

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – May 8, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 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, Systems Administrator Mike Dean, Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, KRCC Director Linwood Lothrop, Chief Deputy Tim Carroll, Patrol Deputy Matthew Elwell, EMA Director Ray Sisk, EMA Administrative Assistant Donna Allen, Sheriff's Office Administrative Assistant Linda Lasko-Hall, DA Prosecutorial Assistant Shane Riley; DA's Office Victim Witness Advocate Lynn Talbot, Registrar of Deeds Lisa Simmons, Deputy Register of Deeds Linda Burgess, Deputy Register of Probate Julie Allen, Probate Judge Carol Emery, Finance Clerk Jill Delaney, and Deputy Treasurer Barbie Sylvester.

Others in attendance: HR Consultant Laurie Bouchard; Eric Belley, Chair of the Maine Coast Economic Alliance; Greg Grotton, resident of Union; George Chappell of the *Courier Gazette*; Steve Betts of the *Bangor Daily News*.

Regular Meeting – Agenda Tuesday – May 8, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

- I. 2:00 Meeting Called To Order**
- II. 2:05 Public Comment** - Public Comment during other portions of the meeting will only be granted by permission of the chair.
- III. 2:20 Consent Items**
 1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:
 - i. Agenda - Non Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.
 - ii. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting – Work Session of April 9, 2012.
 - iii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of April 10, 2012.
 - iv. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
 - v. Reserve Withdrawals.
 - vi. Budget Line Transfers.
- IV. 2:25 Action Items**
 1. Act and Vote of the County Commission Authorizing Tax Anticipation Borrowing for 2012.
 2. Act on Funding and Implementation of Employee Wage Adjustments.
 3. Act on Elected Officials Compensation.
 4. Act on Maine Coast Economic Alliance - Special Budget Request.
 5. Authorize the County Administrator to Execute an Agreement with TSA to Provide Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) at the Airport and to Accept a Grant to Reimburse the County for a Portion of Those Costs.
 6. Act on Orthoimagery Buy-Up Process.
 7. Act to Approve and Sign the Contract Renewal for the County Administrator.
- V. 3:00 Discussion Items**
 1. Update on the Knox County Public Safety Building Project.
- VI. 3:15 Other Business**
- VII. Adjourn**

I. Meeting Called to Order

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

II. Public Comment

Commissioner Roger Moody asked for public comment.

Greg Grotton, resident of Union, asked the Commission to consider having night meetings because people who work during the day can't make it to daytime meetings. Anyone running for county commissioner in the future wouldn't be able to attend the meetings either. He asked the Commission to look into having the same notification program that Union uses to get information out. Members of the public can sign up on the town's website to receive copies of agendas or minutes. (**Note: Mr. Grotton was unaware that the County's website is hosted and set up by the same company that created the Union website and the notification system for updates is exactly the same as Union's.*)

III. Consent Items**1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:**

- i. Agenda - Non Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.
- ii. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting – Work Session of April 9, 2012.
- iii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of April 10, 2012.
- iv. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
- v. Reserve Withdrawals.
- vi. Budget Line Transfers

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

Commissioner Maines asked Airport Manager Northgraves about his monthly report in which he mentions that he was working to change the FAA's cost share back to 95% and to convince the MDOT to provide funding for aviation infrastructure. She asked who was working with him on that. Manager Northgraves stated that two other airport managers went yesterday with him to talk to the state Commissioner of Transportation in Augusta. He said that the three airport managers were successful so MDOT will chip in their half. There is also a bond package going through the legislation right now that includes \$1.5 million for airports.

Commissioner Maines asked how the café was coming along. Manager Northgraves said that the stove has been installed and almost all of the plumbing is installed. The café could be open any day now.

Commissioner Moody asked Manager Northgraves about the Stantec report that mentions aviation (aerial navigation) easements. He asked who acquires the easements. Manager Northgraves responded that the County acquires them from the current property owners.

Commissioner Maines asked EMA Director Sisk about the May 10th G-191 ICS/EOC Interface course mentioned in his monthly report. She asked if the commissioners were supposed to attend that. Director Sisk responded that he had decided to cancel that class because not enough people signed up for it. The Commission is already grandfathered so the commissioners do not need to take it anyway. He added that he will probably try hold the class again in the summertime.

Commissioner Maines asked about the MCCA convention. Administrator Hart explained that the dates for the convention have been set but MCCA hasn't sent the registration information out to the counties yet. The convention is being held in Lincoln County this year. He added that there might be an update given at tomorrow's MCCA meeting in Augusta.

- A vote was taken with all in favor.

Reserve Withdrawals – 2012:

Dispatch Misc. Equipment	561800-12625	\$18,477.27
Resignation Benefits	200008-12670	\$13,551.97
Unemployment Compensation	200008-12610	\$1,649.13
	Total	\$33,678.37

IV. Action Items

1. Act and Vote of the County Commission Authorizing Tax Anticipation Borrowing for 2012:
 The Commission awarded the bid for the County’s 2012 Tax Anticipation Note to Machias Savings Bank on April 10th at their Regular Meeting for an interest rate of 0.99%. A Vote of the Knox County Commissioners Authorizing Tax Anticipation Borrowing was read into the record:

**KNOX COUNTY, MAINE
 VOTE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 AUTHORIZING TAX ANTICIPATION BORROWING**

IT IS HEREBY:

VOTED: That, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. §932, the Finance Director is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow, at one time or from time to time during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012, singly or in series, an amount or amounts not exceeding \$2,067,300 in anticipation of the collection of receipts from taxes, such borrowing to be evidenced by the issuance of the County’s tax anticipation note (the “Note”).

VOTED: That following a solicitation of bids, the County Commissioners award the winning bid to Machias Savings Bank (the “Bank”), and direct that the Note shall be issued to the Bank on an “as needed” basis, with an interest rate of 0.99% to mature on or before December 31, 2012.

VOTED: That the Note shall be signed in the name of and on behalf of the County by the Finance Director and countersigned by at least a majority of the County Commissioners, attested to by the County Administrator, and shall be payable at maturity out of money raised by taxation during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012, and shall contain such terms and provisions, not inconsistent herewith, and be in such form as shall be approved by the officers and officials signing the same, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by their execution thereof.

VOTED: That the Finance Director, to the extent permitted and available under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) be and hereby is authorized to designate the Note as qualified tax-exempt obligations for purposes of Section 265(b) of the Code.

VOTED: That the Finance Director be and hereby is authorized to covenant with the Bank, in the name of an on behalf of the County, that the County shall take whatever steps, including filing any reports and rebating any excess earnings, as may be required by federal law, and shall refrain from taking any action, as may be necessary or appropriate to ensure that interest on the Note will remain exempt from federal income taxes.

VOTED: That the officers and officials executing the Note be and hereby are individually authorized to covenant, certify, and agree, in the name of and on behalf of the County and for the benefit of the holders of the Note, that the County will file any required reports, make any annual financial or material event disclosure, and take any other action that may be necessary to ensure that the disclosure requirements imposed by Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission, if applicable, are met.

VOTED: That the Finance Director, County Commissioners, and County Administrator be and hereby are authorized and empowered on behalf of the County to undertake all such acts and things and execute and deliver all such documents and certificates as may be necessary or convenient in connection with the issuance, sale, execution, and delivery of the Note.

VOTED: That if the Finance Director or County Administrator are for any reason unavailable to approve and execute the Note or any related documents, the person or persons then acting in any such capacity, whether as an assistant, a deputy, or otherwise, is authorized to act for such official with the same force and effect as if such official had himself/herself performed such act.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Carol Maines to approve the Authorizing Tax Anticipation Borrowing pursuant to MRSA Title 30-A, authorize the county administrator to sign the Authorizing document, and for commissioners, the administrator, and the finance director to sign the TAN documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Act on Funding and Implementation of Employee Wage Adjustments:

Administrator Hart explained that he had provided the Commission with a spreadsheet that shows the amounts per department that would need to be approved to fully fund the wage adjustments. Employees had attended the May 3rd quarterly Budget Committee meeting to express how they felt about the “claw-back” of the wages paid during the first three months of the year. If the Commission chose to fully fund the wage adjustments, the Commission would also need to further authorize the departments to go over their Personnel Services lines by these amounts as a maximum and authorize that this amount would be funded by Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus). Because of pending grievances and potential legal cost associated with arbitration, mediation, and possible litigation with lawsuits, Knox County could easily exceed an amount well in excess of what was saved by capping the wage adjustments. There have also been some difficulties with figuring out how to pay new employees and those receiving promotions with the wage study not completely implemented.

Greg Grotton asked if the Commission was only going to discuss funding the money that was already paid. Commissioner Moody responded that he couldn't say that was all they were discussing because there could be more discussed than that.

Commissioner Maines stated that things have become a mess, especially considering what the Commission and Budget Committee heard from the employees last week. She asked Administrator Hart if the bond impact will be adding to the financial reasons as to why the wages are going to be a big impact on the 2013 budget. Administrator Hart responded that he was not sure because there's no way to know how much the County could end up spending on legal fees. He added that he also didn't know how much the County will actually spend on the interest for the bond because if the interest rate drops, then the County might end up paying less. If the grievance filed by the union goes to arbitration and then eventually to court for unfair labor practice, the County would have to go to court. If the County was found to be wrong in its actions, the County would be ordered to pay out the money in wages that it should have, plus the County would also have to pay for the other side's legal counsel, the Board of Arbitration, the Arbitrator, the County's own legal fees, etc. It adds up.

Commissioner Maines asked if the “claw-back” had already started for employees (the front loading). Administrator Hart said yes, that it was put into effect the first pay period right after the March 15th vote. A few pay periods have already been done that way. Commissioner Maines commented that the employees feel that it's turned out to be a hardship for some of them. Administrator Hart responded that it was because the employees got their letters in January telling them their wage for 2012 and they had no reason to believe that the wages would be taken back. They made financial decisions based on what they thought their pay was going to be. Now the County is taking the money back.

Department	12/1/11 Approved	3/15/12 Approved	Variance
Administration and Information Technology	\$533,635	\$532,161	(\$1,474)
Building Maintenance	\$225,199	\$225,199	\$0
Building Maintenance - 301 Park	\$40,000	\$22,430	(\$17,570)
District Attorney	\$380,807	\$360,961	(\$19,846)
Emergency Management Agency	\$64,384	\$57,528	(\$6,856)
Finance	\$247,005	\$242,034	(\$4,971)
Probate Court	\$129,509	\$129,509	\$0
Registry of Deeds	(\$113,977)	(\$113,977)	\$0
Sheriff's - Jail Division	\$3,188,700	\$3,188,700	\$0
Sheriff's - Patrol Division	\$1,623,559	\$1,601,814	(\$21,745)
Debt Service	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Insurance	\$92,284	\$92,284	\$0
Grants			\$0
Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension	\$54,570	\$54,570	\$0
Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water District	\$19,421	\$19,421	\$0
Eastern Maine Development			\$0
Time & Tide RC&D	\$3,625	\$3,625	\$0
Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Maine Coast Economic Alliance/KWRED	\$35,000		(\$35,000)
Sub-total	\$6,541,221	\$6,433,759	(\$107,462)
Airport	\$112,850	\$108,604	(\$4,246)
Sub-total	\$6,654,071	\$6,542,363	(\$111,708)
Surplus	(\$175,000)	(\$175,000)	\$0
Total	\$6,479,071	\$6,367,363	(\$111,708)
Salary Related Reductions (not Communications)			(\$59,138)
Other Reductions			(\$52,570)
Communications Reductions (expense)	\$1,000,403	\$988,107	(\$12,296)

Commissioner Maines asked if funding the full wages would change the amount the towns pay in taxes. Administrator Hart said no because the County has already sent out the tax bills for the county assessment. The bottom-line budget numbers voted on by the Budget Committee on March 15th remains the same with respect to the towns. Commissioner Maines commented that it was now up to the Commission to do what they could to make those employees whole with respect to the wage study. She added that this was what she suggests the Commission do.

Commissioner Parent started by saying that this was difficult for him to say because he has the greatest respect for all County employees. He said that he was very disheartened by some of the things that were said by employees at last week’s quarterly budget meeting on May 3rd. He said that he had been a public employee for many years, and if someone had told him that he was getting a 9% wage increase, he would have been ecstatic. He said that he left the budget meeting feeling empty towards the employees. He had thought that the 9% cap voted by the Committee was a good compromise. He stated that he couldn’t support side-stepping the Budget Committee and fully-funding the wage study. He said that he did, however, agree with refunding the money paid to employees in the first quarter instead of paying them less than 9% the rest of the year to get the County’s money back.

Commissioner Moody stated that if the \$14,340 claw-back was paid back to the employees, all that was left of the savings from the 9% cap on wage increases was about \$45,000. He said that it seems reasonable that in the course of arbitration, lawsuits, etc., that the remaining \$45,000 will be exceeded.

He stated that since the County needs to stay within the operating budget, he would ask department heads to decrease their budgets to fund as much of it as possible from within each departmental budget.

Commissioner Maines stated that she did not see implementing the full wage study as side-stepping the Budget Committee because the Committee got the cuts that they wanted in order to make their bottom lines reduced. Now it's the Commission's job to look at the new landscape of these arguably justified lawsuits and grievances. She said that she was more in favor of the employees getting that money than lawyers. One of the main reasons the County was doing the study was to improve employee morale. She said that the arcane business of clawing back money and disappointing employees who relied on what the County told them they were making for wages just didn't seem right to her. She asked, didn't the Commission just move \$35,000 into legal reserve just last month? She said that she agreed that the department heads should look for funding the increases from within their own budgets, but she emphasized that she thought that the Commission needed to look ahead and avoid getting into legal issues. She said that she agreed with Commissioner Moody that the entire \$59,138 in wage increases should be put back into the budget.

Commissioner Moody commented that the idea of conducting a comprehensive compensation study has been considered by the Commission and Budget Committee for years. It became a priority to treat employees fairly and on an equitable basis. That was achieved with the study, so if the Commission doesn't implement it fully, then the County won't be able to retain the good employees that it already has. If the County also can't attract new quality employees, then the County is just digging itself into a hole. Restoring morale will benefit the County in decades to come.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Carol Maines that the applicable departments' personnel lines be augmented by \$59,138 (not including Communications) and by \$12,296 for Communications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent.

Greg Grotton stated that he had no problem with employees being paid what they're already being paid, but he asked that it be held at the 9% cap. He said that he had worked for the County for nine years and looked at the commissioners as intelligent people. He said that he understands that employee salaries are low, but they are low all over. He asked what municipal leaders tell their own town employees who aren't getting raises even though they did wage studies too.

Finance Clerk Jill Delaney stated that the study was based on good science done by wonderful consultants with much time and effort. All that money the County paid out for the studies goes hand in hand with the wage increases.

Commissioner Maines noted that she thought it was significant that a member of the Budget Committee had commented at the quarterly budget meeting that when it came to the next budget cycle, not everyone on the Budget Committee saw the rest of the increases as being promised to the employees. There would be pressure on the Budget Committee to put that next 9% off for the foreseeable future. The study was an attempt by the County to bring pay levels up to what they should be, not to make the towns look bad. These aren't raises. It's the result of the study that the Commission and Budget Committee all agreed to and paid for.

Ms. Bouchard commented that this was a market study that compared positions in the County to comparable positions in other counties. She wanted to clarify to make sure it was understood that not every employee got a 9% increase; some employees got no increase at all. Very few increases were large. There were 23 employees out of about 110 employees who had an increase above 9%, but some of them are actually not that much above 9%. The increases were dependent on how significantly underpaid those employees were up until now.

Commissioner Moody asked department heads to look at ways to handle this within their own operating budgets so the County can make the pay plan whole this fiscal year.

- A vote was taken with two in favor (Commissioner Moody and Commissioner Maines) and one opposed (Commissioner Parent). The motion therefore passed.

3. Act on Elected Officials Compensation:

At a Special Commission meeting on April 9th, the Commission, HR Consultant Laurie Bouchard, and Administrator Hart met with the three elected officials, Sheriff Dennison, Probate Register Hallett, and Probate Judge Emery to review Ms. Bouchard’s recommendations for their pay. No increases had been budgeted for the elected officials because the Commission was working at the time with the elected officials to figure that out.

Department	Name	Current Salary	Proposed Salary	Increase Amount	Increase %	FICA	ICMA	Grand Total	Notes
9% Cap									
Probate	Emery, Carol	\$26,381	\$28,755	\$2,374	9%	\$182	\$166	\$2,722	Increase to \$30,075 in 2013
Probate	Hallett, Elaine	\$39,754	\$40,186	\$432	1%	\$33	\$30	\$495	Grade 14 step 15 - current pay \$25,4833
Sheriff	Dennison, Donna	\$59,788	\$65,166	\$5,378	9%	\$411	\$376	\$6,166	Increase to \$67,350 in 2013
Total		\$125,923	\$134,107	\$8,184	6%	\$626	\$573	\$9,383	
Full Implementation									
Probate	Emery, Carol	\$26,381	\$30,075	\$3,694	14%	\$283	\$259	\$4,235	
Probate	Hallett, Elaine	\$39,754	\$40,186	\$432	1%	\$33	\$30	\$495	Grade 14 step 15 - current pay \$25,4833
Sheriff	Dennison, Donna	\$59,788	\$67,350	\$7,562	13%	\$578	\$529	\$8,670	
Total		\$125,923	\$137,611	\$11,688	9%	\$894	\$818	\$13,400	

County on annual basis will determine an average of Probate Judge and Sheriff to ensure pay is equitable in comparison. Probate Judge and Sheriff will be eligible for same increases as other county employees.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Carol Maines to fund \$13,400 for the elected officials to be funded out of personnel service lines in those budgets and anything over those lines would be funded out of undesignated fund balances (surplus). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent.

Commissioner Parent commented that since he had voted against the previous action item he would likely vote against this one too.

Commissioner Maines reminded those present that the Budget Committee was very adamant that they wanted the Commission to work with the elected officials on their compensation. She added that she had been outraged that at the March 15th public hearing when a member of the public said that the elected officials not receiving increases or being included in the study was an issue of sexism. The elected officials were left out of the study because they had requested to be.

Probate Judge Emery commented that it was important to note that the \$13,400 is not divided equally between the three officials.

Commissioner Moody stated that the Commission had agreed to work with the elected officials on their wages before the March 15th meeting, which the Commission did do, and the meetings with them were productive.

- A vote was taken with two in favor (Commissioner Maines and Commissioner Moody) and one opposed (Commissioner Parent). The motion therefore passed.

At 2:58 p.m., Greg Grotton, Steve Betts, and Laurie Bouchard left the meeting. All County employees also left the meeting except for Linwood Lothrop, Kathy Robinson, Mike Dean, Tim Carroll, Ray Sisk, Jeff Northgraves, Matt Elwell, Candice Richards, and Administrator Hart.

4. Act on Maine Coast Economic Alliance - Special Budget Request:

When the 2012 Budget was originally approved back on December 1, 2011, MCEA was given \$35,000 for the 2012 Budget year. When the Budget Committee took another vote on March 15th, the amount of money budgeted for MCEA was cut down to zero. The County has since received a request from MCEA to fund an outstanding bill in the amount of \$6,571.00 for a contract that was with Eaton Peabody Consulting Group to provide staff and support services to MCEA. When Knox County voted to defund MCEA, MCEA terminated this contract with Eaton Peabody, but the outstanding bill is still due. Administrator Hart recommended that the Commission vote to fund this amount of \$6,571.00 and he also recommended that it be funded from Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus).

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve the Maine Coast Economic Alliance special budget request of \$6,571 to pay the outstanding bill owed to Eaton Peabody Consulting Group from undesignated fund balance (surplus). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

5. Authorize the County Administrator to Execute an Agreement with TSA to Provide Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) at the Airport and to Accept a Grant to Reimburse the County for a Portion of Those Costs:

Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves explained that the current five-year agreement expires in September. TSA has given the County a deadline of the end of May execute the new agreement and apply for the new grant. The updated agreement and on-line grant application are not yet available. Historically, TSA has been very heavy handed in the negotiations and it is expected this will be another 'take-it-or-leave-it' offer as well. Every year since 2001, they have decreased their funding and the County has taken on a larger share of the costs. Federal Law requires the County to provide the LEO (Law Enforcement Officer) support for passenger screening. No LEOs means no security screening, which then means no scheduled passenger airlines, no airlines using the airport (like Cape Air) and no revenue or AIP Entitlements.

For the last five years TSA has reimbursed the County for about \$90,000 per year through this program. Even though the County's costs have gone up, TSA's support has gone down. Manager Northgraves stated that he does not expect that the new agreement will be any different. It will only partially reimburse the County and it will be less than \$90,000 per year. Manager Northgraves added that since the County will not have much say in the requirements or the grant offer, he also expects some very short time-lines, so he was requesting that Administrator Hart be given the authority to execute the new agreement and accept the new grant. The only thing the TSA will pay for is the time for the LEO to stand there all day.

Commissioner Maines asked Manager Northgraves if there was any political way to deal with this. Manager Northgraves said that there really wasn't because the TSA falls under Homeland Security and have a lot of clout. The County really has to just take what they offer. Legislative representatives have tried to help the County before, but they were unable to get anywhere.

Commissioner Parent asked what would happen if airport business increases a lot. Manager Northgraves answered that he would have to go back to the TSA. He said that they have a mechanism for dealing with increased need if that were to happen.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to authorize the county administrator to execute an agreement with TSA to provide law enforcement officers at the airport and to accept a

grant to reimburse the county for a portion of those costs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

6. Act on Orthoimagery Buy-Up Process:

The Commission discussed this topic at the Regular Commission meeting on April 10th. Administrator Hart had been asked to check in with the individual towns to see what level of buy-up they were all interested in before the Commission would take a formal vote. An email was sent out to the town clerks, administrators and other town leaders in an effort to find out where their preference lay. There was a little bit of confusion with a code enforcement officer indicating that several towns wanted the 6” Level 1 option but the selectmen for those towns have since expressed different opinions based on votes taken by each Selectboard. A chart showed which towns the administration office was able to get an answer from and what their choices were:

	BUY UP				
	24" BASE ONLY	12" Level 2	12" Level 1	6" Level 2	6" Level 1
Appleton	X				
Camden					
Cushing					?
Friendship					
Hope					
Matinicus					
North Haven					
Owls Head				X	
Rockland					X
Rockport					?
St. George					X
South Thomaston	X				
Thomaston					X
Union	X				
Vinalhaven					
Warren					
Washington				X	

**Note: a question mark instead of an X means that a code enforcement officer had given indication that those towns wanted that level of buy-up, but no one with decision-making authority ever gave the Administrator an answer to the question of what level each town wanted.*

Not all towns have provided their answer and it may just be because they haven’t formally voted, especially since some towns indicated they hadn’t budgeted for this project and are hesitant to commit to a specific level beyond the base.

Matt Elwell left at 3:02 p.m.

Administrator Hart said that he thought it makes sense at this point to not fund anything more than the base since only three or four municipalities want the top level; otherwise, all municipalities would end up funding something that only a few wanted. The County had already agreed to fund the base.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Carol Maines to not pursue a buy-up and to fund the Orthoimagery Program at the Base level for Knox County in the 2013 County budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

7. Act to Approve and Sign the Contract Renewal for the County Administrator:

Commissioner Moody explained that the Commission had already had an executive session with the county administrator to go over his performance review and to update his contract terms. Administrator Hart commented that the only changes were the dates.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Carol Maines to approve and renew the county administrator’s contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

V. Discussion Items

1. Update on Knox County Public Safety Building Project.

Administrator Hart explained that at 5 p.m. today the Rockland Planning Board is doing a site-walk of the exterior areas at 301 Park Street. They will not be going inside the building. The only concern they seem to have is the drainage. They want to make sure that the improvements the County is going to make aren’t going to make the drainage issues any worse. They also want to make sure that the drainage onto adjacent properties isn’t going to be a problem either. They are concerned about the impact on the wetland. The Zoning Board is going to review the tower application. The tower will be adjacent to the addition at the back of the building. June 5th is the public hearing at City Hall with the City of Rockland Planning Board. He said that he hoped the County would get approval so he could get the RFP out. No decisions are being made at tonight’s walk-through.

Commissioner Parent asked if he could receive emails so he could be kept in the loop since he’s the Commission liaison to the project but he doesn’t really know what’s going on. Administrator Hart said that he would take care of that.

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on June 12, 2012.