

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – September 8, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 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 were: Anne Beebe-Center, 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, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, Sheriff Donna Dennison, and Communications Director Linwood Lothrop.

Also present were: Ron Desrosiers and Paul Miller representing Time & Tide; Steve Betts from the *Herald Gazette*.

Regular Meeting – Agenda		
Tuesday – September 8, 2009 – 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 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Approve Agenda - Non Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.ii. Approve Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of July 14, 2009.iii. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of August 11, 2009.iv. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting – Work Session of August 11, 2009.v. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of August 25, 2009.vi. Accept Monthly Written Departmental Reports.vii. Approve Reserve Withdrawals.viii. Approve Budget Line Transfers.
IV.	2:25	Action Items <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Act to Award Bid on KRCC Radio Consoles & Equipment and to Approve Sources of Funding (L. Lothrop).2. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute a Concessionaire’s Agreement with Enterprise Rent-a-Car (J. Northgraves).3. Act to Authorize the Finance Director to Create a Terminal Reserve Account for the County’s Share of the Terminal Construction Costs and Move \$500,000 from Undesignated Surplus to the Terminal Reserve Account (J. Northgraves).
V.	2:35	Discussion Items <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss Time and Tide Resource Conservation and Development Area Plan 2009 – 2014 (R. Desrosiers, P. Miller).
VI.	2:50	Other Business
VII.	2:55	Adjourn

I. Meeting Called to Order

Commission Chair Anne Beebe-Center called the August 8, 2009 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. Approve Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of July 14, 2009.
 - iii. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of August 11, 2009.
 - iv. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting – Work Session of August 11, 2009.
 - v. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of August 25, 2009.
 - vi. Accept Monthly Written Departmental Reports.

- vii. Approve Reserve Withdrawals.
- viii. 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:

Deeds Surcharge	20000812740	\$8,558.18
Dispatch Renovations & Furniture	56180012635	\$10,798.00
Legal Expense	20000812650	\$9,532.57
	Total	\$28,888.75

Budget Line Transfers:

FROM:			TO:		
Airport Trailer Mix	416004-54200	792.00	Plumbing Repair	416004-54615	792.00
Communications Meals	518004-54110	226.00	Lodging	518004-54115	226.00
Comm. Repairs Other	518004-54780	3,000.00	Radio Repairs	518004-54580	3,000.00
Executive Audit	004004-54005	1,500.00	Safety	004005-54580	1,500.00
Finance Office Supplies	005005-55335	287.00	Mileage	005004-54105	150.00
Finance Equipment Repairs	005005-54575	120.00	Overtime	005003-53052	200.00
			Dues & Registration	005004-54515	57.00
Jail Medical Prescriptions	008004-55330	10,300.00	Medical Exam	008004-54550	300.00
			Medical Supplies	008004-55331	10,000.00
Sheriff Gas, Oil, Grease	011004-54650	778.00	Hourly Differential	011003-53850	778.00
Sheriff Criminal Investigation	011004-54730	300.00	Meals	011004-54120	300.00
Total:		\$17,303.00	Total:		\$17,303.00

IV. Action Items

1. Act to Award Bid on KRCC Radio Consoles & Equipment and to Approve Sources of Funding (L. Lothrop).
 Communications Director Linwood Lothrop explained that an RFP was published and mailed to at least five radio vendors in the state. Of that, the County only received one bid. He met with the County Administrator on the 3rd of September to review the bid. It met all the requirements of the RFP and now the request is that the bid be awarded. He stated that he would offer funding to come from Dispatch Reserve \$101,000, Surplus \$30,000, and Contingency \$26,000.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to accept the recommendation of the KRCC Director concerning the bid for radio consoles and equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute a Concessionaire’s Agreement with Enterprise Rent-a-Car (J. Northgraves).
 Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves explained that he has spent several years working with Enterprise and legal counsel. The agreement is almost identical to the one the County has with Budget. It allows the County to take in some of the revenue. He stated that he believed that Enterprise was interested in having the agreement is because when the terminal is built, there will be two spaces in the terminal and Enterprise may want to be able to have one of their representatives onsite at the airport.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve and authorize the Chair to execute a concessionaire’s agreement with Enterprise Rent-a-Car. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

3. Act to Authorize the Finance Director to Create a Terminal Reserve Account for the County’s Share of the Terminal Construction Costs and Move \$500,000 from Undesignated Surplus to the Terminal Reserve Account (J. Northgraves).
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to authorize the finance director to create a terminal reserve account for the County’s share of the terminal construction costs

and move \$500,000 from Undesignated Surplus to the Terminal Reserve Account. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody.

Commissioner Roger Moody asked Finance Director Kathy Robinson if the County's un-appropriated surplus is \$1.4 million.

Finance Director Kathy Robinson replied that it is very close to that amount. It is about \$1.3 million because about \$100,000 is being allocated towards taxes. After transferring the money to the airport, it will leave about \$710,000 in surplus. The County will be then have about 10 percent surplus, which is where the County should be at.

Commissioner Roger Moody asked if the County has a written policy regarding how much surplus the County should maintain.

Finance Director Kathy Robinson stated that the County does not have a policy but that the auditors advise the County to keep the surplus between 10 and 12 percent.

Commissioner Roger Moody asked if the approval of this agenda item provides the final piece of funding so that the project can start.

Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves responded that this was correct.

Commissioner Richard Parent asked if that meant that the project could start this fall.

Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves replied that it depends on when the County receives FAA funding since they pay for the bulk of it. It is possible that the airport could be breaking ground, tearing down the old building, and possibly working on the parking lot, this year before the snow starts. The trailers will stay there until everything is in operation.

- A vote was taken with all in favor.

V. Discussion Items

1. Discuss Time and Tide Resource Conservation and Development Area Plan 2009 - 2014 (R. Desrosiers, P. Miller).

Ron Desrosiers introduced himself as the coordinator for Time and Tide. He stated that he had brought Paul Miller with him, who is the Time and Tide representative to the Knox County Commission. He explained that Time and Tide was created in 1974 by the six counties that Time and Tide serves, as well as four soil and water conservation districts. For each county and soil and water district, Time and Tide has a direct representative and an alternate representative. Paul Miller is Knox County's direct representative and Jane LaFleur is the alternate representative.

Mr. Desrosiers explained that he was attending the Commission meeting mainly to introduce himself and Mr. Miller, and answer any questions that the Commission might have. He stated that he was not doing a presentation. The Commission had already been provided with a copy of the Area Plan, which shows what the plans and goals are for the next five years. The County can help shape the plan and the kind of projects that Time and Tide works on. Time and Tide can help the County deliver programs and do outreach to help local agencies. Right now, Time and Tide is working with Waldo County EMA directors to get money to buy dry hydrants, installing them, and maintaining the ones that are already there. Projects usually come to Tide and Tide by other people contacting them. The volunteer council then shapes the projects, accepts or denies them, or asks for additional information.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center stated that the most underserved populations in Knox County are the islands. She asked what involvement Time and Tide had with the islands.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that he had just been to Vinalhaven recently. While he was there, he visited the museum and talked with the people there about possibly helping to find funds to modify, improve, or add onto culturally significant buildings. He stated that most projects are brought to Time and Tide and that he does not normally go out looking for projects. Since Knox County is a sponsor of Time and Tide, the Commission is approached for any input or suggestions that the commissioners may have. He stated that he is the only paid employee that that the council members are all volunteers. He added that he has been the coordinator for over a year now.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center asked if Time and Tide partnered with any organizations like the Island Institute.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that it would be great if island organizations sat in on the council meetings because they are open to the public. He stated that he has not seen anyone from the Island

Institute at the council meetings but that there have been watershed associations from the six counties, as well as land trust representatives. If an island were to approach Time and Tide regarding a project, they might approach the Time and Tide representative to Knox, and/or the County Commission. A lot of times it is direct contact to Time and Tide.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center commented that for the islands, reaching out to them might be more appropriate because of the difficulties of travel between the islands and the mainland. Having a contact with the islands and showing interest, even if people from the island can not attend the meetings, is good.

Commissioner Richard Parent stated that one of the things that the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission is working on is trying to work with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to open some of the closed clam flats. The flats have been closed for a variety of reasons, including pollution and red tide. DMR was also going to lose some of their flats because they were losing some of their staff and could not monitor the flats on a routine basis in order to have them open.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that Time and Tide takes on a project for a county that takes a lot of time to develop, the Council will look to see if it will work for other areas instead of reinventing the wheel. It was like this when Time and Tide worked on a Kennebec County clam flats project. Time and Tide identified some areas where they thought they could make some significant gains within a two-year period by bringing all the resources together to focus on the area. Many of the problems are fairly simple to solve and fix, like septic drainage systems, livestock waste, or overflowing municipal sewer drains. Some problems take a significant amount of work or support from the citizens, like a bond initiative. Sometimes there are grants available that can help pay for correcting the problem.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center stated that economic development is very important right now. She asked if Time and Tide is involved with any of the chambers of commerce in various areas.

Mr. Desrosiers replied that some of the commissioners that he has met in different counties do not want that. At least one county told him that they felt that everything that could be done to increase tourism has already been done. On the other hand, Lincoln County is celebrating their 250th anniversary and Time and Tide is looking at a project that creates a byway that looks at all the culturally significant in the county and develop a road map for an auto tour, which includes going past farms in the area. He stated that this was not a project that he went looking for, but that he had attended the Lincoln County Commission meeting and the commissioners were discussing doing a project to celebrate Lincoln County's anniversary. A local historian was in attendance and Mr. Desrosiers was able to connect with him after the meeting, so Time and Tide will be playing a roll in that project. He stated that they are also developing a 35 mile loop bike trail.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center commented that if Time and Tide went to the chambers of commerce for Camden Rockland, Belfast and even Union Mr. Desrosiers may find some suggestions for partnerships to do similar projects as other counties. She asked about combining efforts on projects instead of each community or county doing it separately.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that it is not hard to find projects, but it is not always easy to find project that Time and Tide can play a meaningful roll in that is not being duplicated in some way by somebody else. It is less about partnering with people than filling in the cracks.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center stated that often times, towns have great ideas and go off on their own to accomplish it separately, when working together they might be able to save money.

Mr. Desrosiers commented that often times, citizens or towns are doing similar projects to each other, but they also may not know about the other project happening at the same time. Time and Tide can play a roll in helping them to combine their efforts. He stated that his council act as his eyes and ears in the counties.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center stated that in the Area Plan, it mentions transportation. She asked if the airport would fit into that category.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that usually transportation projects have to do with helping get people from rural communities into town to do shopping, or for medical care. Other projects have included working with towns on areas where traffic often comes to a stand-still because of a bottleneck. Time and Tide helps them work with the Maine DOT to talk to private landowners to have a parking area outside of town with transportation in, to limit the amount of cars. If there was a

project for the airport that the County wanted help with, it would go before the council, which would shape it and either modify it or accept it.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center stated that she had looked at the information about rural fire protection. She asked if anything along those lines could be shaped to fit the airport.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that he is meeting with Waldo County fire chiefs to see if Homeland Security money can be secured for fire protection. He stated that he is helping them shape a request to bring it before the Time and Tide council. If an airport has a need, they could give him a call and he would go speak with them directly so he can help them shape a project to bring before the council. An Area Plan not written in stone but can be rewritten at any time if additional needs arise.

Commissioner Roger Moody asked if there is there an RC&D designation for every county and town in the state.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that Time and Tide was the second RC&D created in Maine. The entire State of Maine is now covered by five RC&D's.

Commissioner Roger Moody stated that when looking at economic development, it makes sense to look at areas with similar needs, interests, and priorities to work together. He asked if the same thinking was used to create the RD&D's.

Mr. Desrosiers stated that coastal areas have different needs than inland areas. When Time and Tide was first created, it only covered Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo. Eventually, three other counties joined Time and Tide, but it literally takes an act of Congress to create an RC&D. It is about a three or four year process.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center thanked Mr. Desrosiers for coming so that the Commission could better understand Time and Tide.

VI. Other Business

Commissioner Roger Moody asked if Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center and Commissioner Richard Parent receive the Maine County Commissioners Association Beebe meeting minutes. He stated that he just wanted to encourage the Commission to read them. At one of the meetings there had been a discussion about a lawsuit relating to a business asking copies of Registry of Deeds records as a Freedom of Access request. The issue will eventually affect Knox County.

County Administrator Andrew Hart stated that he was in the process of submitting the initial application for the Energy Efficiency Block Grant. The County is tentatively approved for \$174,900. This money could pay for improvements to the courthouse, the Park Street property, and the Airport. Some possibilities could be window replacements, boiler upgrade or replacement, air conditioning upgrade, etc. The County would work with a consultant to see what the projects will consist of and then the County would have 180 days to use the funds.

County Administrator Andrew Hart stated that he had spoken to Lisa Simmons, the Register of Deeds in Knox County, regarding the Registry of Deeds lawsuit in Hancock County. The topic is going to be discussed at the MCCA convention. The other counties are waiting to see what will happen. The law suit stemmed from when Hancock County worked with a company called MacImage of Maine to scan documents to give the public access to them. The owner of the company decided that he wanted to have copies of the deeds for free since they are public documents. Normally, there are fees for copies of deeds. MacImage is suing the Hancock County and the owner has stated that he will do the same thing to other counties if they refuse his request.

Commissioner Anne Beebe-Center commented that Penobscot County was approached about this but that she did not know if anything happened.

Commissioner Roger Moody commented that it would make sense for the counties to all be responding to the request in the same way.

VII. 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 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on October 13, 2009.

Anne H. Beebe-Center, Chair – Commissioner District #1

Richard L. Parent, Jr. – Commissioner District #2

Roger A. Moody – Commissioner District #3