

# KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday – November 9, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., at the county courthouse, 62 Union Street, Rockland, Maine. Administrative Assistant Candice Richards was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

Commission members present: Anne Beebe-Center, Commissioner District #1, and Richard L. Parent, Jr., Commissioner District #2.

County staff present included: County Administrator Andrew Hart, Administrative Assistant Candice Richards, EMA Director Ray Sisk, Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves, Registrar of Deeds Lisa Simmons, Communications Director Linwood Lothrop, Sheriff Donna Dennison, and Patrol Administrator Tim Carroll.

## **Regular Meeting – Agenda** **Tuesday – November 9, 2010 – 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 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 October 5, 2010.
    - iii. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of October 20, 2010.
    - iv. Accept Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
    - v. Reserve Withdrawals.
    - vi. Budget Line Transfers.
- IV. 2:16 Action Items**
  1. Act on Award of Bid to Purchase New 2011 Chevy Tahoe for Use by the Sheriff's Patrol Division.
  2. Act on Interest to be Charged to Municipalities on Dispatch Fees Paid Late.
  3. Act on Recovery Zone Bond Request from the Town of Thomaston.
  4. Act on Statewide Registry of Deeds Single-Web Portal.
  5. Act to Authorize Expenditure from the Building Reserve Account.
- V. 2:30 Discussion Items**
  1. New Airport Terminal Open House
- VI. 2:45 Other Business**
- VII. 2:50 Executive Session**
  1. Convene in Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).
- VIII. Adjourn**

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

Commission Chair Anne Beebe-Center called the November 9, 2010 regular meeting of the Knox County Commission to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **II. Public Comment**

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center asked for public comment. There was none.

### **III. Consent Items**

1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:
  - i. Approve Agenda - Non Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.
  - ii. Accept Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
  - iii. Approve Reserve Withdrawals.
  - iv. Approve Budget Line Transfers.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve the consent items as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Reserve Withdrawals:

Airport Equipment	461608-14610	\$4,832.96
DARE	300008-10070	\$1,400.35
Legal Expense	200008-12650	\$7,398.15
Resignation Benefits	200008-12670	\$2,136.00
Sheriff Vehicles	200008-12770	\$39,308.00
	Total	\$55,075.46

Budget Line Transfers:

FROM:			TO:		
Airport Electricity	416004-54555	\$1,000	Water	416004-54565	\$1,000
Building Maint. Vehicle repairs	006004-54655	\$781	Rubbish removal	006004-54620	\$717
Building Maint. Janitor	006003-53061	\$1,200	Equipment repairs	006004-54575	\$64
Building Maint. Heating Fuel	006005-55205	\$3,500	Building repairs	006004-54595	\$1,200
Building Maint. Grounds maint.	006005-54590	\$7,000	Electrical repairs	006004-54600	\$3,500
			Heating repairs	006004-54610	\$7,000
Communications Repairs & maint.	518004-54780	\$1,000	Auto mileage	518004-54105	\$1,000
Deeds Office Supplies	009005-55335	\$180	Equipment repairs	009004-54575	\$50
Deeds Dues & Registration	009004-54515	\$45	Auto mileage	009004-54105	\$175
Executive Copy machine	004005-55345	\$108	Public relations	004005-55365	\$15
Executive Lodging	004004-54115	\$470	Office supplies	004005-55335	\$93
			Dues & Registration	004004-54515	\$470
Emergency Management ICMA	002003-53960	\$100	Overtime	002003-53800	\$100
Sheriff Office supplies	011005-55335	\$50	Printing	011004-54525	\$50
Sheriff Auto repairs	011004-54655	\$4,000	Auto supplies	011005-55310	\$4,000
Sheriff Medical exams	011004-54550	\$1,500	Meals	011004-54110	\$1,500
Sheriff Training	011004-54545	\$1,100	Training supplies	011005-55375	\$1,100
Sheriff Uniforms	011005-55405	\$400	Safety supplies	011005-55305	\$400
Total:		\$22,434.00	Total:		\$22,434.00

**IV. Action Items**

1. Act on Award of Bid to Purchase New 2011 Chevy Tahoe for Use by the Sheriff’s Patrol Division.  
 County Administrator Andrew Hart explained that four bids were received and O’Connor’s in Augusta had the lowest bid price of \$28,621.55. He stated that he, the Sheriff and the Lieutenant, all recommended awarding O’Connor’s the bid for that bid price.
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to approve the purchase of a new 2011 Chevy Tahoe for the Sheriff’s Patrol department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.
  
2. Act on Interest to be Charged to Municipalities on County Taxes and Fees Paid Late (K. Robinson).  
 County Administrator Andrew Hart explained that every year the Commission approves charging municipalities interest on taxes or dispatch fees paid late. This year, the City of Rockland was the only municipality to pay late. The City paid their dispatch fees, \$168,867.00, six days late. Therefore, based on State statute, the County is allowed to charge the City interest at a rate of 7%, for a total of \$194.31 in interest.
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve charging interest to the City of Rockland for paying their dispatch fees late. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.
  
3. Act on Recovery Zone Bond Request from the Town of Thomaston.  
 County Administrator Andrew Hart explained that the Administration Office had received a letter from Priority Development Group Holdings, LLC. They had originally sent their Recovery Zone Bond Request to FAME (Finance Authority of Maine) but it apparently requires endorsement from both the municipality and the county. Thomaston Town Manager Val Blastow is writing a letter to FAME approving the request on his end because the request does not affect municipal resources. This is a private project rather than the two public projects that the Commission had approved for the other two municipalities at a previous Commission meeting, but FAME still wants Commission approval. The project includes construction of a convenience store, gas station, and possibly a bank.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to approve the Recovery Zone Bond Request and Send a Letter of Support as Requested to FAME on behalf of Priority Management. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

4. Act on Statewide Registry of Deeds Single-Web Portal.

Registrar of Deeds Lisa Simmons explained that the registrar from each county was asked to go to their commission to ask for \$5,000 for the website.

Commissioner Roger Moody commented that the MCCA has been talking about this issue at every meeting for the last few months. The MacImage lawsuit essentially pushed the commissioners and the state into setting up a single-web portal before someone else could do it. The MCCA felt that it is a necessary step and that the counties should be prepared to move forward. Anyone going to the site would still be directed to Knox County's information and would still pay fees to the County. Everything would look the same instead of having each county's site set up differently. It will be less confusing for people. If the counties did not do this, a company could do the same thing but the counties would not receive any revenue; the company would be making all the money instead.

County Administrator Andrew Hart stated that \$5,000 sounds like a lot of money but the counties may not actually end up needing that much money and it is a one-time expense. The IT person in Kennebec County is setting up the single-web portal. Once it is put together, an inter-agency agreement will be written and go before the counties for commissioners' approval. It is uncertain when exactly the money will be needed so it would be better to put funding in the 2011 budget rather than assume there will be \$5,000 left in the 2010 Deeds budget to fund the expense. If there is any money left over, it could be moved into a reserve account. He added that with the MCCA meeting happening tomorrow, he could ask the group what the progress of the project was so far.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to approve putting \$5,000 in the 2011 Registry of Deeds budget for the Statewide Single-Web Portal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

5. Act to Authorize Expenditure from the Building Reserve Account.

County Administrator Andrew Hart stated that this expenditure was in regards to the property at 301 Park Street. He and Martin Cates had met to discuss the scope of work for the due diligence work to be done on the property. All three department heads (Director Lothrop, Director Sisk, and Sheriff Dennison) are in support of this and the KRCC Executive Board supports it too. He stated that he was asking for an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. He added that he did not know if that much would be needed but that he needed to have the money there in case the County needed more reports done that had not been previously thought of.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve the expenditure from the Building Reserve Account not to exceed \$5,000 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

## V. Discussion Items

1. New Airport Terminal Open House.

Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves briefly explained that because of a change in the date of the delivery and installation of some of the fixtures and furniture in the new terminal, the open house needed to be pushed back a month. He asked the Commission about some dates in December and asked what would work best for them. The Commission agreed upon Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The Boy Scouts will raise the flag and there will be about twenty minutes of speeches. After that will be the open house with food and mini-tours through the terminal. He asked if any of the commissioners wanted to be on the agenda as a speaker. Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center volunteered to be a speaker.

## VI. Other Business

Thomaston Auction Properties Tax Abatement

County Administrator Andrew Hart explained that yesterday a member of his office staff noticed an article on the Village Soup website with the title "Judge orders county to defend assessment". Apparently a Superior Court justice had made a decision on the tax abatement for Thomaston Auction Properties, LLC. Previously, the Commission had denied the taxpayer's request and the taxpayer had taken it to the next level: Superior Court. In the news article, it stated that Justice Hjelm did not think the written decision provided by the Commission was specific enough. At some point the Commission will have to meet about this and decide what to do next. No official correspondence of any kind has been sent to the Administration office. If not for the news article, the County would not have even known this was happening.

Commissioner Richard Parent asked if it was possible to either ask the newly formed Board of Assessment Review members for their expertise and opinions or have the Board take over reviewing the abatement entirely.

County Administrator Andrew Hart stated that he was not certain about asking the Board members for their opinion, but that the Commission still had the responsibility of dealing with the abatement because they were the original body to hear the request at the County level. The current Commission has to be the one to resolve this before the new commissioner takes office in January. Attorney John Wall had drafted the Commission's decision for them and so it is unclear why Justice Hjelm disapproved of the Commission's decision. Justice Hjelm did not say that the Commission's decision was right or wrong but that he wanted more information. Administrator Hart stated that he would try to find out what Justice Hjelm wanted for more information before the Commission took any action on this.

## **VII. Executive Session**

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Went into executive session at: 2:32 p.m.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Candice Richards  
Administrative Assistant

**The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on December 14, 2010.**