

Coös County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Coös County Courthouse, Grand Jury Room - Lancaster, NH  
January 5, 2011

Present: Commissioners Bing Judd, Paul Grenier and Tom Brady; County Administrator Suzanne L. Collins; Director of Finance Jennifer Fish; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Sheriff Gerry Marcou; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; County Treasurer Fred King and members of the press.

Commissioner Judd opened the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to approve the minutes of the December 22 & December 29, 2010 meetings. All approved 3-0.

2. Election of Officers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to nominate Burnham A. Judd as Chair. The motion was approved 2-1.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brady, seconded by Commissioner Judd to nominate Paul Grenier as Vice-Chair. All approved 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Judd to nominate Thomas Brady as Clerk. All approved 3-0.

3. The Board reviewed the Payrolls and Disbursements for the month of December 2010. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to approve the Payrolls and Disbursements for the month of December 2010. All approved 3-0.
4. Hearing of the Public:

Mr. Fred King presented a copy of a letter to the Board which he mailed in December to Commissioner Thomas Burack, Chairman of the Site Evaluation Committee. He attached a copy of the resolution which the County Delegation approved on December 11 supporting the change of ownership of the wind farm in the Unincorporated Places from Noble Environmental Power to Brookfield Renewable Power. In this letter Mr. King requested to be recorded as an intervener. A Site Evaluation Committee meeting on the change of ownership application is scheduled for January 31, 2011. Mr. King's personal opinion is that these types of wind projects may lie dormant for a period of time. It is important to get this project up and running.

Mr. King also spoke of a letter from the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor mailed to John Scarinza as Planning Board Chair. Mr. King has concerns regarding this letter. The letter states that the federal government will be looking at two watersheds in Coös County. The federal budget has a line item that allows these proposals to be looked at. Apparently the federal government, on its own, has asked for these two projects to be included. Mr. Scarinza seemed to think that one of the projects was the head of the Ammonoosuc River and the other, the Connecticut River. The federal government goes about these projects without notifying local officials. Mr. King suggested that the Commissioners consider sending a letter to the Congressional Delegation setting a moratorium on future federal land purchases in Coös County over a period of five years.

Commissioner Judd stated that a letter should be sent to the Congressional Delegation saying that if the government has money it should be sent to County and not other agencies. Mr. King added that the Commissioners are the local government of the Unincorporated Places and federal government officials seem to forget that. These funds could be granted to the County with the County purchasing the lands. The County forester could then prepare a forest management plan for a "county forest". This has been effective in Randolph. A motion was made by Commissioner Judd, seconded by Commissioner Brady to authorize Mr. King to draft a letter to the Congressional Delegation for the Commissioners' review at their next meeting. All approved 3-0.

Commissioner Grenier reported that Laidlaw's final hearing before the PUC on the power purchase agreement is scheduled for January 17. The Governor has not taken a public position on this project. Commissioner Grenier suggested that a letter be sent, on behalf of the County Commissioners, to the Governor and the Executive Council requesting that Governor Lynch take a public position. This issue is vital to the economy of the County. It will bring \$2 million in property taxes; \$700,000 in water revenue and \$300,000 in sewer revenue to the City of Berlin. Mr. King also offered to draft this letter. The County Administrator will sign the letter in the Chair's absence. Commissioner Judd stated that the County Administrator could sign his name and initial it.

Mr. King left the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

5. Report of the County Administrator Suzanne L. Collins. The written report that was submitted to the Board in advance of the meeting was as follows:
  - a. Year-end financial work is in progress. Mason + Rich, P.A. will be on-site from February 8-11 to prepare the County's financial statements. Ron L. Beaulieu & Company plans to receive those financial statements by February 15, 2011. The work plan is to complete the nursing home audit work by March 1 (so that the Medicaid cost reports can be completed) and all other audit test work completed by March 31 with final auditors' reports and financial statements by April 15. The engagement letter for Ron L. Beaulieu & Company was presented for Board approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter. All approved 3-0. Chairman Judd signed the engagement letter.
  - b. The NH Association of Counties has requested the County's 5 appointments to the NHAC Executive Committee. Fred King and Sue are officers and do not count in the 5 appointments. Sue will add this item to the February agenda so that the Board has time to give the appointments some consideration.
  - c. Sue will be making a presentation on county government to Leadership North Country on January 11. She prepared a brochure on County government for the leadership class and presented copies at the Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Judd congratulated her on a job well done.

Commissioner Judd stated that it is time to sell the old nursing hospital van. Sue will email offers to the Commissioners if she gets any.

*Report of the County Farm:*

- a. On December 22, 2010 County Forester Brendan Prusik spent the day with logger Jack Riendeau laying out skid trails to get ready for a timber harvest. Mr. Prusik met with the sheer operator at the end of December and the woods job is moving forward.

*Report of the Unincorporated Places:*

- a. On December 16 the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development issued its decision regarding the 50-Year Sunset Clause to State Issued Camp Leases at Umbagog Lake. Commissioner George Bald reached his decision based on information received at a public hearing held in Errol (attended by Commissioner Grenier) and written comments supporting the removal of the 50-year termination clause and a department policy that supports traditional uses. Commissioner Bald removed the 50-year termination clause for the 10 camps on the property owned by the State of NH at Lake Umbagog subject to 5 conditions (Note: None of these camps are located in the Unincorporated Places).
6. Report of the Superintendent of Corrections Craig Hamelin. The written report that was submitted to the Board in advance of the meeting was as follows:

HOUSE OF CORRECTIONS	15
PRETRIAL	9
STATE PRISON INMATES	2
ELECTRONIC MONITORING	1
WORK RELEASE	0
OTHER COUNTY INMATES	0
INMATES AT OTHER FACILITIES	1 HOC FEMALE @ CARROLL, 1 HOC FEMALE @ HILLSBOROUGH, 1 HOC MALE @ NHSP

- a. Dana R. Prehemo was promoted to Corporal as of December 26 from a field of 5 candidates. He has been assigned the First Shift Corporal position which was vacated by Corporal Gagnon. Corporal Prehemo has been with the Department since 2002.
  - b. James Lesperance has been hired to fill a vacant Third Shift Officer position. He started on December 27 and is currently in the eight week Field Training Program. Another candidate, Gary Allen, has been hired for a vacant Second Shift Officer position. He will begin the Field Training Program on January 17.
  - c. Pride Builders completed the installation of 5 Paradigm vinyl replacement windows for the House of Corrections Unit #1 Dayroom/Visiting Room. The work was completed on December 31.
  - d. A meeting and tour has been requested by members of the Coös County Delegation Corrections Sub-Committee to take place on January 17 at 10:00 a.m.
7. Report of the West Stewartstown Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills. The written report that was submitted to the Board in advance of the meeting was as follows:
- a. Census: The census was 66. The average census for December was 68; occupancy for December was 70.0%. In December there were three (3) admissions, one (1) discharge and four (4) deaths. Of the 66 residents, thirteen (13) are Private Pay. One (1) has been denied Medicaid and is considered Private Pay but at this time no one is paying the bill. Five (5) residents are Vermont Medicaid.

Two admissions are being worked on for this week or next.

For 2010 there were a total of 35 admissions, 14 discharges, and 30 deaths. In comparison in 2009 there were 27 admissions, 13 discharges, and 14 deaths.

b. Nursing Hours at Department of Corrections:

2009	MINUTES	Hours	2010	Minutes	Hours
January	6,461	108	January	3,821	64
February	5,959	99	February	3,678	61
March	6,920	115	March	3,474	58
April	5,703	95	April	3,350	56
May	3,710	62	May	3,031	51
June	3,200	53	June	3,048	51
July	3,633	61	July	2,509	42
August	3,713	62	August	4,013	67
September	3,875	66	September	3,895	65
October	3,977	66	October	3,784	63
November	3,288	55	November	3,699	62
December	4,033	67	December	Not Available	

8. Report of the Berlin Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger. The written report that was submitted to the Board in advance of the meeting is as follows:

- a. Census: The current census was 95. 13 residents are Private Pay at this time. The average daily census for December was 96.9. There were 5 deaths and 1 admission. The year to date total daily average census is 97.2%. As of 1/4/11 three admissions are scheduled, the first to be admitted on 1/5/11. The other two admissions from the local community will be within the next 2 weeks. There may also be a transfer from another facility.

For 2010 there were a total of 31 admissions, 26 deaths, and 4 discharges. In comparison to 2009, there 40 admissions, 35 deaths, and 6 discharges.

- b. Administration: Coös County Nursing Home has been awarded \$1,500 from the Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation. The money will be used for outside park benches on the walking path. Sue stated that a grant revenue line item will be added to the 2011 budget as well as an offsetting appropriation.
- c. The application for the facility Health Care License was presented for the Commissioners to sign.
- d. Maintenance: The fire alarm system that is acting up is approximately 14 years old. Simplex was in on 12/31/10 until 7 p.m. to evaluate the recent issues. There was a malfunctioning strobe light on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor which has now been replaced. This malfunctioning strobe light was causing the “trouble alarm” to sound. The trouble alarm alerts the facility of issues with the system and usually sounds prior to the actual fire alarm sounding. Simplex had to check every strobe light in order to find the problem. The second issue was related to a hallway smoke detector which was considered to be causing the fire

alarm system to repeatedly go off for no reason. Simplex stated that each smoke detector in all hallways must have a sensitivity test; all detectors were tested on 12/31/10. All smoke detectors passed the sensitivity testing. At this time the cause of the recent increase in the fire alarm system sounding is uncertain.

During the last week of December the Nursing Home began having problems with one of the boilers for domestic hot water. Johnson Controls was in on 12/29/10 for six hours work to trouble shoot and restart the boiler which had been "tripping off". The maintenance department has had a challenging year and Louise hopes for a better 2011.

9. Unincorporated Places:

- a. Public Safety Agreements for the Town of Carroll, Errol Rescue Squad and the Town of Gorham. Linda Harris presented the yearly Public Safety Agreements for the Board's signatures. The agreements are the same as in previous years. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to approve and sign the agreements. All approved 3-0. The Board signed the agreements.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:2 I (b) at 9:42 a.m. All approved 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to come out of non-public session at 9:44 a.m. All approved 3-0. No action taken.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held February 9, 2011 at the Coös County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brady, seconded by Commissioner Grenier to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. All approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Brady, Clerk