million people and the incarceration rate is 762 inmates per 100,000 people. By comparison, the world population is 6.7 billion and the incarceration rate is 125 inmates per 100,000.

10. Jason: We have two corrections officers that are graduating the Academy on the 16th of April. It is going to be at Allens in Boscawen.

11. Com. Albee: I will go to that. Are we finished with the air conditioning issue?

12. Jason: Everything has been put on hold because we got the estimate for \$100,000. Joe did some coverings of the pipes and things like that and this has worked so far.

13. Com. Albee: Regarding SPOTS, have you made arrangements with the Sheriff's Dept.

14. Jason: Yes and that is working out.

15. Steer: Question for Jason - In September, we were talking about the incarceration rates of Wolfeboro and Conway and Ossipee. How is that trend now?

16. Jason: I haven't done a measurement in a while, but I will look at it.

16. Com. Sorensen: I just got a call from Rep. Betsey Patten, she read in the paper that Coos County does not pay for medication for female inmates that are in our facility. I didn't think that was true.

17. Jason: That isn't true, they do pay.

18. Com. Sorensen: Is there any contract that we take female prisoners from Coos? In lieu of taking them, what else happens?

19. Jason: We do not have a written contract, just an agreement. We have the ability to administratively transfer inmates up to them and we have that pretty much with every superintendent in the State of NH. We have been doing female inmates from Coos County for the last 14 years that I know and probably longer than that.

20. Com. Sorensen: Does it balance out? It costs us \$110 a day.

21. Jason: It does balance out. What their cost per day and what our cost per day may be different, but it does balance out.

22. Com. Albee: I think it's Hillsboro that has an issue with other county prisoners.

23. Jason: In the past, we have had to send inmates down there and we were billed from Hillsboro County. Any other facility that we send inmates to or receive inmates from, there is no charge to house them - They only thing, like us, is that they pay medical expenses for the inmate.

24. Com. Sorensen: Would you check with superintendent of Coos County regarding Betsey's concerns and then could you call Betsey and explain to her what the situation is. You may want to check with the superintendent up there to see what was in the paper and find out more about it. She may have gotten it second hand and it may be different.

25. Jason: I will do that.

Kathy Garry - Business Office

1. Kathy: I spoke with Donna Lane and we confirmed the public hearing for the CDBG is April 18th at 8:30. I will set up the other public hearing at 8:45 for that energy grant and then you can close both public hearings and go into regular session.

We received from Army Corp of Engineers the approval for the wetlands permit for the project and all parties have gotten the necessary copies and a copy of this is to be kept on site.

Regarding the teachers and classes coming, Dorothy you mentioned last week, have you spoken with Kennett?

2. Com. Solomon: I have heard from both schools - The teachers have been informed and I am waiting to hear from them directly as to what day they want to come.

3. Kathy: I also contacted the Academy and spoke with the principal who referred me to the teachers and they are going to get back to me. So we are on the same page.

I spoke with the Governor's office and they meet on Thursdays to do his calendar, so this Thursday they will talk about the week of the 19th to let me know whether he can come or not.

Are you going to start having weekly meetings with BPS?

4. Com. Albee: These will be starting next week, but we haven't decided which day of the week it will be. Either Monday or Tuesday. We will let you know when we figure that out.

5. Com. Sorensen: I think Tuesday would be better because then we could make decisions on Wednesday.

6. Com. Albee: I think they had some reasons why Monday was better for them, so if it's not a significant issue with them, will do it on Tuesdays.

7. Kathy: BPS did put their trailer here. They were speaking with Jerry this morning about getting electricity and internet.

All the 1% increases are in payroll this week, non-union being retroactive to April 1st. Union has no retro.

8. Com. Albee: We need to make copies of all the bids and put them up here on this table, and any contracts. Plans will be brought up as well.

9. Com. Sorensen: We still need a timeline posted as well.

MOTION: Commissioner Solomon moves to open the meeting to public input. Commissioner Albee seconds the motion. So voted.

Public Input

1. Henry: You mentioned getting together with BPS on a weekly basis and you were talking about how to post a meeting and who was going to be at the meeting.

2. Com. Albee: We are not going to post the meetings. We are only going to have one of the Commissioners at those meetings. If a subject matter of import is happening that we need more than one Commissioner, then we will have a public meeting.

3. Steer: Regarding the transit system, Maine had a story a while back how they needed money and then they didn't need money. So do we need money or don't need money for operations.

4. Com. Sorensen: They are short on operation money.

5. Com. Solomon: There was an inquiry to me as to whether or not they could come to the County solely for funding, so as to avoid this double dipping piece. I said that would be the

only way that I could see it getting by the Delegation; if they came solely to the County for this money. I did bring up the question of Brookfield and Wakefield since the bus lines don't go there at the moment and they are in an addendum for down the road, but that they do get services from Carroll County for demand routing. They could come to County for the entire amount and I think that's what they are going to do next year. So next year, they are not going to go to the towns, they will come to the County looking for funding.

6. Steer: Some sources were saying that they were just barely hanging on. When I talked to Ted, he said that they ok.

7. Babson: Regarding the money for the bus, I don't think it is good policy to be sending out a letter. I think the way to go is having a person going to the businesses.

8. Com. Solomon: When you go to a business, they are most likely not the one that is going to make the decision. I think that if you go in with a letter, they can send the letter to the appropriate department for that.

9. Babson: Jason mentioned Hillsboro as the only County that we have to pay to send prisoners there. Does Hillsboro pay us to take their prisoners?

10. Jason: We have never had an inmate from Hillsboro County. We haven't had to send over any inmates since before the new jail was built.

11. Com. Albee: There are currently some issues with Hillsboro taking inmates that have a Carroll County warrant. I heard that from a source down at the Association of County level - that they are not willing to take in arrestees if the warrant is not in their county.

12. Babson: Why are able to send inmates to Wakefield to clean up when since I have been coming here, we have had a request from Ossipee and State Parks and we have said no to both of them.

13. Com. Albee: We didn't say no to the State Parks. We asked Rep. Ahlgren to put that together and we never heard back from them on that.

14. Com. Sorensen: We did say no to Ossipee as there was no policy in effect at that time and at that time, we didn't have enough correctional officers to supervise them, plus transportation, plus liability. Do we now have correctional officers that we can send?

15. Jason: We have officers that can go at this time.

16. Com. Sorensen: Are you prepared to get requests in from all of the towns?

17. Jason: Yes. This is done as a public service.

18. Babson: I think there should be some charges with this. We send a car out and an officer, etc.

19. Com. Albee: I think the public relations benefit would far outweigh the cost involved.

20. Babson: Has there been any movement on the Cooperative Extension? No.

When you sign a contract with BPS with a vendor on these bids, have you hired your own lawyer to go over these contracts or are we using BPS's lawyer - Is the lawyer looking at each and every one of these contracts?

21. Com. Sorensen: Yes, we have hired one to look at contracts with EGA and BPS. No, we have not hired them to look at the individual contracts.

22. Babson: Who is looking at the individual contracts?

23. Com. Sorensen: BPS.

24. Babson: Is their lawyer looking at it or are they looking at it?

25. Com. Sorensen: I don't know that.

26. Babson: If there is a screw up and it gets into a legal tangle, is BPS going to court against the contractor or are we?

27. Com. Albee: Both of us.

28. Babson: Then don't you think we ought to have a lawyer looking at the contracts?

29. Com. Albee: We haven't talked about that.

30. Nate: Can we talk a little more about what the Legal Library is.

31. Jason: It's an online system that the inmates have access to so they can do legal research regarding their case. I can't restrict them to legal research and the library that we had didn't meet the legal standards for a Legal Library and the new systems does. It used to be books.

32. Com. Sorensen: Are they restricted to that website?

33. Jason: They can go other places, but we are locking it down so that they can't.

MOTION: Commissioner Albee moves to go into non-public session for the employee issues at the nursing home and employee issues at the jail. Seconded by Commissioner Solomon. So voted.

Public meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.