

D R A F T
Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting
Minutes
January 04, 2012

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Dorothy Solomon, Asha Kenney

Public: Steve Brown, Ed Comeau, Daymond Steer, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Susan Wiley

Commissioner Sorensen called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Commissioner Sorensen: There will be a non-public session at the end of our meeting today. We will add that to our agenda.

Public Input

Steve Brown: What is the status of the truck? **Commissioner Sorensen:** A check was sent for the entire cost of the truck. We have not got to the end of the year figures, so we are not sure where that money is coming from, but it is charged to the Farm budget. We will have to transfer money out of other departments. We will have to wait and see what the balance left is, and go to the Delegation and ask for the transfer.

Steve Brown: What is the status of the \$375,000.00 quote for the pellet boilers? **Commissioner Sorensen:** We put it back out for bid through the Dodge Report and a letter of intent or final figure is due today. We have not received anything by letter or phone. **Steve Brown:** Can you explain the Dodge Report?

Commissioner Sorensen: The Dodge Report is where all construction people look for jobs. It goes on their website and is available 24/7 for a week, at no cost. To the best of my knowledge, it definitely covers the state of NH and beyond.

Susan Wiley: Do we have the compilation of the jail report that tells us how many persons have been re-incarcerated? Is there a recidivism report? **Commissioner Sorensen:** The report that we got from Superintendent Johnson, I believe, said there were 42% returns in our jail. **Susan:** Is there any delineation in that report so that we know how many are under the age of 25? **Commissioner Sorensen:** That we have not seen. We can ask Jason when he comes in.

Daymond Steer: I didn't see my Right To Know Law request on the agenda, I was wondering if that will be handled today. **Commissioner Sorensen:** You will have that by the end of the day. We have asked an attorney to look into it. We would like to thank you for allowing us to extend the time.

Minutes

Commissioner Kenney: I just got last week the non-public minutes for 9/14/11. I think Commissioner Sorensen; you had them on your desk for a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Kenney made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of 9/14/11.

Commissioner Solomon: May I see the minutes? **Commissioner Kenney:** You already read them, I gave them to you. Commissioner Sorensen had them on his desk, and I gave them to you last week. **Commissioner Solomon:** These minutes are for 9/14/11 and this is 1/4/12. **Commissioner Kenney:** I gave them to you last week. **Commissioner Solomon:** That may very well be.

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Point of Order

Henry Spencer: I know that you can't discuss what they are but was that contractual or employee based.

Commissioner Solomon: I am reading them. Give me a second.

Commissioner Sorensen: While we are waiting, we have two more items on our agenda for today. The Sheriff has proposed that we hire someone to investigate the jail escape; and we have received a draft on putting out an RFP for the wall at the Jail. I have not had a chance to look at these as I just received them this morning.

Commissioner Solomon: With regard to these minutes, there are a couple things here in answer to your question that vaguely touches on what you are talking about. Henry: It is a bit general, but there are two classes of non-public, one is contractual and one is employee based. I am just wondering which one those are. Commissioner Solomon: Actually, it was not based on either of those. It had something to do with the jail, but it was not employee-based. There are some contractual things in here. Henry: In a sense of awareness, that is when the contracts are settled that they should be released. Commissioner Solomon: Absolutely, they will come out.

Commissioner Sorensen: I believe right now that Commissioner Kenney has all of the non- public minutes under lock and key. Commissioner Kenney: Yes, well not all of them, Robin Reade has them.

Commissioner Sorensen: I thought you had gotten them from her. Commissioner Kenney: No, I refuse.

Commissioner Sorensen: You didn't get a booklet from her of all the minutes. Commission Kenney: No, she needs to give it today to me. I just wrote it down, how many non-public minutes she has.

Motion

Commissioner Kenney made a motion to approve the non-public minutes as corrected for 9/14/11 and to keep them sealed. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All agree. Motion passed.

Commissioner Kenney: I received yesterday the non-public minutes of 10/19/11. I had a couple of questions, I do not see them, and so I will have to put them in.

Commissioner Sorensen: There is a Public Notice that there will be a meeting of the Carroll County Sub-committee for the Sheriff's Department on January 9, 2012 at 10 am here in the Administration Building

Commissioner Kenney: I just received the non-public minutes of 10/19/11. I have a couple of questions, but I don't see them in there, so I will have to review them.

Motion

Commissioner Kenney made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of 11/02/11 and keep them sealed. Commissioner Sorensen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed.

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Minutes.

Commissioner Kenney: I have a question. The corrections were made for 11/29/11. Where are the corrections? You don't put them here in these set of minutes. The minute taker responded by stating that the approved corrected minutes of 11/29/11 should be on the web site. Commissioner Kenney: So you put a draft on and besides a draft, you put a corrected one. I looked for them and they were not there. Okay, so the corrections are there, I will check up on that.

Commissioner Kenney reported on the minutes of 12/21/11 and the corrections that needed to be done.

Motion

Commissioner Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/21/11 as corrected. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed.

Commissioner Kenney: I want to table the minutes of 12/28/11.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen would like to make a motion that we approve the minutes of 12/28/11. We cannot continue to table the minutes. I would like to get them up to date. Commissioner Kenney: The meeting is next week they are up to date.

Commissioner Sorensen: I have read these minutes and make a motion that we approve the minutes of 12/28/11. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. Vote to approve the minutes was 2-1.

Commissioner Kenney opposed. Motion passed. . Minutes

Commissioner Kenney: The law says minutes need to be in within 5 days. The 10/19/11 minutes came 10/30/11. The 12/7/11 minutes came 12/19/11. Commissioner Sorensen: So what are you saying? Who held them up? Commissioner Kenney: That was when we received them. Commissioner Sorensen: Say those dates again. Commissioner Kenney: Lory printed them out on 10/31/11 for the public. The 12/7 came on 12/19/11. Commissioner Sorensen: What are you saying? You are responsible for the minutes, so where is the problem? Commissioner Kenney: No, I am not responsible for the minutes anymore, because the minute taker looked to the two Commissioners for guidance about the minutes, and she was going to send them to everyone and go straight to the office. You cannot hold me responsible. This is when we received the minutes. Commissioner Solomon: The point is. Commissioner Kenney: The point is, the law says five days, the minutes came late two times. Commissioner Solomon: I understand that, what do you want to do about it. What is your point? Commissioner Sorensen: What do you want to do about it? Commissioner Kenney: The question is what are the two Commissioners going to do about it? Commissioner Solomon: You brought the point up.

Commissioner Kenney: I just bring this information out. The minutes came two times late. The law says five days. The 10/19/11 minutes came 10 /30/11 and 12/7/11 came 12/19/11. Commissioner Sorensen: Where is the fault? Why did it take so long?

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Discussion ensued. The Minute Taker accepted accountability for the untimeliness of the two sets of minutes. She will have the minutes ready for the public and for posting on the web on Mondays, which is five days following the meeting held on Wednesdays.

Department Head Reports

Jason Johnson HOC

Current population is 48 in-house. 0 weekenders, 9 transfers, 5 out on electronic monitors and 16 on pre-trial release for a total population of 78. Please refer to attached report.

Commissioner Sorensen: Susan, would you state your question? Susan Wiley: I am very interested in knowing a little bit more about the folks that are repeaters. When you give us your report, I recognize that we cannot have names or any demographic information that will identify these people, but I would be interested, if you know, the numbers of how many of those folks are under the age of 25. If we looked back over the last year, how many of those folks that are in and out are under the age of 25, and I guess I would be interested in knowing medication history; how many of those repeaters are on psychotropic medications. My point is that we should be able to do a lot more to prevent recidivism than we are doing. I think if we looked at numbers and those were available to the Delegation and the sub-committee, and we spent a little more time looking at rehabilitation and education programs, we could help these folks in a better way, and hence our society in a better way.

Jason: It may be difficult, but I will see what I can do. Susan: If it is difficult to find, start now with a spreadsheet, that says unduplicated count of names, offense, and medication. Jason: My staff prints me out a report where I may be able to get these numbers.

We had not heard back from the fence company. Joe called them this morning and will get the estimate today. Commissioner Sorensen: This if for the perimeter fence and the corner? Jason: Correct.

Jason: Are the Commissioners attending the meeting on Friday at the NHAC There are two bills that we may want to spend sometime looking at. There is a House Bill that is looking to establish a study committee to privatize the county correction system.

There is a Senate Bill, County specific to Belknap County, about consolidating and having the Sheriff run the jail. That may have some impact on other counties within the state even though we are all autonomous. The hearing on that is scheduled for January 17, at the State House. I am going down to that and listen to what is being talked about there.

Commissioner Solomon: If I recall correctly one of the things in the emails sent by Betsy was regarding what is coming up on Friday, She wants our input. Jason: I am planning to be there. Commissioner Sorensen: Jason, when was the last meeting of your affiliate. Was anything discussed about that at your meeting? Jason: No, there were some emails from all the superintendents about the Belknap County issue. We will probably discuss that at our meeting on Friday. There was not anything discussed on the House Bill on privatizing as that came out after that meeting.

Commissioner Sorensen: Have you had a chance to review the RFP? Jason: Do you want a start date to put this out for bid? Commissioner Sorensen: Put it out today. Jason: I will give it to the Business Office today to send out. Commissioner Sorensen: I would like to see

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that go in the local paper, Conway Sun, Manchester Union Leader, Dodge Report, Salmon Press, and the website.

Steve Brown: Are you referring to the inside wall? Can you explain that a little bit?

Jason: We had settled for \$45,000.00 and that was to repair two connections from the interior wall to the outside wall. They found that there was no building malfunction; the wall itself was designed to move, and what we are trying to do is hide the expansion joints. The \$45,000.00 was to cover the repair and the legal costs. Steve Brown: So this doesn't have anything to do with the jailbreak. Jason: No, it does not. Commissioner Sorensen: I have talked with the engineer that did the study and he said that local companies could bid on this especially with the dimensions and the diagrams that are included in the proposal. That is why I say; make sure it goes in the local papers.

Commissioner Sorensen: We will give them two weeks to prepare their bid.

Henry Spencer: You said that you had 48 in-house, with roughly 76 overall. Is that because of pre-trial releases or are you just booking less people? Jason: We are booking fewer people.

Sandi McKenzie MVC

The census today is 101. Medicare – 8, Private Pay – 21, Medicaid –6, Pending Medicaid – 66 and we had 1 death over the weekend.

The Recreation Department is working on absentee ballots for voting next week.

The Business Office has been notified that the Medicare/Medicaid cost report is due March 31, 2012. We are working on that.

On January 15, 2012, our Health Occupation Students will begin their clinical training. There are actually two classes and will be working during the daytime hours, and will be monitored by one of the instructors from Governor Wentworth School system.

I really need to say "Thank You" to the staff and volunteers during the holidays from Thanksgiving through New Years for all they did for the residents. A special "Thank You" to the Garden Club for the wonderful centerpieces that graced the tables in the Mount Washington Room during the holidays.

Patti Cain is starting a Dementia Capable Care program for our staff.

Julie Furlan, D.O.(Moultonborough) with Dr. Lewis toured our building. She will be added to our physician roster as she will assist in covering some of the residents. Dr. Lewis will be taking a six-month sabbatical in March 2012.

The Family Council meeting will be held January 10 at 4 pm and 6 pm. Karen Juvonen and Carol Lundgren, the family member who is interested in chairing the Family Council group, and I will be meeting Friday morning to discuss family council. We are hoping that we will have the support from the families. Please refer to attached report

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Commissioner Sorensen: Is that an open meeting or just for family members? Sandi: Mrs. Lundgren is inviting residents to attend as they wish. Even though we advocate family meetings, there is not a connection between MVC and the Family Council.

Commissioner Sorensen: I understand that the announcement for DON has gone out.

Sandi: Yes, It has with heartfelt sorrow. She is moving on. She has attained certain goals that she set out to accomplish. We will be having an exit interview, but she will not be leaving until the end of the month. We are working to find closure to some loose ends. Temporarily, Patti Cain will be assisting me in filling the void, if there is one, in her absence until we hire someone.

Sandi: I think there are rumors that Cheryl and I are not getting along. That is furthest from the case. The issue is that for her personal growth and professional life she has decided to move on. I applaud her for that. She will be a resource for me, as I will be for her. I am pleased for her.

Commissioner Solomon: Concerning what you said about exit interviews, I think that we should do that for all departments, and that when the interviews are done, ask the person leaving to write down their thoughts about what they felt might be the reason for leaving. Sandi: I am used to having a two-tiered exit as well. Obviously, you would want to have something in writing as to why they are leaving. The issue is that sometimes the employee leaving would not be as open as they would be with a non-biased person.

Commissioner Kenney: I have a question for Commissioner Solomon; you said that you wanted to have an exit interview for all departments; do you want to have an exit interview for employees who are terminated? Commissioner Solomon: That is an interesting question. Let me think about that.

Commissioner Sorensen: Are you here for a particular reason, Bob? Bob Murray: For professional interest in the bid opening for the pellet furnaces. Commissioner Sorensen: As I said, we have not heard in writing or by phone anything regarding the pellet furnaces. We have to take some action. We gave them one week, and as I have always said, I hate to spend \$375,000.00 for that.

Commissioner Sorensen: There was a letter to the Editor in the Conway Sun, from a Mr. Roy, visiting from Massachusetts. He rather criticized the Delegation for waiting, and I think the Commissioners are at some fault as well. He also said that even though you go for a second bid, not only do you lose the time, but also those sub-contractors coming in are coming in cold, and the savings may not be that great. That was his take.

Steve Brown: On page 2, of the 12/28/11 minutes, it states: Commissioner Sorensen: When can we see it finished, when could we see this project up and running? Randy replied, not before six to eight weeks, and at least three months to be up and running. If it is going to be three months, that puts you at the beginning of April. You are beyond the biggest part of the heating season. Why the rush to start tomorrow or next week. You could actually push this out if you are talking about the beginning of April.

Commissioner Sorensen: We will be using one of those furnaces for hot water in the nursing home. Steve Brown: That is all well and good, but at a cost of \$375,000.00.

Commissioner Solomon: Mr. Brown, I would like to point out one thing. Those boilers are going to be delivered. We have to have a place to put them. I do not like the idea of leaving them out exposing them to our NH winter.

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Steve Brown: Was there ever a cost analysis done? A month ago I asked this question and Mr. Abee said this was fully investigated. If it was fully investigated, why are we now only finding out about costs associated with this project? Clearly, it was not totally investigated as Mr. Albee tried to purport. That is what I am having a problem with because it was not total investigated. Now everything has to be rushed. Apparently, the taxpayers of Carroll County are going to take the hit once again because it wasn't totally investigated. Commissioner Solomon: When we investigated buying into this whole concept of renewable energy boilers, we did a thorough investigation and narrowed it down to two companies, one who would give us the boilers free, but we would have to buy into their distribution of the pellets forever. That did not seem reasonable. Please refer to www.governmentoversite.com

Commissioner Kenney: Commissioner Solomon was going to look into the Davis-Bacon issue.

Commissioner Solomon: She is in the process of doing that.

Kathy Vizard Hales Location

Commissioner Sorensen: Kathy is our Administrative Assistant in Hales Location. We have a meeting coming up January 11 at 1:00 pm at the Nursing Home to discuss their budget. We have invited everybody from Hales Location. If they want to come down and have an input into their budget, they can also tour the nursing home at the same time.

Kathy: There will be an increase to the budget because of the school budget. They had two new students. We did over spend the budget by \$900.00 last year. In order to receive the \$4,000.00 Grant from the Department of Education, we had to show expenditures of \$25,000.00, for the 2010-2011 year, which we did.

Commissioner Sorensen: Conway sets the school rate for us. Hales Location doesn't pay any capital expenditures, so we are hit with the possible highest annual rate for a student. Kathy: A high school student is \$32,000.00 and an elementary student was \$24,000.00. We basically get a bill from Conway, per student. Commissioner Sorensen: I have seen figures where it is \$10,000.00 for a student in Conway to go to the high school or elementary school.

Steve Brown: Why so much? Commissioner Sorensen: We don't pay for capital expenditures for any of their additions, schools or whatever. Commissioner Solomon: Hales Location is not part of their contract.

Steve Brown: That is determined by Conway, which is part of Carroll County. Commissioner Sorensen: This has nothing to do with County Taxpayers. This is strictly Hales Location taxpayers that are paying for this.

Discussion ensued. Please refer to www.governmentoversite.com for a more detailed report.

Commissioner Kenney: I have a question about financial administration. What is the \$9,000.00 for again?

Commissioner Sorensen: It is for business administration, anything we deal with, whether we get calls from them, work on the budget, approved the budget ,anything we send out by our secretaries, that is in addition to what Kathy does under Administrative Salary. Ours is \$9,000.00 and comes into the County. It doesn't come in to us individually; it goes to the County Budget.

Chris Conley Sheriff

Sheriff Conley: Commissioners I was given the task last week to make a recommendation about the escape portion of that whole incident have some sort of investigation. My office doesn't

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have the capabilities to do it. Our people are maxed out and don't have a thorough background with just corrections.

I contacted the Attorney General's office and the New Hampshire State Prison looking for persons who could do that investigation. I had three criteria: 1) they had to be highly experienced, both work-related and from an educational standpoint 2) presently not a full time employee, because if they were working in this field right now they would have some connection through the prison, training, etc. 3) the person had to be able to do an investigation with 100% access to the facility and the persons there. I had four names and found out that two were interested. I recommended Mr. James O'Mara. I do not know him, but I talked with him on the phone twice and he did tell me that he had been here on another matter having to deal with the jail.

Commissioner Sorensen: He came here to talk about a medical contract that we were going to have with the jail. He was opposed to it. They had been through it. This company would lay-off people as soon as they got the contract. I think they went back to doing it themselves. I think he is very well qualified. I know him and have heard his presentations.

Sheriff Conley: I gave the Commissioners the resume that he sent me and we went back and forth, as far as what the requirements would be. I estimated approximately 70 hours to include the time for the report and the presentation here. We went back and forth, to what a reasonable amount was, and what I put in was his suggested contract price, \$3,650.00.

My requirements were that he would have it done 45 days from the start date and then he would finish it off by a presentation to the Commissioners. The investigation would go directly from me to you. It is not vetted in any other form. I would suggest that it would probably be non-public as it falls under 91-A.

Commissioner Sorensen: We can determine that after we see the report and what he has to present. It doesn't have to go out to bid because it falls under \$5,000.00

Commissioner Solomon: Where is the money going to come from? Commissioner Sorensen: It is regarding the Jail and would have to come out of the Jail budget.

Sheriff Conley: I did have cursory conversations with the Superintendent about this, only in the sense that I would be making a recommendation. The person who comes in would require the appropriate support, meaning he could talk with anyone he wanted, etc. Commissioner Sorensen: Is Jason all right with that? Sheriff: He said he would support it as directed, but he would not have to be directed to support it. He would do that on his own initiative.

Commissioner Sorensen: We will have to find that amount in his budget or increase his budget by that amount. We will talk with the subcommittee of the Jail and see what they want to do.

Motion

Commissioner Solomon made a motion to accept the contract with James O'Mara. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion. All agree. Motion passed.

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Commissioner Sorensen: Sheriff, have you given any more thought to dispatching for those three other towns. Sheriff Conley: No, I did hire two deputies this week and will bring them up and introduce them. It has been a long process.

Commissioner Solomon: The idea of dispatching, we have to look into this with regard to the three towns. Let's see if we can make some sort of consolidation, if that makes sense monetarily to everybody.

Sheriff Conley: What would be my guidance coming from the Board, the cost associated with it.

Commissioner Solomon: The concept would be we don't have enough personnel. Sheriff: That is what the discussion was about last week. Commissioner Solomon: We need to figure out a way to consolidate everybody into one system run by the County. Further Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen: Have you or your affiliate given any thought to what the State Bill is as to the Sheriff running jails. Sheriff Conley: I understand that there is a study and the study was charged to the committee looking at privatizing county facilities. I have not heard anything about Sheriffs running jails. As a group they were going to stay away from that until they had something specific to respond to.

Commissioner Solomon: I would like to share what went on at the kick-off for the Blue Loon Bus Service. They got a nice reception with about fifty people there. They had speakers; some people were able to take rides on the new deviated lines. They will have free bus rides until January 13, 2012.

Henry Spencer: What is the cost for riding the bus? Commissioner Solomon: One-way from West Ossipee to Memorial would be two dollars, one way to Ossipee from Wolfeboro would be two dollars, all day is five dollars with a transfer, and seventy-five dollars a month.

Henry: Do you know whether vouchers are available through the Welfare Office for people who are unemployed but would use the bus to look for work? Commissioner Solomon: I would have to refer you to the company who could answer that for you.

Commissioner Kenney: I attended the opening of the kick-off yesterday also.

Public Input

Henry: I know that Commissioner Solomon is looking into the Davis-Bacon issue. The primary reason for that is they are trying to put money back into the community. One of the things when you look at that is I don't know what work has to be done in a room before that kicks in. Commissioner Solomon: It is not for prep work, but basically for plumber and the electrician.

Henry: Is the Kronos system operational? Is it the only system we use to do payroll? Commissioner Sorensen: Yes, it is operational, but no, we are still checking specialties items, something unusual other than a straight forty-hour week, or on an hourly rate. Henry: How long have we been using a dual system? Commissioner Sorensen: Over a year now. Right now, it is a lack of training from Kronos for those people who have to do coding and other specific items.

Henry: I asked this earlier in the meeting when you first went over the non-public session of 11/2/11, why was it non-public, I would like to know the answer to my question.

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Commissioner Sorensen: I have looked at three or four of them, and as I stated three weeks ago we settled for \$45,000.00 with the jail. There is another one that was a transfer to the state prison, which Jason had requested. It was a security issue.

Henry: The list that I requested, Commissioner Kenney said she would have it today on how many actual sets were out there. Commissioner Kenney: On 11/02/11, there were two non- public sessions, one was a personnel issue and the second session was a personnel issue and legal discussion. One session was in the am and the other was a pm session.

Commissioner Kenney: Weeks ago the question was a break-down.

Henry: This morning you had said you had requested that information from someone in County government but had not received that yet. My question specifically was how many sets of minutes are sealed?

Commissioner Kenney: In 2010, there were 44 sets of non-public minutes and 20 sets were released. In 2011 through November, there were 33 sets and none have been released. Henry: Currently there is no breakdown of how many were employee's issues and how many were contractual?

Maureen Spencer: Commissioner Kenney, I was not at the 12/21 public meeting, but in reading down through it, you are talking about taking the non-public minutes now, I thought you were already taking the non-public minutes. Commissioner Kenney: I am, but not too long. I just started taking them.

Commissioner Sorensen: Robin Reade was taking the non-public minutes up until the time Commissioner Kenney felt that she should be taking them. Therefore, she is now taking them. We did that just as Sandy is taking the regular minutes. That started way back when Peter Okkala said he couldn't be a Commissioner and have to take the minutes at the same time. Therefore, we hired someone to take the minutes, which is what she is doing on a regular basis at the public meeting. Under non-public, we had Robin Reade come in to do those. She is no longer doing that. Commissioner Kenney is doing that. We did that to help Commissioner Kenney get started on taking minutes. One of the first meetings that she attended here, there were people there who felt she should be given some help to get started and that is why we had Robin Reade take the non-public minutes. Now Commissioner Kenney feels that she is capable of doing that herself.

Susan Wiley: Again, I appreciate your attempt to have citizen participation. I request again that you personally try to get the minutes off the website and see how you do. We have waited 18 months for a redo of our website. Commissioner Sorensen: That should be up and running. Ed Comeau: The website is not up and running yet.

Susan: I have to say that I feel the Eggs and Issues is a very important event pulling in people from the North Country who would certainly benefit from having a user-friendly website. It would keep them more involved if they could easily access what is going on in the County, including the bids and major employment openings like when you are looking to hire a Director of Nursing.

Commissioner Sorensen: Keep in mind that we did not hire a person to do the website. It was added on to someone else's job. It fell on Robin Reade to do that and she is inundated with all kinds of stuff.

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