

# KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

**Special Joint Meeting**

**Thursday – October 23, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.**

## **Knox County Commission and Budget Committee**

A special joint meeting of the Knox County Commission and the Knox County Budget Committee was held on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at 5:00 p.m., at the county courthouse, 62 Union Street, Rockland, Maine. The Administrative Assistant was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

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, and Finance Director Kathy Robinson.

Budget Committee members present were: Ann Matlack, Bob Duke, Lawrence Nash, Randy Stearns, Dorothy Meriwether, Shawn Levasseur and Stephen Carroll. *Budget Committee members not present: Bill Jones*

Also present were: Mark Hedrich, Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District; David Bosken, Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension Service; Nancy Davis, Restorative Justice Project volunteer; John Holden, Rockland CED Director; Lorraine Brown, Restorative Justice Project; Sarah Mattox, Court Diversion Coordinator for Restorative Justice Project; Staci Coomer, Executive Director of the Pen Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce and MCEDD Board President; MCEDD Executive Director Jeff Kobrock; Thomaston Resident Tom Mellor; Steve Betts of the *Bangor Daily News*; and Juliette Laaka of the *Courier Gazette*.

### **Knox County Commission and Budget Committee Joint Meeting Agenda Jury Assembly Room**

**Thursday – October 23, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.**

- I. 5:00 Meeting Called To Order** (Chair Bob Duke for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Carol Maines for the Knox County Commission)
- II. 5:01 Approve Minutes** (Chair Bob Duke for the Knox County Budget Committee)
  1. Minutes of the Joint Budget Meeting of August 28, 2014
- III. 5:03 Election of Budget Committee Officers**
  1. Chair
  2. Vice Chair
  3. Secretary
- IV. 5:08 Appointment to District 8 Budget Committee Seat**
  1. Appointment by Budget Committee
  2. Confirmation of Appointment by Commission
- V. 5:15 Public Hearing**
  1. Budget Committee Chair Opens Public Hearing on 2015 Proposed Knox County Budget
- VI. End of Public Hearing**
  1. Budget Committee Chair closes Public Hearing
- VII. Joint Meeting with the Knox County Budget Committee for the Presentation of the Proposed 2015 Budget** (County Administrator Andrew Hart)
- VIII. Budget Review**
  1. Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission (Pg 22)
  2. Midcoast Economic Development District (Pg. 22)
  3. Knox-Lincoln Extension Service (Pg 22)
  4. Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water District (Pg 22)
  5. Time & Tide RC&D (Pg 22)
  6. Restorative Justice Project (Pg 22)
- IX. Adjourn**

## **I. Meeting Called to Order**

The October 23, 2014 joint meeting of the Knox County Budget Committee and the Knox County Commission was called to order by Budget Committee Chair Bob Duke and Commission Chair Carol Maines at 5:02 p.m.

## **II. Approve Minutes**

### 1. Quarterly Budget Meeting of August 28, 2014.

Chair Bob Duke asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

- Lawrence Nash motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Shawn Levasseur seconded. A vote was taken with all in favor. The motion therefore passed.

## **III. Budget Committee Election of Officers**

Budget Committee Chair Bob Duke called for nominations for officers. He stated that he did not want to be chair again and would like someone else to do it this year.

### 1. Chair:

- Lawrence Nash nominated Dorothy Meriwether for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Randy Stearns. A vote was taken with all in favor.

### 2. Vice-Chair:

- Lawrence Nash nominated Bob Duke for Vice-Chair. Dorothy Meriwether seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.

### 3. Secretary:

- Lawrence Nash nominated Bill Jones as Secretary. Randy Stearns seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.

## **IV. Appointment to District 8 Seat**

Chair Dorothy Meriwether asked for a motion to appoint Tom Mellor to the vacant District 8 (Thomaston/Cushing) Budget Committee seat.

- Ann Matlack motioned to appoint Tom Mellor to the District 8 Budget Committee seat. Bob Duke seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Commission Chair Carol Maines called for a motion to confirm Mr. Mellor to the vacant District 8 Budget Committee seat.

- Commissioner Roger Moody motioned to appoint Tom Mellor to the District 8 Budget Committee seat. Commissioner Richard Parent seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Administrator Hart noted that he had received the Certificate of Qualification for Mr. Mellor from the State and all that Mr. Mellor needed to do now is to get sworn in by a dedimus justice and then he will be able to participate on the Committee.

## **V. Joint Meeting with the Knox County Budget Committee for the Presentation of the Proposed 2014 Budget.**

County Administrator Andrew Hart briefly mentioned some highlights in the proposed budget:

Budget Process

The 2015 budget process began in August of 2014. Department managers were asked to submit a 12-month budget for the 2015 calendar year to the Finance Director by September 5<sup>th</sup>. The budget drafts were reviewed by the County Administrator and the Finance Director with the department managers during the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Commission met with department managers on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to review the budget draft as a whole and ask questions.

The County’s 2013 audit was not included in the budget binders for the Commission and Budget Committee to avoid using a lot of paper, but the audit is available on the County’s website if anyone wanted to read it. The Commission is having a Special Commission meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> to review the two audits with the auditors.

General Budget Overview

The CPI figure for August 2014 is 1.6%. FICA is set at 7.65 percent of the wages. Health Insurance is calculated with a 6.8% increase until the County receives the new rates from the current provider around mid-November. The 2015 total budget shows a \$344,410 increase over the 2014 total budget, which is a 5.27% increase. The 2015 proposed tax assessment is \$7,019,328, which is \$383,985 more than the 2014 tax assessment of \$6,635,343. The 2014 figure included utilizing \$230,000 of Surplus but the 2015 Tax Assessment is only utilizing an amount of \$100,000.

There are 3 major reasons for the increase in the budget for 2015:

1. The increase in personnel services in all departments is based on the cost of living and step increases, and also the projected increases in health insurance premium, worker’s compensation premium, and retirement participation.
2. The projected decrease in the amount of Deeds Revenue is because of the big decrease in Deeds Fees.
3. The \$130,000 decrease in the amount of Surplus used to reduce the 2015 Proposed Budget.

Administrator Hart explained that it’s getting more and more difficult to cut the budgets any further because they’re already so tight. Some things are out of the County’s control, such as the Deeds revenues. The County used a large amount of surplus last year because of the bond payment, which helped keep the budget down for 2014, but there won’t be enough surplus funds available to do that again in 2015.

Administrator Hart said that three departments had employee increase requests:

1. The Sheriff’s Department has requested to add another supervisor position, which Administrator Hart cut out of his own proposal.
2. The Airport asked to increase the hours of the administrative assistant, which Administrator Hart also didn’t support, in part to be fair since he didn’t support the Sheriff’s request.
3. The third request is from the EMA department to create a GIS, 20 hours per week position that’s funded 50% from EMPG. This position Administrator Hart did support, in part because it would be 50% funded by EMPG funds and in discussions with the municipalities of Knox, there seemed to be support for the position. The position will not receive any benefits and it’s up to the towns whether the hours for the position will change in the future. Administrator Hart said that he supported this position because he believes in the value of it.

The Commissioners and Budget Committee members introduced themselves and stated which districts and towns they represented:

Commissioner, Chair	Carol L. Maines	District 1	Owls Head, Rockland, Rockport and South Thomaston
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Commissioner	Richard L. Parent	District 2	Cushing, Friendship, St. George, Thomaston and Warren
Commissioner	Roger A. Moody	District 3	Appleton, Camden, Hope, Isle Au Haut, Matinicus Isle Plantation, North Haven, Union, Vinalhaven, Washington and the unorganized territory of Criehaven
Budget Committee, Chair	Dorothy Meriwether	District 2	South Thomaston, Vinalhaven and Owls Head
Budget Committee	Ann Matlack	District 1	Isle Au Haut, Matinicus, North Haven, St. George and Friendship
Budget Committee	Stephen Carroll	District 3	Rockland
Budget Committee	Shawn Levasseur	District 3	Rockland
Budget Committee	Randy Stearns	District 4	Camden – north of Route 1 from the Megunticook River
Budget Committee	Bob Duke	District 5	Rockport and Camden south of Route 1 from Camden/Rockport line to the Megunticook River
Budget Committee	Lawrence Nash	District 6	Appleton, Union and Washington
Budget Committee	Bill Jones	District 7	Warren and Hope
Budget Committee	<i>Tom Mellor*</i>	District 8	Thomaston and Cushing

*\* Mr. Mellor will not be an official member of the budget committee until he has been sworn in by a dedimus justice.*

**VI. Public Hearing**

The public hearing portion of the meeting commenced at 5:19 p.m. No members of the public chose to speak.

**VII. Public Hearing Closed**

The public hearing portion of the meeting concluded at 5:21 p.m.

**VIII. Budget Review**

**1. Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) (taken out of order)**

Administrator Hart reminded everyone that MCRPC Executive Director Eric Galant was unable to attend the meeting because it’s also the same night as MCRPC’s annual meeting. He said that Mr. Galant’s request is the same as it has been for many years now: \$2,500, and that he recommended that the County fund this request. A couple Budget Committee members voiced support for the request, stating that Mr. Galant helps a lot of communities, and for very little money.

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission’s budget request of \$2,500:**

In favor: 7 (Steven Carroll, Bob Duke, Shawn Levasseur, Randy Stearns, Ann Matlack, Dorothy Meriwether, and Lawrence Nash)

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

**2. Midcoast Economic Development District (MCEDD) (taken out of order)**

Executive Director of the Pen Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce Staci Coomer introduced herself as currently serving as the President of the Board for MCEDD. She explained that some of the MCEDD Board members from Knox County are John Holden, John Gibbons, Bill Chapman, and Commissioner Roger Moody. MCEDD is federally funded but has local leadership. Each year MCEDD devises a comprehensive economic development strategy.

MCEDD Executive Director Jeff Kobrock reviewed MCEDD's services by directing the Budget Committee and Commission's attention to charts on various pages of the MCEDD budget request submission packet. He noted that last year MCEDD received full funding from participating counties except for Lincoln and Waldo counties. Lincoln County funded MCEDD at \$5,000 and Waldo only funded \$2,000. This year, Lincoln County again did not fully fund MCEDD's budget request. Director Kobrock listed some of the projects mentioned in the MCEDD documentation, some of which were possibilities rather than started or completed projects. He noted that MCEDD had initiated a cooperative services program this year and that he felt MCEDD could do better at doing joint purchasing with Knox County because he said that the buying power is very significant. It's the first year MCEDD has done it in this area so it can take a while to gain legs and for Towns to start participating.

John Holden, Community Developer for the City of Rockland stated that the County funding for MCEDD provides low cost, and in some cases, free advice. He said that the MCEDD staff have a lot of experience in economic development and are extremely helpful. He relies on MCEDD to provide professional, technical advice. MCEDD helps with administering grants and also provides background economic data that he uses when writing grant applications. He said that the County funding that MCEDD gets allows him to be able to contract them at a much lower rate than he would be able to otherwise and he asked that Knox County fund MCEDD's full request.

Budget Committee members expressed concerns over projects being listed in MCEDD's CEDS projects that it remained unclear whether MCEDD was directly involved in them, let alone provided any funding for them. The projects listed also seemed more geared towards helping municipalities with projects that the municipalities had started on their own, rather than helping local businesses. Director Kobrock stated that while MCEDD may not be directly involved in the project itself, helping municipalities with their CEDS applications can help give the municipal applications more priority with the Federal government. However, MCEDD had helped Camden put together 2 applications for the Ragged Mountain project, but both applications failed and the Town's voters ended up approving a bond to pay for the rest of the project themselves. Only three projects in MCEDD's CEDS were successful in the last year.

When asked why he was recommending just half of the MCEDD funding request, Administrator Hart explained that when he reviewed MCEDD's request, it seemed to him that the majority of projects listed were for communities outside Knox County. MCEDD is Knox County's 3<sup>rd</sup> economic development agency and it's a controversial topic every year. He noted that Knox County is already doing some joint purchasing with the municipalities and that MCEDD had created some confusion when they sent information to the municipalities about their program this year. Administrator Hart noted that the biggest reason for his recommendation is that the budget is up this year and there need to be some cuts made.

Ann Matlack stated that she has been involved with the budget committee a lot time and that part of why the County participated in economic development districts is because the County already provides help to more rural/farming and other areas with the Knox-Lincoln Extension and the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water District, and investing in an economic development group gave the County a way to also help with less rural areas with more businesses. For MCEDD to receive federal funding for projects they have to have the projects already listed on their priorities list; however, she noted that she was frustrated that she keeps seeing the same big projects for the same 3 large towns and wasn't seeing

Knox County’s smaller municipalities, or even businesses, on the list. She said that she supported funding MCEDD but at the reduced amount recommended by the county administrator.

Commissioner Moody noted that economic development doesn’t stop at the borders of one town or a county. It’s regional because the people who work and have jobs in the larger towns like Camden and Rockland are living in the smaller towns, spending money in various towns, so more towns are benefiting than just the larger towns.

When the question was raised of whether MCEDD helping Rockland’s economic development director with grants was duplication, Mr. Holden stated that it wasn’t duplication because some of the work and free advice and information that MCEDD provides saves him a lot of time and allows him to apply for more grants than he might have been able to otherwise. Steve Carroll noted that Mr. Holden may have gotten the assistance for free, but the taxpayers are still paying for it.

As in past years, Budget Committee members were concerned about how MCEDD finds out about municipal projects and how they go about making contact with municipalities and businesses that are in need of funding because not everyone knows that they can go to MCEDD for assistance. The concern was that MCEDD only contacts their “member” municipalities. Director Kobrock responded by saying that MCEDD is a relatively new organization because they’ve only been around for a little more than 3 years. He said that MCEDD is still working on outreach and figuring out what their strategic plan will be. He said that in the past year, MCEDD did a survey with all the member municipalities to ask them what they think about what MCEDD is currently doing and whether it was working. Could MCEDD do things better in some way? He said that he got about 50% of the surveys back before doing any follow-up and thought that he pretty much got all of the surveys back. He said that all of the member municipalities receive numerous emails about the 14 products, services or commodities that MCEDD is helping to handle the bid process for. He said that MCEDD is also doing face-to-face meetings with the municipalities as follow-up on the surveys. MCEDD tries really hard to communicate with all their member communities and the MCEDD Board is made up of essentially 30 municipalities.

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Midcoast Economic Development District’s full budget request in the amount of \$28,491:**

In favor: 1 (Dorothy Meriwether)  
 Against: 6 (Steve Carroll, Shawn Levasseur, Bob Duke, Lawrence Nash, Ann Matlack, and Randy Stearns)  
 Abstained: 0

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator’s recommendation in the amount of \$14,246:**

In favor: 4 (Bob Duke, Randy Stearns, Ann Matlack, and Lawrence Nash)  
 Against: 3 (Dorothy Meriwether, Steve Carroll, and Shawn Levasseur)  
 Abstained: 0

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to funding MCEDD at \$0:**

In favor: 2 (Steve Carroll and Shawn Levasseur)  
 Against: 5 (Bob Duke, Randy Stearns, Ann Matlack, Dorothy Meriwether, and Lawrence Nash)  
 Abstained: 0

**3. Knox-Lincoln County Extension Service**

Extension staff educator Ellen Libby stated that KLCES’s budget for 2015 is a flat-line budget and is not asking for an increase. She noted that the “T&YPP Support” listed in the budget is for T&YPP’s

offices. The money KLCES would normally give to T&YPP to pay for their office space will now be integrated into ours since they are moving into the KLCES building. She said that the building is being used for a lot of meetings and training now and that there have been so many people using the space that they had to buy more chairs. She also noted that they have prepaid their propane for the year to lower the overall cost.

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve Knox-Lincoln County Extension Services' budget request of \$57,042:**

In favor: 5 (Bob Duke, Dorothy Meriwether, Randy Stearns, Ann Matlack, and Lawrence Nash)  
 Against: 0  
 Abstained: 2 (Steve Carroll and Shawn Levasseur)

Bob Duke gave a brief explanation of why the County has been involved with the Extension Service and the history of it after Steve Carroll commented that he wasn't sure he understood what value the County was getting out of the funding. Ms. Libby offered to email some videos to help people understand what the Extension Services does. Administrator Hart asked her to send the information to him and he would distribute it to everyone else.

**4. Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water District**

KLSWD Board Chair Mark Hedrich handed out a one-page handout entitled "District Highlights" since he had done the same thing last year and the Committee seemed to like that. He explained that on the back of the page is a list of general benefits of a soil & water conservation district. The organization helps farmers, landowners, and municipalities to conserve and to use the natural resources in such a way that these resources will be around for a long time to come. KLSWD does educational programs and provides technical assistance. The contractor certification program brings in some additional income since the contractors have to be recertified every 3 years. KLSWD does consulting work on road maintenance, water bodies, culverts, hay production, blueberry fields, soil production, pond maintenance information, etc. Mr. Hedrich said that for a long time KLSWD wanted to expand information to the municipalities on things like erosion control but didn't have the means to do it. Now the organization has someone who can help with that and other things like culvert sizing. It would be a fee service that would provide KLSWD with some extra income. KLSWD tries to do a lot of outreach and has a pretty active website and Facebook page. The organization has 1 full-time employee, 1 part-time educational coordinator, and a bunch of volunteers.

Steve Carroll commented that he was concerned about the amount being spent on salaries (about \$75,000) when the organization only had one and a half employees. Mr. Hedrich said he disagreed that the organization was "heavy handed" with salaries, especially since the two employees don't even get benefits. Commissioner Parent said that he has met the two employees and that anyone who met them would be very impressed with them and the work that they do.

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water District's budget request of \$26,673:**

In favor: 7 (Ann Matlack, Lawrence Nash, Bob Duke, Dorothy Meriwether, Randy Stearns, Steve Carroll, and Shawn Levasseur)  
 Against: 0  
 Abstained: 0

**5. Time & Tide RC&D**

Administrator Hart explained that Time & Tide RC&D did not submit a request by the deadline that was required of all organizations and did not contact him explaining why. When he sent their project manager an email telling her there was no need to attend this meeting because no budget request had

been received, he received an email back stating that she hadn't received any documentation telling them when to submit a request. After that she admitted that they said they did get the letter, which had the due date right on it in red, but she claimed she was waiting for Knox County to send them forms to fill out, even though that's not something the County does. All program grant organizations had received the same correspondence: a copy of both budget calendars and a letter explaining what was required of them in order to be considered during the budget process, which included both the date of when requests were due and when their budget would be reviewed with the Commission and the Budget Committee. The documentation was sent first via email, and then hard copies were sent in the mail. Time & Tide had obviously gotten something as Michelle Lachapelle had sent an email to the administrative assistant in the Administrative Office stating that she would be in attendance at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to present Time & Tide's request. Administrator Hart said that he left it up to Budget Committee Chair Bob Duke on whether or not to allow Time & Tide to make a request even though they had missed the deadline. Chair Duke emailed members of the budget committee and commission and to Time & Tide to say that he was denying Time & Tide's request for the 2015 budget process.

Bob Duke noted that he denied the request because it wouldn't be fair to the other organizations that got their requests in on time. It was also noted that the County hasn't funded Time & Tide or the last couple years anyway.

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on following Administrator Hart's recommendation of funding Time & Tide RC&D at \$0.00:**

In favor: 7      (Ann Matlack, Lawrence Nash, Bob Duke, Dorothy Meriwether, Randy Stearns, Steve Carroll, and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

**6. Restorative Justice Project**

Sarah Mattox explained that the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast is a non-profit organization that provides restorative justice services within the four counties that comprise Prosecutorial District Six: Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc. The organization is headed into its 10<sup>th</sup> year of service. Ms. Maddox said that they are starting to seek more sustainable sources of funding by asking the other three counties, multiple agencies, school districts, etc. to contribute small amounts so that if they lose one source of funding, it wouldn't cripple the organization.

Restorative Justice runs 3 programs as a compliment to the criminal justice system. It's about accountability and having the offender work with the victim to help offenders see the effect their actions have and to help the victim and the affected communities heal. The idea is to catch offenders before they end up in the court system and help them to change their lives for the better. The organization gets referrals from the district attorneys office, schools, and law enforcement agencies. Any level of court involvement is expensive and once a young person starts to commit offenses, they tend to continue, so the goal is to "divert" the youth from committing any further offenses that would land them in the court system. It costs approximately \$114 per day to lock up one juvenile in a detention center. Restorative Justice has the support of the superintendent of both school systems, as well as the 4 police departments in Knox County and the Sheriff's Department. As an example, Ms. Mattox related that she received a referral today for a student who had assaulted another student. The parents of the other student don't want to prosecute but they wanted some meaningful method of accountability. Ms. Mattox said that she will help them to all meet together and discuss what happened and develop a plan for the offending student to take responsibility for his actions. If he is successful in doing that, he won't be charged. It's giving him a second chance. She noted that their victim satisfaction rate is at 98%.

Restorative Justice is asking for \$15,000 from Knox County, which will enable the organization to do 6 – 10 conferences (“diverting” 6 to 10 kids). Restorative Justice will have a quarterly meeting with the police chiefs, the sheriff, and the two superintendents. An example of a recent conference was when some kids burned out a baseball dugout in Thomaston. Those kids did a conference with Restorative Justice staff. The organization tries to help the kids build healthy relationships so they don’t ever end up in the custody of the Department of Corrections. The organization has a \$60,000 contract with the State (DOC), but that funding is only for kids that are already in the court system. The funding being asked for from Knox County will be used to catch the kids before they get that far. Some money is coming in through donations and grants but not enough.

Several Budget Committee members and Commissioners commented that it made sense to intervene earlier in the kid’s life and was a worth-while project but questioned whether the County was really the appropriate place for Restorative Justice to seek funding.

When Administrator Hart was asked why his recommendation for funding was \$0, he explained that it was because this is a new request and the overall budget is up over last year even without adding in an additional \$15,000 in for Restorative Justice.

Tom Mellor, who was appointed to the Budget Committee earlier in the meeting, stood as a member of the public and explained that he used to be a principal and felt that this is a very worthwhile project and that the County should fund it. He said that he had been hired as principal to clean up a school and bring down the law and order. There were 37 suspensions in the first 3 weeks. He said that if he had had the Restorative Justice program back then, things would have gone differently because the students would have gone through the program and not get suspended. He noted that middle school is the last best chance to save these kids and that’s precisely who will be helped by this project.

A woman named Nancy Davis asked to speak. She explained that she was a director of Legal Aid for over 20 years in California and has been trying to get a restorative justice program started there that whole time. She moved to Maine, found this program here, and has been volunteering for it ever since. In answer to the question of whether the County should be funding the program, she noted that the programs she is running in Santa Barbara County in California is funded by that county. She said that the program here in Maine is so amazing that the people she works with in California are using this as a model because it’s such an effective program. It’s mostly run by over 350 volunteers who are well-trained. She said that the conferences mentioned by Ms. Mattox take a long time to get organized and pulled off, but the conferences are transformative for these kids. A mentor is paired with every kid, and for many of these kids, having a caring adult in their life is a new experience for them.

When asked what the breakdown is for costs when the organization says that it costs \$1,500 per kid, Ms. Mattox explained that the \$1,500 includes a portion of training mentors, facilitators, producing resources manuals, staff salaries, and mileage since staff also travel a lot.

Steve I’ve heard at least 2 people say \$15,000 is not a lot of money but nobody is willing to write a check out of their own pocket. It may seem like it’s not a lot of money, but it is to some people. The majority of the funding is really for salaries. She said yes. Steve it really comes down to supporting salaries, no matter how worth a cause it is. I’m not certain Knox County should be the one funding it. I love the idea of establishing a fee through the court system.

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on following Administrator Hart’s recommendation of funding Restorative Justice at \$0.00:**

In favor: 1      (Steve Carroll)  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

**A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on funding Restorative Justice’s full request of \$15,000:**

In favor: 4 (Lawrence Nash, Dorothy Meriwether, Randy Stearns and Ann Matlack)  
Against: 1 (Steve Carroll)  
Abstained: 2 (Bob Duke and Shawn Levasseur)

**IX. Adjourn**

- A motion was made by Dorothy Meriwether to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Randy Stearns. A vote was taken with all in favor.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice S. Richards  
Administrative Assistant

**The Knox County Budget Committee and Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their meeting on November 6, 2014.**