

Hillsborough County Executive Committee
Building Sub-Committee
Bouchard Building Goffstown NH
January 20, 2006

Present: Rep. Jasper, Wheeler, Cote, Golding, Calawa Allan, Also present: M. Cusson, R. Mercer, G. Wenger, S. Albert, Community Solutions, R. Pidgeon, CEO of Community Solutions, S. Monier, US Marshall Office,

Rep. Jasper requested that Community Solutions give their presentation to the members of the Building Subcommittee.

Mr. Pidgeon stated that Community Solutions is trying to open a program here in Goffstown for the Bureau of Prisons, noting that they have 50 programs in their Company, a number of them are Federal Program for the Bureau of Prison inmates mostly in CT but also in six other States. The Organization has been in business since 1964. He stated that they are looking for a site in Hillsborough County and that there is another Company competing for the contract with the Bureau of Prisons. Mr. Pidgeon continued with his presentation.

Rep. Jasper stated that the County's responsibility would be to take down the connection between the hay barn and the dairy barn. Mr. Wenger also noted that Community Solutions would be making this a completely independent building. He also noted that they will be using our water, electricity, and heat but would have separate meters.

Rep. Jasper inquired regarding the programs that they will have at this site. He asked if sexual offenders would be involved at this site. Ms. Albert stated that you usually do not see sexual offenders in the Federal system, there can potentially be someone who has had child pornography charges, however she noted that this is very rare and you do not see sexual predators in this type of program. Discussion ensued regarding staffing and training.

In response to a question by Rep. Wheeler Mr. Pidgeon stated that there will be a series of Public Hearings to let the public know what is going on and there is an advisory board of local citizens formed to let the public know what is going on. He also noted they try to educate individuals on the programs and the philosophy of the halfway house. Discussion followed regarding clientele, transportation and employers of the half way house prisoners. The length of the program is 3-4 months and this will allow individuals to integrate back into the Community.

In response to a question Mr. Pidgeon stated that the sooner the bid is approved the better it would be. Mr. Wenger stated that approval is needed from the Executive Committee, and the Delegation, he also noted that the Community Solutions would be going before the Goffstown Planning Board for an advisory discussion only. Once the bid is approved it will be turned over to the Bureau of Prisons for the final decision. In response to a question Mr. Wenger stated the Board of Commissioners has approved the bid and they have awarded the bid to Community Solutions, Inc. contingent upon getting approval from all the necessary sources. Mr. Wenger stated that the deadline to appear in front of the Goffstown Planning Board for the next meeting is today and he noted he would not make that deadline. Rep. Wheeler did state they meet every two weeks. In response to a question Mr. Pidgeon stated that they have met with the Goffstown Police Chief.

Mr. Pidgeon stated that there are halfway houses in Lowell and Boston and there is a need for a facility in this area as there are currently 17 individuals from the Hillsborough County area.

Building Subcommittee
January 20, 2006

2

Rep. Allan stated that this matter could be on the January 27, 2006 Executive Committee Agenda and there could possibly be a Delegation meeting in mid-February. There was a discussion about having a meeting immediately following session.

Ms. Albert stated that the Bureau of Prisons has been very patient and Community Solutions owes them a response regarding the contract and this is due by January 26, 2006. At that time Community Solutions will be giving them an update on the progress of the bid.

Rep. Jasper went around and asked each of the building subcommittee members for their opinion. Rep. Golding Yes, Rep. Cote Yes, Rep. Jasper Yes, Rep. Wheeler stated that he is having a difficult time giving a response because he represents the town of Goffstown and he is not sure about the perception. Rep. Wheeler commented on the County paying the taxes because it will be a private entity.

Rep. Jasper asked Mr. Wenger if the tax ramifications have been looked into. Mr. Wenger stated no he has not looked into that. Mr. Wenger stated that he does agree with Rep. Jasper regarding taxes but not sure how that will change the value of the Building. Rep. Jasper stated that he remembers that when the County rents property the value of the property is taxable by the host community. Mr. Wenger stated that the building has had tenants in past but the taxes were minimal however; he did note there will have to be adjustments. Rep. Jasper stated that this would be a small benefit to Goffstown because there will be taxes and no services will be required.

Rep. Jasper stated that this proposal would be going to the Executive Committee and then on to the Delegation for a vote. He stated that there will be 22 Federal Prisoners at the half way house and it will result in revenue for the County. The rent will be \$61,000 a year for the first 5 years and then it will increase gradually every 5 years. Discussion ensued regarding the Goffstown Planning Board also noting that the Planning Board is for advisory only. Mr. Wenger informed the Building Subcommittee regarding the dates and deadlines for the Planning Board.

Rep. Jasper thanked the individuals from Community Solutions, Inc. for coming the Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Wenger gave an update on the second floor of the Bouchard Building noting that there are two sets of plans Phase 1 and Phase 2. Mr. Wenger gave a description of the floor plans. Discussion ensued regarding the second floor for the district Court and the proposal from Manchester Water Works.

Minutes recorded by Marcia Rusch