

Regular Meeting of the
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners
March 18, 2009
Bouchard Building, Goffstown, NH

Minutes of the Public and Non- Public Session
(Not Official Until Approved by the Board and signed by the Clerk.)

Present: Comm. T. Pappas, Comm. C. Holden, Comm. M. Clemons, P. Coughlin, L. Movsesian, C. Pappas, C. Beaulac, J. Dimick, A. Durette, C. Kirby, B. Moorehead, J. O'Mara, M. O'Neil, D. Reidy, M. Rioux, E. A. Robinson, M. Rusch, G. Wenger, and L. Stonner.

1. Pledge to the Flag

Comm. Pappas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by P. Coughlin.

2. Minutes

March 4, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of March 4, 2009. By Comm Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

3. Business Office

Approval of Payroll Registers

Motion: To approve the Payroll Register dated 3/4/09 in the amount of \$750, subject to review and audit. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

Motion: To approve the Payroll Register dated 3/5/09 in the amount of \$1,169,153.88, subject to review and audit. By Comm Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Approval of Accounts Payable Register

Motion: To approve the Accounts Payable Register dated 3/16/09 in the amount of \$1,741,308.15 subject to review and audit. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

Telephone Polls

March 4, 2009

Comm. Clemons requested that the Board approve a Telephone Poll conducted on March 4, 2009 relative to a grant application to fund Mental Health Courts in Hillsborough County. This request followed the meeting of the group that has been exploring the subject and was requested as a telephone poll in light of the filing deadline, which was prior to the Board's next meeting. Mr. Wenger was able to speak with all three commissioners who supported the action.

Motion: To authorize Superintendent O'Mara to apply for a Department of Justice Grant to fund Mental Health Courts in Hillsborough County. By Comm Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that there was a request to authorize the Superintendent to prepare and submit a grant application, but through the process of making the application, it became evident that the application needed to be handled differently. Mr. Wenger noted that it became necessary for the County to step in and submit a new application; he worked with Susan Stearn on behalf of the County to complete the application for filing. He noted that it was his understanding that the Board agreed to work with Susan Stearn, who was the third party to make that application; which she in fact did complete and file on time.

Comm. Clemons noted that the Committee that has been meeting relative to Mental Health Courts is waiting to see if the grant will be approved before proceeding.

Comm. Holden noted that she received an email relative to NPR radio doing a story on grant writers for Counties. She encouraged anyone who is working on a grant to be in touch with her, and she will forward the contact information.

March 4, 2009

Comm. Holden informed the Board that Mr. Wenger conducted a Telephone Poll on March 4, 2009, at the request of Comm. Holden who moved to accept the Financial Statements dated June 30, 2008, and the Independent Auditor's Report presented to the Board at its earlier meeting. He was able to speak with all three Commissioners who supported the action.

Motion: To accept the County of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, Financial Statements dated June 30, 2008 and Independent Auditor's Report from Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

March 6, 2009

Comm. Clemons informed the Board that Mr. Wenger conducted a Telephone Poll on March 6, 2009, at the request of Comm. Clemons, who moved to reject the Fact Finders Report and Recommendation issued by Susan Brown, dated October 27, 2008, in the matter of the Fact-Finding between Hillsborough County Nursing Home and AFSCME, Local 2715. Comm. Clemons offered that the vote was unanimous to reject the Fact Finder's Report.

The Telephone Poll Memo read as follows:

"3-6-2009

On Friday March 6, 2009 I conducted a poll of the Board at the request of Commissioner Clemons who moved to reject the Fact Finders Report and Recommendation issued by Susan Brown dated October 27, 2008 in the matter of Fact-Finding between Hillsborough County Nursing Home and AFSCME, Local 2715. This request was in follow up to the previous discussion of the matter with Mr. Flygare and the Board and was offered as a telephone poll in order to move the matter and avoid additional delay.

Commissioner Clemons offered that though the efforts of the parties and the Fact-Finder did accomplish a great deal and resolves many of the longstanding issues the parties have been struggling with, the cost of the economic package is not one that can be sustained in our current economic time and over the years covered by the recommendation. He noted that over the course of these negotiations and since the Fact-Finding process began the downturn in our economy has

become overwhelming and in light of this the financial impact of the recommendation bears heavily on his decision.

I was able to speak with all three commissioners who supported the action.”

The Board considered the following motion.

Motion: To reject the Report and Recommendations of the Fact-Finder authorize issued by Susan Brown dated October 27, 2008, in the matter of the Fact-Finding between Hillsborough County Nursing Home and AFSCME, Local 2715. By Comm Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Comm. Pappas noted that Treasurer Pappas was present to conduct a short item of business, and suggested that he address his request to the Board at this time.

Mr. C. Pappas, County Treasurer, explained that it is his duty to come before the Board every two years to nominate a Deputy Treasurer who would serve in the event of his incapacitation or demise, which he does not foresee over the next two years. Nevertheless, it is his duty to nominate a Deputy Treasurer, and he wishes to re-nominate Donna Soucy of Manchester, who has a strong financial background.

Motion: To approve Donna Soucy as the County Deputy Treasurer. By Comm Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Mr. C. Pappas excused himself from the meeting at this time.

Transfers

Transfer # 2009-08 – Contingency Grant to Sheriff’s Office-New Equipment

Motion: To approve Transfer # 2009-08, to transfer \$7,180 from the Contingency Grant line 4199-7740 to Sheriff’s Office-New Equipment, line 4211-7970. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Durette explained that this is a Grant that was previously approved and implemented, and that this is the last phase of it. This transfer is to offset the expense line. The Grant was used to purchase an ammunitions storage unit, replace one body armor, replacement packs for the defibrillators, and tests for people who are exposed to biological hazards.

Motion carried.

Transfer # 2009-09 – Contingency Grant to Sheriff’s Office-Part Time & Soc. Security

Motion: To approve Transfer # 2009-09, to transfer \$20,956 from the Contingency Grant line 4199-7740 to Sheriff’s Office-Part time line in the amount of \$17,377, and to Sheriff’s Office-Social Security line in the amount of \$3,579. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons.

Comm. Holden inquired how the re-imbursements from the State are progressing. Mr. Durette responded that this request is part of that. He noted that the State is current in its reimbursement. He further explained that when the money comes in, it goes into revenue, and to spend the money, it needs to be transferred out of the contingency line into the expense line.

Mr. Durette noted that the County will not be reimbursed in full for the high profile trial that was held in Manchester, noting that the State is limited to reimbursing up to \$65 a day. The County only got back about half of what it cost because it was using Deputies as well as Bailiffs.

Motion carried.

Transfer # 2009-10 – Contingency Grant Expense to Sheriff’s Office, Overtime Expense

Motion: To approve Transfer # 2009-10 from Sheriff’s Office, moving \$8,009 from Contingency Grant Expense to Sheriff’s Office, Overtime Expense. By Comm Clemons, second by Comm. Holden.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Durette explained that this is for the Officer assigned to the Drug Task Force, it is the second portion of that expense, and it is reimbursed at 100%.

Motion carried.

Transfer # 2009-11 – Department of Corrections, Education & Conference to Building Repairs and Maintenance.

Motion: To approve Transfer # 2009-11 for the Department of Corrections, to move \$10,000 from Education & Conference to Building Repairs and Maintenance. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons.

CIS Bid # # 11-2009 – Nursing Home - Kronos Annual Software Support

Motion: To approve CIS Bid # 11-2009 for the Nursing Home for Kronos Annual Software Support, to Kronos, Chelmsford MA, at a price of \$6,590.79, noting that it is a single source bidder under RSA 28:8-e V. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm Clemons. Motion carried.

4. Department of Corrections

Census

Comm. Pappas recognized Supt. O’Mara who presented the Department of Corrections’ Census, noting that as of March 16, the Census was 615, and explained that this included 538 men, of whom 205 have been sentenced, and 333 are being held pre-trial. There were 77 women, of whom 36 have been sentenced, and 41 are being held pre-trial.

Comm. Holden noted that she had received calls regarding a recent security incident at the DOC, and the Board decided it was a subject for discussion in Non-Public Session.

5. Nursing Home

Census

Comm. Pappas recognized Mr. Moorehead who presented the Nursing Home Census. He noted that as of March 12, the Census was 276, which included 201 Medicaid residents, 34 private pay residents, and 41 Medicare Part A residents.

Bid # 31-2009 – Fuel Oil for the Nursing Home, Dept. of Corrections, and the County Complex

Motion: To approve Bid # 31-2009 for Fuel Oil to Sprague Energy, Portsmouth, NH for the Nursing Home, at a price of \$1.57 per gallon, noting that it is the lowest responsible supplier and bidder, and to approve Hanscom Truck Stop for Fuel Oil for the Department of Corrections and the County Complex at a price of \$1.71 per gallon, noting that it is the lowest responsible supplier and bidder. Motion by Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Mr. Moorehead explained that this bid is a combined bid; the bid from Sprague Energy is for No. 4 fuel oil for the Nursing Home; the Hanscom bid is for No. 2 fuel oil for the Department of Corrections and the County Complex. Mr. Moorehead noted that these prices will kick in at the end of the current contract(s).

Bid # 32-2009 – Nursing Home – Propane Gas

Motion: To approve Bid # 32-2009 for Nursing Home for Propane Gas to Eastern Propane & Oil, Hudson, NH, at a price of \$1.4450 per gallon, noting it is the lowest responsible bidder. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm Clemons. Motion carried.

Mr. Moorehead explained that the projected savings over current prices is approximately \$325,880, noting that Mr. Lencki has advised him that the information he has gathered appears to indicate that if the County waits, the prices for oil and propane will most likely increase. Mr. Moorehead recommended locking in the price at this time based on the information he has.

Comm. Clemons inquired about the Nursing Home's experience with locking in the Fuel Oil price last year, to which Mr. Moorehead responded that the Nursing Home locked in later in the year and avoided the highest expenses. Mr. O'Mara noted that another factor that can add to the expense line in addition to price is the oil consumption in a cold winter with lots of snow.

Mr. Moorehead requested that the Board consider an additional Transfer for the Nursing Home. Mr. Wenger agreed to review the request during the Non-Public session, and the Board will address it once the meeting reconvenes.

P. Coughlin provided an update relative to the Registry of Deeds. She explained that the number of document filings has gone up from approximately 800 or 900 a week to about 1,600 last week; these represent filings and re-financing.

Ms. Coughlin informed the Board that new carpet has been installed and that the Department of Corrections has provided inmates to help move furniture, and they have done a professional job. She suggested that the rug looks nice and clean.

Ms. Coughlin noted that she still has concerns relative to the Temple Street building; she requested results or direction from the Board as to what she should do going forward. She informed the Board that her staff presented her with written comments relative to the conditions in the building; she shared the staff's comments with the Board. The Staff is expressing health concerns and Ms. Coughlin noted that she is aware that the insurance company has been in, but she has not been kept in the loop, and she is not aware of what is happening with the moisture issues in the building. Additionally, Ms. Coughlin expressed her concern with space should the staff from the County Attorney's office move into the building.

Ms. Coughlin informed the Board that she is obligated to meet certain requirements at the Registry as outlined in the RSA's including RSA 478:1, that basically states that the County is responsible for maintaining the office, and that she is responsible to make sure that the building is a fire safe, water safe environment protected from the elements. She again asked the Board what it would like her to do to address the health issues and asked for direction going forward. She explained that it is her understanding

that historically, the vaults were built to protect books for the Registry and Probate. She noted that the vaults were constructed with cement walls, cement floors, iron doors, and they are closed at night. Ms. Coughlin invited the Board to hold a meeting at the Registry so that it might better understand the space and moisture issues. Discussion ensued and the Board agreed to that it would be worthwhile to hold a meeting at the Registry.

Comm. Holden asked if there had been any safety monitoring of the conditions or the humidity, to which Ms. Robinson indicated that there is a humidity tester at Temple Street and the humidity in the rooms has been tested and has been found to be at normal levels, below 30% humidity. Ms. Coughlin responded that while the testing may have been done, she was not given a report.

Ms. Robinson noted that hydraulic fluid spilled from of a door opener creating a very strong odor in the basement area, but it was removed; the fluid was cleaned up, and the windows were opened in the evening to allow the smell to dissipate. Ms. Robinson noted that she did not call in an air quality specialist. Ms. Robinson noted that there is a continuing problem on the third floor above the copy room; plumbing and roofing people have looked at the roof; there is insulation between the original roof and the rubber roof, and the insulation around the glass dome is wet; the result is that the water is flowing through the insulation to the lowest point. She noted that a glass person will be looking at the glass dome today, next there will be a meeting between the glass person and the roof expert. She further noted that it may be necessary to replace both roofs.

Ms. Coughlin informed the Board that the ceiling above the copy room is still leaking in an area where there is still staff; she noted that the staff has their windows open during the day because they are experiencing headaches, and that is a concern. She further noted that she has concerns in terms of allergies and possible complaints from the public relative to the public area where the ceiling still has wet areas. Ms. Coughlin presented a memo to the Board which addressed security at Temple Street, and her concern for protecting the records held therein.

Comm. Clemons suggested that perhaps an environmental company should come in to work with the roofer and the ceiling person to make sure that any work done gives consideration to health issues. Ms. Robinson noted that she could contact an environmental company if the Board so desired.

Comm. Holden suggested that perhaps the County should look at the bigger picture and have someone do a space needs analysis of the building before planning to relocate the County Attorney and staff into another sick building. She noted that the issues concern the County Attorney, the Court and staff, the Sheriff's Department, and the Registry of Deeds. Comm. Holden suggested looking at all the issues, as opposed to fixing the roof, and then moving people. There was discussion relative to repairing the roof, and a general agreement was that the roof has to be repaired, at a minimum. Comm. Holden noted that several issues center on Temple St. The Board discussed holding one of its meetings at Temple Street so that everyone involved could visit the space and become more informed.

Mr. Wenger noted that the Commissioners are responsible for the care and maintenance of County facilities; however, under RSA 28:7, Section 28:7, any repair, enlargement, or erection of a facility at a cost exceeding \$5,000 has to be authorized by the County Convention.

Mr. Wenger suggested that the Board consider bringing in an outside expert who could review the space issues and possible uses of the Temple Street building, and whether it is possible to consider utilizing that space for the County Attorney's staff. He further suggested that the Board might wish to consider going to the County Convention only once, and that once it has had an opportunity to review the expert's advice, the County Attorney's space needs, the Sheriff's recommendations and the Registry of Deeds, it will then be able to make an appropriate decision and all the issues can be addressed concurrently with the County Convention.

Comm. Clemons noted that the cost of bringing the County Convention together is substantial. Comm. Clemons inquired of Attorney Kirby what would happen if lightning hit the building. She responded that it isn't that difficult to pull the County Convention together, particularly in Concord when they are in session.

Register Coughlin read a section of RSA 478:1: "the Register of Deeds shall carefully keep in the office provided by the County at all times..." noting that the County is responsible for the expenses of the Registry office; she went on to say that the statute also states that documents need to be protected at all time from fire, theft, water and the elements.

Ms. Robinson reported that Primex will provide coverage for interior repairs. The roof and the interior repairs will be bid separately. Ms. Coughlin asked if Primex would meet with her to discuss all the areas involved, to which Ms. Robinson responded that Primex contact will be herself. Ms. Coughlin noted her concern that Primex is aware of all areas. Ms. Robinson responded that she will liaison with Ms. Coughlin. Ms. Coughlin noted that she has some money encumbered to help with the roof expense; however, it is not enough for the roof repair. Mr. Wenger suggested that as the money was encumbered for a different purpose, and it would not be appropriate to use it for this purpose.

Comm. Holden suggested that the Board consider the County Attorney's space needs to see if the County Attorney's staff can fit into Temple Street, then move forward with the bid for the roof. Comm. Clemons expressed his belief that the County should move forward to resolve the roof issue very quickly.

Comm. Pappas expressed her belief that it was time to move forward with the roof bid. Comm. Clemons suggested that it is important for the environmental company to work with the person that does the interior work to make certain that there are no mold or health problems.

Comm. Holden suggested that the Board should move forward with the space needs analysis for the building because there needs to be a solution before December; addressing the needs now will allow time for the Board to look for other space, if necessary.

M. O'Neil noted that she was representing the County Attorney at this meeting, and explained that the County Attorney is looking for direction from the Board relative to the space needs for the 31 staff people who will be moving to the District Court South.

Comm. Clemons explained that he was unable to make a decision at this time because he is lacking information and he is not yet aware of the space needs of those involved; he noted that he has not seen the Temple Street space. Mr. Wenger noted that he has plans for the building with him, and suggested that the Board and those involved, get together at the end of the meeting to review the plans.

Mr. Wenger suggested that the Board may quickly arrive at the decision that it is going to need some educated advice. He added that looking at the plans, based on where the walls and rooms are currently, it becomes evident that everyone will not fit into the Temple Street building as presently configured. He noted that there might be options, including a build-out, but suggested that it be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that on March 11th, he received a proposed lease amendment for Chestnut Street, noting that it is his understanding that the State is simply looking to extend the lease during the term that the County will have to be there. He explained that the current lease expires on June 30.

6. Old/New Business

Mr. O'Mara distributed a newspaper article relative to a "Deadbeat Dad."

Comm. Clemons raised the subject of having "Public Comments on Agenda Items" at the beginning of the meeting, noting that at the last meeting the Board agreed to consider this change; he requested that the Board discuss it further at this time. Comm. Holden suggested perhaps having the Public Comments at a specific time, such as 10:00 a.m. so that a person would know when he/she could be heard, and also suggested that the Board keep the same language at the bottom of the agenda. Comm. Clemons noted that he would like to include a time limit, which could be increased at the Board's option. Further discussion ensued with a general agreement that the "Public Comments on Agenda Items" be placed at the beginning of the meeting agenda. Comm. Clemons further suggested that there be another Public Comments time at the end of the meeting for people who may wish to address items that may not be on the agenda. He noted that the requirements to address the Board that are listed at the bottom of each agenda may be too "official" for some, and suggested that adding general Public Comments at the end may encourage the public to become more involved.

Comm. Holden mentioned she has considered this further, and that the County will be putting the budget information, meeting schedules, and notice of public hearing on its website. She noted that with the dates and times posted online, people can contact one of the Commissioners if they have an issue that they would like to bring to the Board. She further noted that she would like to see the Board of Commissioners' meetings televised and explained that it could be a goal for the future.

Comm. Pappas informed the Board that she received correspondence from Mr. Montgomery, who again mentioned Channel 16, and how it would like to televise our meetings.

Mr. Wenger offered his suggestion that the agenda could include the minutes approval and Business Office items first (approval of payroll, accounts payable, telephone polls), followed by "Public Comment on Agenda Items". The Board discussed whether or not to include a specific time. The Board agreed to make this addition, as discussed, without including a specific time as well as leaving Public Comments (without reference to the words "on Agenda items") where it appears currently.

Comm. Holden noted that the NACo fellow, Jean Marcal is willing to come to NH; Comm. Holden noted that she is trying to facilitate that.

Comm. Holden informed the Board that NACo will be conducting three free 75-minute Webinars; the first will be April 2nd, covering Implementation of the Stimulus Bill. The second will be on May 7th and will cover County Budget Strategies during the Recession; the last will be on June 11th and will address Securing the Safety Net-Meeting Social Service Demands. She noted that she will send the information to the Business Office for distribution by Mr. Wenger.

Comm. Holden mentioned the NACo newsletter, and referred to a recent column, "Tips for Tough Times." She also noted that there will be an insert, "Foreclosure Prevention and Response during the Second Quarter 2009," further noting that she is a member of the program services committee and that NACo is trying to develop programs that are helpful to the Counties.

Comm. Holden informed the Board that the town of Goffstown adopted an amendment to its Master Plan on February 27th; she noted that the Town has designated a couple of potential roads to go across County property, further noting that this could be the motivation to get the County moving on what it is going to do with the County land.

Comm. Pappas noted that representatives of NHAC met with all four members of New Hampshire's Congressional Delegation at the recent NACo Conference; the conversations were primarily related to the Stimulus Package and whether the Counties will have pass-throughs. She noted that all four felt that the language indicates that the County should receive funds, but they were not definitive. Comm. Pappas further noted that another subject of discussion was health care access for prisoners, and the

Congressional Delegation indicated that while they all support that legislation, they do not see it happening for some time because of a Senator who is not favor of this. Mr. O'Mara indicated that the inmates are covered for the first 30 days of their incarceration.

Mr. Wenger provided the Board with an updated negotiations schedule, noting there were changes in some of the times. He informed the Board that several grievance matters from the Nursing Home are scheduled for the Board's April 15th meeting.

Mr. Wenger discussed possible dates to hold a Board meeting in Nashua at Temple Street. Following discussion, the Board agreed to hold its May 13th meeting at Temple Street.

Mr. Wenger asked for the Board's approval on the draft letter, which will go out to the County's town officials regarding its budget process. The Board approved the draft; Mr. Wenger will produce the letters for the Commissioner's signatures.

Mr. Wenger asked the Board if it would like to address the vacant space on the second floor of the Bouchard Building or other outside buildings, and suggested that the Executive Committee put money in the Contingency Budget for those purposes. He noted that Rep. Jasper, Building Committee chair, inquired about the plans for the contingency funds.

7. Public Comments

A member of the public addressed the Board. He indicated that he wished to attend the meeting to see what it was all about. He indicated that the Fact Finder's report affects him, to which, Comm. Pappas indicated that he could have a copy of the Telephone Poll Memo statement. He responded that he would, in fact, like to receive a copy, which was provided.

M. Rusch informed the Board that the Executive Committee will meet on Friday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m. and noted that she has received good response regarding the Budget Orientation Packets. She requested that those doing a Power Point presentation forward the information to her, and she would include it in the packet she will be distributing.

8. Non-Public Session

Comm. Pappas noted that Supt. O'Mara has requested a Non-Public session relative to a security related issue at the Department of Corrections. The Board also addressed a request to meet with Attorney Kirby relative to litigation.

Motion: To move into Non-Public session with Supt. O'Mara under RSA 91:A-3 II (g) in consideration of security-related issues bearing on the immediate safety of security personnel or inmates at the County correctional facilities by county correctional superintendents or their designees, and to meet with Attorney Kirby under RSA 91:A-3 II (c) in consideration of pending claims or litigation. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Pappas-yes; Holden-yes; Clemons-yes. Motion carried.

The Board moved into Non-Public session at 10:24 a.m.

The Board met with Supt. O'Mara followed by meeting with Attorney Kirby

No action was taken during Non-Public session.

The Board moved out of Non-Public Session and returned to its regular meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Motion: To come out of Non-Public Session. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden.
Motion carried.

Comm. Pappas asked the other Commissioners if they had any motions for the Board's consideration.

Motion: To authorize the settlements in the cases discussed in Non-Public session with the County's Legal Counsel for the amounts discussed. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenger noted that he reviewed the Nursing Home's earlier transfer request, and suggested that it is appropriate for the Board's consideration. The Board considered the request and took action.

Motion: To approve Transfer # 2009-12 to transfer \$270,000 from Nursing Department Salaries to Administrative Bed Assessment. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons.

Comm. Clemons asked for clarification relative to the transfer. Mr. Moorehead noted this relates to the bed tax money that is received, which is on the expense side of the budget; whatever amount is received from the State and the Federal match equals approximately 2.3 dollars of revenue for each dollar spent. As revenues rise, which happened in 2009, bed tax expense and revenue increase. Mr. Moorehead simplified by saying that it is basically an expense that is matched by 2.3 dollars revenue for every dollar expensed.

Motion carried.

Those Departments affected by the pending relocation of County Operations at Chestnut Street remained to review the Temple Street building plans. Mr. Wenger explained that there are 31 people in the County Attorney's office who have to be moved; office space is needed for 14 Attorneys, 3 Victim's Witness advocates, and the Investigator, a total of 18. He indicated that there is not space for 18 offices as the building exists currently. Ms. Robinson reviewed the current space utilization and suggested possible options. Ms. Coughlin expressed her concern relative to her employees, and some of the options offered and noted that this would not work well for her Department. Mr. Wenger observed that the only possible way he could see it working would be to move the Registry of Deeds to the first and second floors, and renovate and secure the basement for the County Attorney's staff. He further noted he anticipates that the cost would be significant if it would need to include HVAC and electrical. He went on to explain that this might not meet the environmental needs for the Registry of Deeds' documents, and suggested that it is time to get professional help. Ms. Robinson discussed security options for the building that included the possibility of having a security guard walking the building. There was further discussion relative to Spring Street; the general consensus is that there probably will not be any space available there.

Mr. Wenger suggested that the Board consider if it wishes to invest the time, energy, and money into adapting Temple Street, or does it wish to dedicate its energies to find a space outside of the Court facility, i.e. leasing space. The Board favored looking at other space as well as giving consideration to the Temple Street location. Comm. Clemons asked how the Board could proceed relative to hiring an architect. Mr. Wenger suggested that the Board could approve a transfer, and noted that the Board may wish to consider a Telephone Poll to get that done. He remarked that if it were under \$5,000, it would not be necessary to go out to a formal bidding process; he went on to explain that it should be less than \$5,000 for a needs study. The Board favored going forward.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that the Sheriff's Office transportation unit and large communication equipment still remain at Chestnut Street and suggested that while this has not been addressed during this discussion, it may be possible that the equipment could be located at the Bouchard Building. He asked the Board for the authority to explore options of putting that equipment here, one of which may be

locating the equipment above the Sheriff's Office on the second floor, noting that it could be contiguous to the Sheriff's Office. He further noted that there is other space potential in the building.

Mr. Durette noted that the "brain" for the Sheriff's communication equipment is located in the basement of Chestnut Street; there are approximately ten antennas on the roof of that building that connect to the State and to the eight towns that the Sheriff's Office dispatches for. He informed the Board that it will not be possible to move the system here, a new unit will have to be purchased because of a possible two month down time that it would take to move the entire unit, and that is not an acceptable option; the Sheriff's Department cannot be without radio communications.

Mr. Durette explained that communications is very complex and difficult to resolve; one of the issues concerns where to get a signal and where a signal can be sent from. This location, the County Complex, is in a geographic bowl; however, this area can connect to Manchester by bouncing a signal off the VA Hospital antennae. He noted that many issues need to be considered. One of the considerations will be adding a tower to the County's water tank because there is not time to construct a large tower, and it would be expensive; he originally projected an expense of \$400,000 for the entire project four years ago. Mr. Durette indicated that costs are lower now as technology increased. Mr. Wenger noted that all of the spreadsheets he has seen from the State reflect that the County will be responsible for the expense of a new system. Mr. Durette noted that there may be Stimulus money associated with public safety and broadband, and he is working on that possibility. He noted that the ideal situation would be to get the equipment on County property.

Mr. Wenger noted that he would put together the steps necessary for obtaining professional advice relative to Temple Street and other options. He will open communication with the Sheriff and Rep. Jasper to begin looking at the use of the Bouchard Building space, as well as looking for space in Nashua.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

(SIGNED 4/01/2009)

Comm. Michael Clemons, Clerk
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners

Date