

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – October 14, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., at the county courthouse, 62 Union Street, Rockland, Maine.

Commission members present were: Carol L. Maines, Commissioner District #1, Richard L. Parent, Jr., Commissioner District #2, and Roger A. Moody, Commissioner District #3.

County staff present included: County Administrator Andrew Hart, Administrative Assistant Candice Richards, Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves, Chief Deputy Tim Carroll, DA Prosecutorial Assistant /Investigator, Building Maintenance Supervisor Don Decker.

Others in attendance: BOC Executive Director Ryan Thornell; BOC Chair Sagadahoc County Sheriff Joel Merry; Maine Pretrial Services Executive Director Elizabeth Simoni (*arrived at 2:06 p.m.*); Owls Head Budget Committee member Bob Hirsch; John Newcomb of Downeast Air; APAC and Master Plan Update Sub-Committee member Bill Maddox; Master Plan Subcommittee and Owls Head Airport Advisory Committee member Charles Siletti; Owls Head resident Katie Shaw; and Pilot and Candidate for Maine Senate Dave Miramant.

Regular Meeting – Agenda Tuesday – October 14, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.

- I. 2:00 Meeting Called To Order**
- II. 2:01 Public Comment** - Public Comment during other portions of the meeting will only be granted by permission of the chair.
- III. 2:15 Discussion Items**
 - 1. Discussion of the Board of Corrections with BOC Executive Director Ryan Thornell.
- IV. 2:35 Consent Items**
 - 1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:
 - i. Agenda - Non Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.
 - ii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of September 9, 2014.
 - iii. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
 - iv. Reserve Withdrawals.
- V. 2:40 Action Items**
 - 1. Act to Approve the Use of the Vacant EMA Offices' Space.
 - 2. Act to Authorize the Chair to Sign the Agreement by and between Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo Counties and Maine Pretrial Services, Home Release, Monitoring, and Diversion Services in District 6.
 - 3. Act to Call for Nominations to Fill APAC's District #2 Seat.
 - 4. Act to Authorize the County Administrator to Sign the New 4-Year Contract with Cape Air.
 - 5. Act to Approve the New Draft Airport Master Plan Update Section 5 (Preferred Alternatives) and Set a Date for the Public Informational Meeting.
 - 6. Act to Appoint a Commissioner to Sit on the State Claims Commission Hearing Panel on April 15, 2015.
 - 7. Act to Approve Revised Job Description for EMA Resources Operations Planner.
 - 8. Act to Approve Revised Position Evaluation & Salary Administration Policy.
 - 9. Act to Establish a Reserve Account for Retirement Reserve Funds.
 - 10. Act to Set a Date to Meet with Municipalities and Legislative Delegation.
 - 11. Act to Approve the Placement of a Memorial Stone in Front of the Courthouse.
 - 12. Act to Vote on the % Amount of Overlay to be Used for the 2015 Knox County Budget.
- VI. 3:25 Other Business**
- VII. Adjourn**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Commission Chair Carol Maines called the regular meeting of the Knox County Commission to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Discussion Items

1. Discussion of the Board of Corrections with BOC Executive Director Ryan Thornell.

It had been explained at the last Regular Commission meeting that BOC Executive Director Ryan Thornell wanted to attend a Commission Meeting, along with BOC Chair and Sagadahoc County Sheriff Joel Merry, to discuss the BOC.

Director Thornell explained that the idea of meeting with county commissioners was born out of an effort of his office to build a better working relationship with county officials. He said that in the last several months he's presented reports to the MCCA Board of Directors and has started meeting with county commissioners to provide information and answer questions. He explained that the jails are in FY2015 now with a flat budget carried forward from FY12 levels. The BOC went into FY15 knowing supplemental funding would need to be requested from the state. The BOC's first opportunity to request additional funding was September 1st. A request was submitted for \$2 million. No one will know if the request has been granted until the Governor has put out his own supplemental budget request and they can see if the Governor included their request in his. The second opportunity to request supplemental funding is through the legislature in Appropriations in early January. Part of the supplemental funding request included \$40,000 for a transport van for Knox County's jail. Director Thornell said that he didn't have any other supplemental requests from Knox County. The legislature set up a new capital fund so the BOC has requested \$1.3 million for FY16 and FY17. That's new funding coming from the state so Director Thornell didn't know what the likelihood was of them obtaining that funding. He added that it is very important to have county officials present when the BOC goes before the legislature to request funding to help show support.

Commissioner Moody suggested that it would be helpful if the Commission could be supplied with a summary of what the BOC will be asking for from the legislature and get it to the Commission by early December so the County can have that information when meeting with the municipalities and legislative delegation in the near future.

A couple commissioners voiced some confusion over Director Thornell's statement that the only funding request that he had received from Knox County was for the transport van because there were other things the jail needed, including a new control system, and the wages were frozen because of a lack of funds. When Administrator Hart was asked why a request for funding hadn't been made to get the jail staff up to the wage increases that the other employees will get, he responded by explaining that the County had been asked by the BOC to make some cuts, so the Commission was given the option to lay employees off or freeze wages; the Commission voted to freeze wages. He said that the transport vehicle was originally in the operating budget but he was asked to move it to Capital because that made more sense. Commissioner Maines felt that one of the first things that should have been done was to fix the wages. Administrator Hart said that there wasn't any discussion with the Sheriff or the Major to increase the pay retroactively if they got an increase at the end of the year.

Commissioner Maines felt that if the County was submitting a supplemental funding request then it should reflect what the jail actually needs, which should include the staff wages. She asked Director Thornell if the BOC was still asking counties to refine their budgets. Director Thornell responded that the BOC isn't asking Counties to relook at FY15 but the BOC is looking at the jails that are chronically underfunded, and are going to go into a deficit, to look at their actual needs to run. He added that it wouldn't be fiscally responsible at this point to go back to the legislature and say that the BOC opened it back up to the counties to alter their budgets.

Administrator Hart commented that he thought the supplemental funding was strictly for operations and not for personnel services. Director Thornell said that was correct. Commissioner Maines asked if other counties had asked for funding for personnel services. Director Thornell responded that he couldn't say that none of the other counties hadn't asked.

Commissioner Moody said that it bothered him that it was being referred to as “supplemental funding” when it’s funding that has been needed from the very beginning to run the jail properly but the counties have been kept at 2012 funding levels. He said that it would great if the jail system could get beyond the current set up and have cooperation and trust between the counties and the legislature so that jails could have budgets that fit the actual operating costs.

Commissioner Parent asked if the BOC was confident that the counties would get the supplemental funding. Sheriff Merry stated that there will have to be or the counties will face major furloughs, among other major problems. Director Thornell added that there absolutely has to be some supplemental funding.

When asked when he would know if the legislature approves the additional funding or not, Director Thornell said that he would probably know by March of 2015.

Sheriff Merry noted that whenever a new system is constructed, there’s always a learning process. The BOC system is about 6 years old but it really floundered in the beginning and the economy went down just as this was getting started, so the funding from the state wasn’t there. Public Law 598 is essentially a “redo” to correct the system. It takes a lot of rule making to get everyone to get along and do their part. The 5 committees are working on that but they only just started mid-summer so it will be the beginning of next year before those rules are put in place. He also stated that the BOC recently brought on a fiscal analyst to help them figure out what the jails actually need for funding. BOC can now really pinpoint what the actual costs will be rather than guessing.

Administrator Hart asked Director Thornell for clarification as far as the supplemental funding for the control panel goes since Director Thornell had not listed the control system when he stated what the County had requested. He said that at this point, the jail is limping along with the control system as it is. He asked when the best time to ask for or get supplemental funding for that would be. He added that for security and safety for both inmates and staff the County needs to get that system replaced. Director Thornell responded that he didn’t know anything about the County needing a control system so he didn’t know if it was an emergency need, or 3 to 5 years from now need. He said that he was expecting an update from the jail administrator on the extent of the status of the system but had not received anything yet.

Sheriff Merry commented that the needs of all the jails are competing with each other, but safety and security is the most important.

Chief Deputy Carroll apologized for Sheriff Dennison’s absence from the meeting. He explained that she was attending a funeral but that she really appreciates the work done by Sheriff Merry and Director Thornell.

III. Public Comment

Commissioner Carol Maines asked for public comment. There was none.

IV. Consent Items

1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:

- i. Agenda - Non Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.
- ii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of September 9, 2014.
- iii. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
- iv. Reserve Withdrawals

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve the consent items as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody.

Commissioner Maines asked about Communications Director Lothrop’s monthly commission report noting that protocols for dispatchers dealing with Narcan not being in place yet. She asked if could really wait until 2015. Administrator Hart said that he didn’t know the answer to that but said that he could follow up with Director Lothrop to find out.

- A vote was taken with all in favor.

2014 Reserve Withdrawals:

Airport Equipment	461608-14610	\$1,030.50
Courthouse Renovations & Maintenance	200008-12680	\$47,985.25
Dispatch Misc. Equipment	561800-12625	\$562.56
	Total	\$49,578.31

V. Action Items

1. Act to Approve the Use of the Vacant EMA Offices’ Space.

On October 9th, representatives from Maine Pretrial Services met with the Commission, staff of the Knox County Courthouse, Clerk of Courts, and the Building Maintenance Supervisor to explain the need for MPS to use the space, how it benefits Maine Pretrial, how it benefits Knox County, as well as answering questions. An agreement for the use of the space has not been drafted yet because Administrator Hart didn’t want to spend legal funds to do that if the County wasn’t going to end up letting MPS use the space.

When asked if MPS has office equipment such as copiers, computers, etc., MPS Executive Director Elizabeth Simoni answered yes, that they have their own equipment already. She said that they would need access to the internet but that MPS will pay for connectivity.

Commissioner Parent commented that he had been wondering if any modifications could be made to any of the office space down to make it easier for MPS’ clients know where to go when they’re looking for the MPS office. He suggested having a standing sign facing the stairwell showing people which direction to head in. He also suggested some precaution could be made to deter people from wandering into the administrative assistant’s office when they’re lost since she is often in the Administrative Offices alone. He thought maybe a half-door with the top open and the bottom staying closed could provide some protection. Administrator Hart said that he could look into that and added that he was actually already looking at doing something similar for the finance office because the amount of foot traffic there. The Administrative offices get a large number of people on the ground floor that don’t belong down here. But, there’s no way to prevent that because it’s a public building and that’s just the way it is. No matter how many signs you put up, people are still going to go to the wrong place; however, MPS employee Todd Butler had stated that he and the other MPS staff were willing to go up to the front entrance and escort their clients down to their office in the beginning until people get the idea where to go.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to approve Maine Pretrial Services utilizing the vacant EMA offices’ space in the Knox County Courthouse. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Act to Authorize the Chair to Sign the Agreement by and between Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo Counties and Maine Pretrial Services, Home Release, Monitoring, and Diversion Services in District 6.

Administrator Hart explained that the Sheriffs, Jail Administrators, County Administrators and a Commissioner from each four counties within the District 6: Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Waldo, have all agreed to have a 4-county contract with Maine Pretrial for pretrial services, Home Release, Monitoring, and Diversion Services. This is the first multi-county agreement for any services. The

Commission had been provided with a draft that is currently being reviewed by legal counsel. A Commissioner and the Sheriff will sign the agreement for each county, which would be effective October 1, 2014. If the agreement is changed during legal review, then it will come back before the Commission again. The agreement is for an initial 9 months, which can then be renewed for another 2 years.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement by and between Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo Counties and Maine Pretrial Services, Home Release, Monitoring, and Diversions Services in District 6. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

3. Act to Call for Nominations to Fill APAC's District #2 Seat.

Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves explained that John Curtis currently fills this seat, but is from Thomaston. On January 1, 2015, Thomaston will no longer be in District #2 so the seat needs to be filled by someone else.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to approve the press release calling for nominations to fill the District 2 seat on the Airport Public Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

4. Act to Authorize the County Administrator to Sign the New 4-Year Contract with Cape Air.

Airport Manager Northgraves explained that the County received US DOT's approval for Cape Air's new EAS Contract for Knox County and also for Augusta's airport. The contract and subsidy is based on updated fees included in Cape Air's EAS proposal. Although the County has received unofficial notification that US DOT is processing the new subsidy (as requested, with 6 summertime flights and for 4 years) the contract should be signed after formal approval but before November 1, 2014. With Commission approval, Cape Air feedback, and US DOT approval of the EAS, Cape Air and the County Administrator will both sign the agreement. Manager Northgraves noted that the contract does include a security fee to help offset the security cost increases at the airport.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to authorize the County Administrator to sign the new 4-year contract with Cape Air for Essential Air Services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

5. Act to Approve the New Draft Airport Master Plan Update Section 5 (Preferred Alternatives) and Set a Date for the Public Informational Meeting.

Airport Manager Northgraves explained that Ralph Nicosia-Rusin of the FAA had reviewed the previous draft and then met with Stantec, the APAC's master plan subcommittee, as well as himself, to discuss changes. The subcommittee supported the changes, with each of the members present (6 of 8) verbalizing their support. Changes from previous drafts include:

- a. Changed the 400' runway extension from 200' on each end, to all 400' on the northwest end.
- b. Added a non-precision GPS approach (with appropriate lighting, including visual glide slope indicators) to runway 21.

Manager Northgraves stated that the process for updating the master plan is dictated by the FAA. Chapter 5 is where the preferred alternatives are shown that the airport should do to cover the next 20 years of the master plan. The public had 30 days to provide comments after the last public hearing, which were then provided to the FAA with the draft to review. The County didn't get anything back from the FAA for a long time so he had asked the County Administrator write a letter to encourage the FAA to move the process along. The letter seemed to do the trick and Mr. Nicosia-Rusin finalized the review and said that he was ready to discuss it with the sub-committee. The following is the list of preferred alternatives discussed:

- A space was designated for hangars to be built in the future. It doesn't mean that the County will, but if the County decided to in the future, it has to already be in the master plan.

- Parts of the airport needed to be designated as “compatible use” so land could be used for other purposes besides just aviation use. The Owls Head cemetery is a perfect example of that. The previous master plan didn’t have those spaces identified so this plan fixes that.
- Parallel taxiway for the shorter runway. If this is ever done that, it will likely be done probably 20 years from now, but it needed to be included in the plan in case the County wants to do that.
- Lengthening of the runway by 400’.

Manager Northgraves stated that one of Mr. Nicosia-Rusin’s recommendations was *not* doing the 200’ of pavement on the end of the runway that leads to the EMAS and instead put all 400’ at the other end of the runway that already has the 200’ paved on one end Route 73. It’s primarily to be used for take-offs. It would not change the approaches, the easements, require the airport to cut more trees, change instructions, or change the size of plane that can land. To increase the size of aircraft, the airport would have to add between 1,000 – 1,200 feet. What adding the 400’ at one end will do is allow aircraft to put on enough fuel that they don’t need to make an additional stop before getting to their final destination. Downeast Air could sell more fuel and we’d get a percentage of that. It’s usable for all aircraft so it increases the safety margin for all aircraft. The noise factor will be decreased as well because by the time the aircraft reaches the end of the runway, the aircraft will be 400 feet above where it would have been previously. The subcommittee voted to release this package to the Commission and recommended November 18th at 6 p.m. for the public hearing, but the Commission wasn’t bound to that date if they wanted to do it a different day.

When asked about Mr. Nicosia-Rusin’s role in the process, Manager Northgraves explained that Mr. Nicosia-Rusin is tasked with making sure that what the County puts in the plan is reasonable, possible, and justifiable. He also determines what is FAA fundable and if the County puts in something he did not support, the airport wouldn’t get FAA funding for the project. Mr. Nicosia-Rusin said that the 400’ on that one end would be supported by the FAA. If we put 400’ on the end of the short runway, he will want us to have a parallel taxiway for that. For AIP eligible projects, the County pays 5%, the State pays 5%, and the FAA pays 90%. After the public comment meeting for the master plan update, there will be 30 days for public comment, and then the FAA would get those comments and come back to the Commission, likely in January, with the final copy.

Commissioner Maines asked what effect what the Commission did today would have on the Plan when we’ve got some people who want the runway extended and some people who don’t want any extensions. Manager Northgraves said that at public meetings, residents have opportunities to speak. He noted that there were a few residents of Owls Head at today’s meeting, including Charles Siletti, who serves on the master plan update subcommittee. He noted that when the Commission has the public hearing meeting on November 18th, that’s really the meeting intended to openly discuss this and for everyone to voice their opinions. It will still be a Commission meeting. At the meeting, the Commission will receive a briefing from Stantec and then be able to hear both sides’ opinions from members of the public.

Commissioner Maines asked if the public had seen the draft since the Commission wasn’t releasing it to the public until today. Manager Northgraves said that this was correct, but noted that the information is public and has been briefed publicly several times already. The document itself is not public until formally released by the Commission.

Commissioner Moody expressed some concern about where copies of the draft would be placed because of some residents of Owls Head and South Thomaston claiming last time that there were no copies at the town offices. He said he just wanted to make sure that they’re in the town office and suggested that someone in the town office should sign for the copies when they are dropped off to prove that the copies were left there. Manager Northgraves stated that copies of the draft last year were at both town offices.

Owls Head Budget Committee member Bob Hirsch said that he is the chair of the budget committee in Owls Head and he could say for certain that the documents have been in plain view in the town office.

Manager Northgraves explained that after this Commission meeting is over, the latest draft copies will be taken over to the town offices and the documentation will also go up on the County's website and copies will also be available at the Airport. There will also be an ad in the local newspaper stating where people can go to find a copy if they don't want to access it on the County website.

A couple commissioners suggested changing formatting in the master plan draft to make it easier to find what you're looking for. They felt that it was difficult to follow or find something specific. Manager Northgraves said that some alterations could probably be made but some of the formatting is set by the FAA.

Dave Miramant stated that he wanted to clarify that what the subcommittee did at their meeting was just approving the plan as a big picture, a blueprint, for what's possible, *not* necessarily what *will* be. Manager Northgraves said that was correct.

Mr. Miramant said some of the members of the subcommittee got bogged down in some of the details as though they thought they were trying to approve specific parts of the plan. He said that the airport's master plan should say that Knox County is very close to the possibility of increasing the size of the airport because of the growth of the economy and the use of the airport. The master plan should reflect that. A longer extension of the runway is part of that. It will benefit the airport's neighbors if the airport can contain the noise and the environmental footprint of the aircraft. He said that if there is a longer runway extension to the west then when an aircraft takes off further down the runway, you're cutting down the noise and allowing the aircraft to rise and turn at a higher altitude than before. It's also a matter of safety for pilots and passengers of the planes. He noted, however, that a 400 foot extension doesn't do nearly as much for the airport as what a 1,000 foot extension would accomplish. He said that while he was not suggesting that the airport do 1,000 yet, if the master plan update only has 400 feet in it, the County's hands are tied years down the road when it's determined that that much runway length extension is needed. He said that everyone needs to remember the discussion is about a vision for a resource.

Manager Northgraves stated that Mr. Miramant had hit an important point - a master plan is like a comprehensive plan for a town except that unlike a comprehensive plan, you can't do the thing you want to do at the airport unless it's already in the master plan. If it's not in there, you're limiting the future of the airport for the next couple decades. He added, however, that if the master plan includes the 400 feet, Mr. Nicosia-Rusin will support it. If the Commission wanted to put 1,000 in it, the Commission could do that but that doesn't mean the FAA would approve/support it, and it would also make Mr. Nicosia-Rusin's review of the document more complicated.

Owls Head resident Katie Shaw said that the Commission could still put 1,000 feet in the plan in case the County decides to do that length later on. It doesn't mean it would have to all be put in now, or ever. You could put 1,000 in the plan and just use 400 now, and maybe 15 years down the road you add another 500 or 600. The plan is more like a wish list for the next 20 years.

John Newcomb of Downeast Air commented that the airport would need 850 more feet of runway for larger aircraft but even if the runway were extended that much, the larger planes still couldn't come in to the airport because the surface isn't rated for aircraft of that weight level.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve releasing the new draft Airport Master Plan Update Section 5 (Preferred Alternatives) for public comment and set the date for the Public Informational Meeting for November 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

6. Act to Appoint a Commissioner to Sit on the State Claims Commission Hearing Panel on April 15, 2015.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to appoint Commissioner Parent to sit on the State Claims Commission hearing panel on April 15, 2015, with Commissioner Maines as an alternate in case Commissioner Parent has a conflict. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with 2 in favor (Commissioners Moody and Maines) and 1 abstention (Commissioner Parent).

7. Act to Approve Revised Job Description for EMA Resources Operations Planner.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve the revised job description for EMA Resources Operations Planner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

8. Act to Approve Revised Position Evaluation & Salary Administration Policy.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve revised Position Evaluation & Salary Administration Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

9. Act to Establish a Reserve Account for Retirement Reserve Funds.

Administrator Hart explained that the finance office needs to establish a new reserve account for the retirement reserve funds. The amount as of 10/8/14 was \$25,923. The amount comes from the County's matching ICMA funds for employees who leave before they become vested. The funds would help offset the costs relating to switching to MPERS if that's what the County decides to do. Putting the funds in a reserve account means that it's not being risked on investments, won't lose money and the County can access the funds when it needs to. After the Commission approves the creation of reserve accounts, a letter is sent to the Maine Department of Audit to update the State Auditor.

There was some confusion about where exactly the funds had come from and where they were located. Commissioner Moody asked Administrator Hart to check with Finance Director Robinson in case the explanation given was not accurate or perhaps they were misunderstanding her explanation.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to table this agenda item until November. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

10. Act to Set a Date to Meet with Municipalities and Legislative Delegation.

It was noted that elections are in November and the new legislators would be sworn in after that.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to set the date to meet with the Municipalities and Legislative Delegation as Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. subject to confirmation of Geoff Herman of MMA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

11. Act to Approve the Placement of a Memorial Stone in Front of the Courthouse.

The Commission had been given a simple site plan using an aerial shot of the courthouse, showing the approximate location of the memorial stone and the dimensions of the walkway. Administrator Hart said that the Committee hasn't given him a sketch or even the dimensions of the monument itself. He said he had received a quote from Farley & Son and the cost to install a stone dust walkway 4 feet wide by 33 inches long with a cobblestone edge is about \$2,300. The memorial installation is about \$1,000. He suggested tabling the item until he has been given the information that he had asked for from the Committee so he could present it to the Commission.

Both Commissioners Parent and Moody commented that the Farley & Son estimate seemed awfully high.

When the question was raised again about whether the County needed to go to the Rockland Planning Board for the project, Administrator Hart said no, that he had checked with Rockland's Code Enforcement Officer John Root who said that the County didn't need permission to do it.

The commissioners were also concerned about rising costs including the maintenance of the project like weeding and shoveling in the winter.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to table this agenda item until more information is received from the Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

12. Act to Vote on the % Amount of Overlay to be Used for the 2015 Knox County Budget.

Administrator Hart reminded everyone that the Commissioners had changed the amount of overlay in the 2013 Knox County Budget, reducing the 2% as allowed in the statutes to 1.5% to aid in lowering the amount of the county tax to the municipalities that year. Administrator Hart said that due to the budgets being tighter budgets and there being a lesser amount of surplus funds available for reducing the overall budget, he asked the Commission to consider increasing the amount of overlay back to 2%.

Commissioner Moody commented that it wouldn't give him heartburn to put in 2% to start with and see what the Budget Committee thinks. Administrator Hart stated that it would be better to put in 2% now, and then the Commission could always lower it later, rather than starting with 1.5% and then realizing it needs to be increased to 2%. That might not go over so well.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to set the amount of overlay used for the 2015 Knox County Budget at 2%. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

VI. Other Business

November Regular Commission Meeting

The Regular meeting in November will be on Monday, November 10th since Tuesday the 11th is a holiday.

Water leak at Public Safety Building resolved

The water issue at the Public Safety Building has been resolved. Jake Barbour, Inc. did the work since they'd done the original installation. Administrator Hart said that he had a meeting with Mike Adams from Ganneston, Building Maintenance Supervisor Don Decker and JBI. Jake Barbour took about \$900 off the bill since he was taking part of the responsibility, but the County needs to cover the rest. The final bill came in at \$1,820.

Budget Committee vacancy

The Budget Committee District 8 Thomaston/Cushing seat is currently vacant since Betty Watts resigned. The Commission and Budget Committee will fill that seat at the first budget meeting on October 23rd. Tom Mellor is running as a write-in candidate. Thomaston selectmen are recommending him for appointment. Mr. Mellor won't be able to actively participate until he has been sworn in by a dedimus justice.

VII. Adjourn

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on November 10, 2014.