

Regular Meeting of the
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners
September 16, 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. C. Holden, Comm. M. Clemons, P. Coughlin, C. Kirby, B. Moorehead, J. O'Mara, E. Robinson, M. Rusch, G. Wenger, and L. Stonner.

Also present: K. Covert, S. Lyons, J. Hills, S. Morin, K. Holt, P. Martel, M. LaFlamme, M. Reopel, R. Hults, and H. Bernier

1. Pledge to the Flag

Comm. Pappas was unable to attend the meeting. Comm. Holden called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by Attorney Wageling.

3. County Attorney

Personnel Issue

Comm. Holden explained that the County Attorney requested a Non-Public Session relative to a personnel issue.

Motion: To go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) with County Attorney M. Wageling relative to a personnel issue. Holden-yes, Clemons-yes. Motion carried.

The Board moved into Non-Public session at 9:02 a.m.

The Board met with Attorney Wageling, and discussed a personnel issue at the County Attorney's office.

The Board took no action during Non-Public Session.

The Board moved out of Non-Public session at 9:06 a.m.

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

Motion: To nominate Katherine D. Brown as Assistant County Attorney. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

4. Administrative Business

Minutes

September 2, 2009

Motion: To accept the minutes of the September 2, 2009 Board of Commissioner's meeting. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Approval of Payroll Registers

Motion: To approve the Payroll Register 9/3/2009 in the amount of \$1,167,069.30, subject to review and audit. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Approval of Accounts Payable Registers

Motion: To approve the Accounts Payable Register dated 9/14/2009 in the amount of \$4,075,411.32, subject to review and audit. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Extraditions

Motion: To approve Sheriff's extradition vouchers from July 29, 2009 in the amount of \$8.00, and July 31, 2009 in the amount of \$ 82.68, for a total of \$90.68. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden.

Comm. Holden noted, as a friendly amendment, that the extradition vouchers have been previously approved by the County Attorney.

Motion carried.

CIS Bid # 5-2010 – Cisco SmartNet Hardware Support

Motion: To approve CIS Bid # 5-2010 for Cisco SmartNet Hardware Support to Gov Connection, Inc., at a price of \$ 36,106.10 noting it is the lowest responsible bidder. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden.

Mr. Wenger explained that this is the bid that he previously brought to the Board that went back out to bid. It is for the support for all the hardware for the telephones and data throughout the County. He noted that while the purchase is through a third party vendor, the support comes from Cisco.

Motion carried.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No one from the public indicated a desire to speak relative to the agenda.

7. Nursing Home

Comm. Holden recognized Mr. Moorehead who presented the Nursing Home Census. He explained that as of September 10th, the Census was 276, which included 202 Medicaid residents, 37 private pay residents, and 37 Medicare Part A residents. He explained that the number of Medicare residents has increased, which is very positive, and that the current census is 278 with one bed-hold and 41 Part A residents.

Bid # 06-2010 – Speech Therapist

Mr. Moorehead presented Bid # 06-2010 that is to allow the Nursing Home to contract with an outside agency for Speech Therapy services. He explained that while they have contracts with four outside agencies, none of them have Speech Therapists available. Mr. Moorehead explained that the Speech Therapist they currently have a contract with is cutting back on her hours; the per diem therapist that is currently on staff has a personal issue and will be going out on leave. He noted that the need for speech therapy is increasing.

Mr. Moorehead recommended Speaking, Inc., Norwood, MA, noting that this company has a person who will be available at least 20 hours a week, and it is the lowest responsible bidder at a price of \$55 per hour.

Motion: To approve Bid # 06-2010 for Speech Therapy services to Speaking, Inc., Norwood, MA at a price of \$55 per hour, noting it is the lowest responsible bidder. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Mr. Moorehead explained that the majority of the speech therapy cost is fully reimbursed by Medicare Part A or Part B.

Mr. Moorehead raised an issue of Budgeted Positions at \$1.00, noting that the Nursing Home has been requested by Human Resources to secure approval for some positions that were budgeted at \$1.00, which were filled. He referred the Board to an email to the Commissioners in which he outlined the reasons why he does not believe that is a good idea. Comm. Holden noted that the budget instructions were clear that positions budgeted at \$1.00 would have to come back before the Board. Comm. Holden noted that one of Mr. Moorehead's concerns was that he would have to wait two weeks for approval, but that is not the case; she indicated that the Board could approve a Telephone Poll quickly, usually within twenty-four hours, further noting that the Board is prepared to move an approval along expeditiously. Mr. Moorehead noted the positions are already approved, and he believes that it is the responsibility of the administrator whose budget the position falls under to see that the budget is not exceeded, and noted that he does not see the need to approve the position twice. Comm. Clemons inquired if there was any reason why the Nursing Home should be any different than other departments in the County? Mr. Moorehead noted that he is very concerned about timing because there are times when they have to wait a few days, or potentially two weeks, and he is concerned that the Nursing Home might lose someone who might be an excellent candidate. Comm. Holden noted that if the issue becomes a problem, the Board could address it. Comm. Clemons offered that perhaps the Nursing Home could try to anticipate the needs and communicate with Mr. Wenger about the sensitivity of hiring an employee as quickly as possible, who could in turn; relay that information to the Board as quickly as possible.

Mr. Moorehead referred the Board to a Union Leader article, "I Remember Paris;" he explained that the story outlines her experiences in France when sixty-five years ago, the occupying Germans surrendered to the French Resistance and the American Forces.

August Revenue

Mr. Moorehead presented a draft overview of the August 2009 revenue, noting that the budget for the month is \$1,712,651; the actual July revenue was \$1,759,825, resulting in a positive variance of \$47,174. He noted that this was with an average daily census of 272, which is remarkable; also, the average Medicare rate for the month was higher than budget at \$459, which is good.

Bid # 03-2010 – Hospice Care

Mr. Moorehead presented Bid # 03-2010, which is for Hospice Care at the Nursing Home. He explained that this is a non-cost item to the County because it is reimbursed by Medicare. He recommended Home Health & Hospice Care of Manchester, NH at a price of \$471.65 per day, noting that this vendor is recommended based on its programs, good interviews, longevity, and because it has the highest number of volunteers and employees. He noted that the lowest cost does not apply in this case because it is a non-cost item to the County.

There was discussion among the Board members relative to competitive bidding and Counsel was asked whether RSA 28:8-e II applies, and if the County was required to accept the lowest responsible bidder since it was a non-cost item to the County and fully reimbursed by Medicare. Mr. Moorehead pointed out that this

is revenue, not expense to the County. Legal Counsel, C. Kirby noted that it was her understanding that this is not a service that the County pays for, but in any event, the exceptions would allow the responsible bidder under considerations outlined in RSA 28:8-e II, which include the character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience and efficiency of the bidder, and it appears that these are some of the things that Mr. Moorehead has outlined. She asked to verify that since this is not a service that Hillsborough County is necessarily receiving; this is something that the Federal Government is paying for, to which Mr. Moorehead responded that her assumption was correct, and that funds are coming back to the hospice provider, and to the Nursing Home. After discussion among Board members and with Counsel, Counsel asked the Board to consider tabling the bid to allow her time to review the issue, and a motion was made to table the bid. Attorney Kirby asked to have the time to review the information because she did not receive the Nursing Home information until this morning. Comm. Clemons asked when the contract expires, and if the contract could be extended, to which Mr. Moorehead responded that it was at the end of the current month, and he would likely have to extend the contract at this time anyway.

Motion: To table Bid # 03-2010 involving a Hospice Care provider. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

6. Department of Corrections

Census

Supt. O'Mara presented the DOC Census, noting that as of September 9th, the Census was 560, which included 508 men of whom 352 are being held pre-trial, and 156 have been sentenced. There were 52 women of whom 34 are being held pre-trial and 18 have been sentenced.

Bid # FY10-43 – Boiler Chimney Installation

Supt. O'Mara presented Bid # FY10-43, which is for Boiler Chimney Installation at the Complex, and recommended Eckhardt & Johnson, Manchester, NH at a cost of \$19,330 as the lowest responsible bidder that met all the specifications.

Motion: To approve Bid # FY10-43 for Boiler Chimney Installation at the Complex, to Eckhardt & Johnson, Manchester, NH at a cost of \$19,330 as the lowest responsible bidder that met all the specifications. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

There was discussion about the type of chimney, and the work to be done.

8. Register of Deeds

Revenue Update and Document Count

Register, P. Coughlin reported that the Registry revenue is up 3% over last year, but still down from the previous year; she indicated that copy requests have gone up 5%, and the document count is up 35%. She explained that this is because there have been many judgments, tax liens, and amendments to mortgages but there is not a lot of property that is being sold. She noted that the Registry is just as busy as in the past, but these transactions don't bring in tax revenue. In response to a question from Comm. Clemons, she indicated that the Registry revenue is running a bit over budget projections.

M. Rusch reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for September 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Wenger presented a potential sale of a County vehicle from the Motor Vehicle Fleet. He noted that the vehicle for sale is a 2004 Ford Explorer, which has been taken out of use. The highest bid to purchase the vehicle comes from NHCars.net, noting that it has offered a price of \$3,500.

Motion: To approve the sale of a County vehicle from the Motor Vehicle Fleet, noting that the vehicle for sale is a 2004 Ford Explorer, and that the highest bid comes from NHCars.net, Hooksett, NH, noting that it has offered a price of \$3,500. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

9. Old/New Business

Supt. O'Mara showed the Board a series of photos that related to gang activity in the community and the prison. He explained that the DOC has a relationship with the local police in Manchester and Nashua. He shared the names of local gangs that included the Latin Kings, the Bloods, the Krips, Folk Nation, Gangster Disciples, and a very unique gang called NETA. He explained that each of these gangs has certain criteria, but an interesting fact about the NETA gang is that the only criteria are that one has to be incarcerated. He further explained the different methods they attempt to use to identify themselves, such as placement of their shoes, scars, marks, and tattoos. The Superintendent explained that the DOC has always avoided classifying people by race, ethnicity, and gangs and noted that in California, the gangs are separated, but that has not happened yet in this area. He explained that some have gone to the point of rolling up one pant leg, wearing the uniform in a unique manner, and even putting their shoes under the doors at night so that other inmates can know of their affiliation with a certain gang. He noted that many people who are involved in gang activity are arrested in non-gang activity crimes. Supt. O'Mara explained DOC is very thorough during the intake process in filling out and SMT form, which identifies "scars, marks, and tattoos;" this process helps the DOC identify people who are affiliated/associated with certain gangs; he further noted that this information would otherwise go unnoticed, and the information is shared with Manchester and Nashua police, who are very grateful for the information. Comm. Clemons noted the importance of reducing gang activity and offered that identifying tags such as clothing may provide the gang members a sense of belonging and for those who have a bad family life, the gang provides them with a feeling of family.

E. Robinson reported that the roof replacement project at Temple Street is in the final stage of completion. The metal work is being repaired. She noted that on the inside, all needed repairs have been reviewed; old lighting will be replaced in some rooms, and there may be a room where all the lighting will be replaced so that it matches. She explained that the interior project should go out to bid in two weeks. Comm. Holden noted that she assumes that Ms. Robinson is working with the three elected officials who are affected in coordinating all the work, to which Ms. Robinson responded that she does her best to do that and has had numerous conversations with Ms. Coughlin. She noted that she walked through the County Attorney's space the previous week to check to see if there was any work in that area that needs to be done, but she has not had a conversation with the County Attorney yet. Comm. Holden suggested that Ms. Robinson contact someone from the Department when she does a walk-through to be certain that any unseen problems are not missed.

Attorney Wageling inquired about security for the County Attorney's Office at Temple Street, noting that she has mentioned the issue on many occasions, and has been listening to promises since 2004 that someday there would be security at the Courthouse; she noted that she just doesn't understand what the holdup is, and believes this is at the peril of the County's employees. She conveyed her concern that someone needs to put this issue "on the front burner, and have it attended to." She commented, "I understand that everyone is busy, but I do not understand why it has not been attended to, and if something happens, the record will be clear that people were asked repeatedly to have this attended to, and it is unacceptable." Comm. Holden noted the Board presented a plan several years ago that was rejected because of monetary concerns, and problems with Honeywell is not an excuse; she further noted that she would like to see there be a security update at each meeting. Comm. Clemons concurred that it should be on the agenda at each

meeting and inquired of Attorney Wageling what her recommendations would be to improve the security. Attorney Wageling replied that she tries to be respectful of the issues involving monetary concerns and noted that the building has an agency that should be open to the public (Registry of Deeds), and one that should not be open to the public (County Attorney's offices), but with the layout of the building, a person could literally walk into any door and have access to her staff, unless the second floor is somehow blocked off to only employees of the building; options might include being buzzed in or some sort of scanning mechanism. She noted that she does not know how that would be implemented, but she would recommend that people be buzzed in to the second floor and have a scanning mechanism for employees at the public entrance of the building. Attorney Wageling offered that an option could be to have some sort of panic button, at a minimum, although this is a reactive approach to the problem, rather than a proactive one. She summarized by explaining that they have been hearing about a contract and efforts, but there is still no security in the building, and if the least that could be done is to provide the staff with panic buttons, then that's what should be done.

Ms. Coughlin inquired where the panic buttons would go to...to the Sheriff's Department, to the Nashua Police Department or where? Ms. Robinson responded that connectivity is the issue; where it goes is the issue with the contract. She noted that it would go to a security company who would then immediately call the Nashua Police and the County Sheriff's Department. She noted that the panic buttons are connected to the Sheriff's Department, but the Sheriff's Department is not always manned, and that is one of the concerns. Ms. Robinson noted that the Board did approve a Security Officer for the building in the last budget, and it has done so in the past. She went on to add that she had explored the idea of a wand or detector, but it cannot be done legally. She noted that offices could be locked and one side of the building on the second floor could be locked and many offices could be accessed by going through other offices. She talked about other options that could be entertained where access could be limited, noting that more physical barriers have not been explored.

Ms. Robinson offered that the Board did approve a Security Officer for the building, which was subsequently removed during the budget process. She also noted that she had explored the use of a wand, but that it can't be used legally because it is not a Courthouse. She noted that the majority of the County Attorney's offices are on the second floor and that the doors could be locked. Comm. Holden suggested that other options could be considered during the next budget cycle. P. Coughlin inquired why the County could not get another vendor for the contract, to which Ms. Robinson responded that the company she is working with to finalize the contract is the company that did the system installation. Comm. Clemons inquired why the contract could not be activated, to which Ms. Robinson responded that she is trying to get the contract finalized. Comm. Clemons inquired if there was anything else that could be done to improve security. Ms. Robinson responded that possible options include locking the doors and possibly an intercom and camera system. She offered to set up a meeting with the Register of Deeds and the County Attorney to discuss this further.

Comm. Holden noted that these considerations could be a part of the next budget cycle. Ms. Robinson expressed her belief that it would not be wise to go to another security company until being certain everything is operational because Honeywell is the company that did the installation, noting that it could be put out to bid in the future. Comm. Clemons noted Attorney Wageling's concern and offered that putting this problem off for a year will not solve the problem, and a lot can happen in a year; he asked if there were anything the County could do temporarily, i.e. to activate that buzzer system. Ms. Robinson responded that she is in the process of doing that; she is working with the vendor to put a rider on the original contract. Comm. Clemons asked if there were anything else that could be done before the next budget cycle. Ms. Robinson responded that there could be some type of system installed for certain office spaces; also the simple solution is to lock the door if the public is not entering, perhaps an intercom and buzzer system, possibly with a camera, but she would have to check into it. She offered to meet with those involved to discuss further barriers, and suggested that doors could be locked beginning immediately.

Comm. Clemons asked the County Attorney if she, or someone from her office, would be willing to sit down with Ms. Robinson and try to come up with something that is agreeable to both. Attorney Wageling noted that in terms of locking or not locking the doors, it's not astrophysics...they can figure that out; however, it is totally impractical...then you become a hostage in your four-wall office, and there are people from the public in their office every hour of the day such as police departments, victims, and the general public. She indicated that she didn't know what it would take to finalize the contract, but at the very least, if they could have the panic buttons, there would be some level of comfort, and then we could move on to some physical issues, which Attorney Wageling indicated that she would be happy to discuss. She asked if the contract could be moved forward and be executed, or if there could at least be some understanding of why/what the issue is, and if perhaps someone else needs to be involved to make that happen.

Comm. Holden noted that she would like a security update at each meeting. She expressed concern that the back door is being left ajar when the roof work is being done. Comm. Clemons asked for recommendations, to which Attorney Wageling responded that she understands that the building has to be open, but one option would be that her staff could be buzzed in, or perhaps a scanning mechanism could be utilized. She also suggested a panic button as a minimum for the staff's security.

P. Coughlin inquired where the buzzer would be located and what the response would be. Ms. Robinson explained that if a buzzer were to be pushed, the Nashua Police would be contacted immediately as well as the Sheriff's Department.

Attorney Wageling noted that she cannot do anything, she can only encourage discussion. Comm. Holden responded that she "got the message." Comm. Holden offered that perhaps a Commissioner could attend when the group meeting is held, to which the County Attorney expressed her agreement.

Supt. O'Mara noted that he has a friends who work for TSA that are constantly updating their hardware and equipment at all the airports, and their older equipment could be available, possibly for free. He further noted that he has seen per diem ads for \$65 per day Court Officers for the Henniker area, and if that concept seems to be working, perhaps that could be applied to the Courthouse as well. Ms. Robinson responded that even if there was equipment and a gun was identified, the person still has a right to enter the building carrying a gun in New Hampshire, because it is not a Courthouse. She explained that even if you can identify that they have a gun, you can ask them to give it up, but they are not required to, and most who carry guns know that. Attorney Wageling informed the Board that while a person legally has the right to enter the Registry of Deeds carrying a gun, they do not have the right to enter the County Attorney's offices, and if a person was identified as carrying a gun, they could legally be prevented from going to the second floor if there were someone there to prevent that.

There being no further discussion, the Board continued with its agenda.

The Board discussed the need to consult with Counsel.

Motion: To move into recess to consult with Counsel with Supt. O'Mara and Attorney Kirby.

The Board moved into recess at 10:05 a.m.

The Board moved out of recess at 10:10 a.m.

2. AFCSME Grievance

AFSCME Grievance # PM 0582 – Julie Hills

Comm. Holden recognized those present for the grievance; they included Mr. Moorehead, K. Covert, P. Martel, S. Lyons, and Julie Hills, the Grievant.

Mr. Lyons explained the nature of the grievance and outlined the Union's position. He explained that this grievance relates to the non-payment of overtime at the end of a sixteen hour shift, and asked that the Grievant be paid the difference between the straight time that she was paid, and the overtime that the Union feels she is entitled to. Mr. Lyons went on to explain that this grievance relates to section 5.2 of the contract which outlines that any time in excess of eight hours is paid at the overtime rate.

Mr. Moorehead explained that she was not paid overtime for the hours in question because they were part of a new work week, and the policy is that the employee should not be paid overtime in this situation. S. Morin from the Nursing Home noted that she had contacted the NH Labor Department to verify that the Nursing Home had interpreted the law correctly. She noted that after midnight is a new day, and in this case a new pay period.

There was further discussion among the parties and the Board, and the Board took the grievance under advisement.

AFSCME Grievance # PM 0580 – Melissa LaFlamme

Mr. Lyons informed the Board that from the Union's perspective, this is a discipline matter without just cause. He explained that there was a meeting with the Grievant relative to the issue, and later a written warning. He noted that the Grievant agreed to accept a verbal warning. Mr. Lyons explained that he does not believe that the issue was investigated properly; he noted that the Grievant was told that if the incident happened again she would be "written up." He further noted that the complainant, a patient's relative, has a history of complaining. Mr. Lyons informed the Board that there were no other derogatory issues in her personnel file relative to the employee and her interaction with residents.

K. Covert explained that a family member approached an evening supervisor very upset and crying, about an incident in the dining room when she asked the Grievant to "do her job," and the Grievant, who was using her cell phone responded, "I am doing my job" in a loud, rude manner. The family member wanted her mother fed at the time. S. Dumais took the Grievant aside and spoke to her about the cell phone use and that she had upset the family, which were both inappropriate.

Ms. Covert explained that when she met with the Grievant, she became loud and angry and was given a written warning for rudeness, which she refused to sign. P. Martel and K. Covert met and asked the Grievant if she would reconsider if the warning was lowered to a verbal warning for cell phone use, rude and unprofessional behavior, noting that a verbal warning was appropriate.

The Grievant's position relative to the dining room incident was that when the family member asked her: "Don't you have something to do?" She noted that she was not talking on her cell phone, but had opened it to check the time, and her response to the family member was, "I am working."

Comm. Clemons inquired if the written reprimand was completed before having a conversation with Ms. LaFlamme, to which Ms. Covert responded that was the case, and explained that the written reprimand was not issued to her, and there have been many situations where she has listened to the employee and then changed it or not given it. Ms. Covert noted that she did take Ms. LaFlamme's comments into consideration; the reprimand was written but it is possible that it might not have been given to her or that it could have been changed. In response to a comment from S. Lyons, Mr. Moorehead noted that it was impossible for Mr. Lyons to know what happened at the meeting because he was not present. Comm. Clemons asked Ms. LaFlamme if she rebutted the reprimand, to which she responded that she reported the incident to a supervisor, and wrote a letter to Ms. Covert to document her story and to explain what happened. Comm.

Clemons asked Mr. Lyons if the Union advises its members to rebut issues, to which he responded in the affirmative.

More discussion ensued between the Union and the Board, and Management and the Board relative to the Grievant's attitude, the appropriateness of the warning, the timing of the warning, and the family member in question as well as her past complaints. The Board asked the Union to provide a timeline of the events, which it agreed to do by the end of the meeting. The Board agreed to take the grievance under advisement.

Members of the Union, the Grievant, and Nursing Home administrative staff left the meeting at this time.

Comm. Holden asked if there were other old/new business to address. Mr. Wenger noted that County Attorney has requested a new cell phone for an Assistant County Attorney who must be available to law enforcement officials 24/7 for one party intercepts, noting that there was a phone in the past that was covered by a grant that is not available at this time.

Motion: To approve one additional cell phone for the Assistant County Attorney in question, at the request of the County Attorney. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenger provided an update regarding the Design Charrette scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd. He noted that good information was brought forth at the previous day's Department Head meeting, at which time they shared their thoughts, dreams, ideas and suggestions for opportunities that would serve a regional purpose; he further noted that the Board of Commissioners will have an opportunity to bring its thoughts forward at its next meeting, and reviewed the Charrette agenda with the Board. He explained that the County Stakeholders meeting time is from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. on Friday, October 2nd, which is the appropriate time for the elected officials, Commissioners, and the County Representatives to give the team some input. Mr. Wenger remarked that one of the items from the previous day's meeting was to give consideration to opportunities that would serve a regional purpose, and suggested that might be a consideration for the Board when it addresses its issues. Comm. Holden noted that this is County land, which means the two cities and twenty-nine towns, not just Goffstown.

Comm. Clemons noted that a consideration could be ways of making the land pay for itself, such as Belknap County is doing with a campground and ski resort. Comm. Holden responded that this thinking is very appropriate, and noted that the County has a completed timber study, as well as many things that came out of the Master Plan which can be pulled out for consideration. She noted that now is the time to think out of the box and to listen to other people; the opportunities are endless. She noted that in the past, the County's approach has been reactive rather than proactive. Mr. Wenger summarized by saying that the County's land is a resource, and consideration should be given as to how to maximize the resource for the taxpayer, noting that this is an opportunity to develop new tax revenue. He expects the Charrette Team to give consideration to the development side, the conservation side, and how the two can meet as well as giving priority to future County needs.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that representatives from the Sheriff's Department and the County Attorney's office met last week relative to the "nuts and bolts" items for Chestnut Street. He noted that the Court is planning to close down and move out during the week between Christmas and New Years and it is the County's expectation that it too will be moving during that time and will be out by January 3rd.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that plans are nearly complete for the Chestnut Street renovation. He is hoping to have plans for the Board's review at its next meeting. Comm. Clemons inquired if the move expenses will have to go out to bid, to which Mr. Wenger responded that it would. He explained that there are still logistics issues to be resolved. In response to a concern of Comm. Clemons, he explained that he hopes that any potential Union issues have been addressed in the recently approved contract.

Mr. Wenger noted that he presented the updated EEOP plan to the Department Heads at the previous day's meeting and he hopes to have a discussion relative to this at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that he has received two requests from the Goffstown District Court; the Court will be hosting an Open House and has asked for input relative to who should be invited; additionally, there is a request to use the Commissioner's Conference Room for one day in November for a legal CLE program.

Mr. Wenger explained that the County has qualified to file an Energy Efficiency Grant; it is due the following Friday; he would like to submit an energy-related program that could save money for the County. His concern is to submit the report so that funds can be held for an appropriate program. A discussion at the previous day's Department Head meeting resulted in the question of whether the County could use the funds to hire a consultant to determine "green" energy, or become energy-independent. Comm. Holden noted that the town of Temple has done a lot of work related to energy. The goal is to get a general plan in now and have a further discussion as the County moves forward.

Comm. Holden informed the Board that Peterborough may take advantage of the Federal Grants through the NH Business Finance Authority designated Recovery Act funds discussed at a previous meeting, further noting that two Counties have returned the funds to the State.

Mr. Wenger inquired if Board meetings could be moved to 10:00 a.m. so that Department Heads could meet at 8:30 prior to the Board meeting. Commissioners Holden and Clemons agreed that the suggestion made good sense; Mr. Wenger will check with Comm. Pappas to see if this works with her schedule.

Mr. Wenger asked if there were any other persons that should be invited to the Charrette, to which the Board suggested that invitations will include the NH State Senators and Executive Counselors. Mr. Wenger noted that all the elected Representatives, Commissioners, Department Heads, representatives from the utility companies, regional planning and State agencies will be invited as well as the former Master Plan committee and many of the Goffstown Department Heads; also included in the invitations from the Towns are the Town Manager, and the Chairpersons of the Selectmen, Planning Department, and Conservation Committee. He explained that the invitations will go out this afternoon or tomorrow morning. He informed the Board that he is working with the Department of Corrections for the cleaning and painting of the barn.

Mr. Wenger mentioned the County apportionment letter; the amount to be raised in taxes went down, but it appears that the payment for some of the smaller communities went up because of the apportionment, and down for others.

Public Comments

No one from the public indicated a desire to speak.

Comm. Holden entertained a motion to recess and consult with Counsel.

Motion: To recess to consult with Counsel. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden.
Motion carried.

The Board moved into recess at 11:50 a.m.

The Board moved out of recess at 12:12 p.m.

Motion: To move out of recess. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Motion: To grant the request of Grievant # PM 0582, J. Hills, and to make her whole by paying her four (4) hours straight time. Motion by Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Comm. Clemons voted in favor of the motion. Comm. Holden voted against the motion. The motion failed.

Motion: To deny the request of Grievant # PM 0580, M. Laflamme. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried to deny the grievance.

Comm. Holden asked to have the record reflect that on Grievance # PM 0580, the Commissioners did receive additional information, a timeline as requested from the Grievant, which was reviewed prior to the Board taking action.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that there are four upcoming grievances, and asked the Board if it wished to hear two per meeting for the next two meetings, or if it preferred to hear all four at one time, noting that two are already scheduled for the next meeting. There was Board discussion; one consideration was that all four could be heard before the next Board meeting; another consideration was that there could be a separate meeting for the grievances, and it was agreed that Mr. Wenger would discuss schedules with Comm. Pappas and Mr. Moorehead.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that he would be out of the office the following day.

Non-Public Session

There were no requests for Non-Public session.

Adjourn

There was no further business for consideration; Comm. Holden entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Approved 10/29/09

Comm. Michael Clemons, Clerk
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners

Date