

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – October 11, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 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, Chief Deputy Tim Carroll, Sheriff Donna Dennison, Jail Administrator John Hinkley, EMA Director Ray Sisk, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, and Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves.

Others in attendance: HR consultant Laurie Bouchard; Village Soup Reporter Dan Smith; and Pen Bay Pilot Reporter Chris Wolf.

Regular Meeting – Agenda Tuesday – October 11, 2016 – 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 September 13, 2016.
 - iii. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of September 29, 2016.
 - iv. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
 - v. Reserve Withdrawals.
- IV. 2:20 Action Items**
 - 1. Act to Award Bid for 2 New Vehicles for Use by the Knox County Sheriff's Patrol Division.
 - 2. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Sign a Contract Between Knox County and the Towns of Cushing, Thomaston, Saint George, South Thomaston, Warren, and the Georges River Regional Shellfish Management Committee for Shellfish Warden Services for the Term of September 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.
 - 3. Act on Lease/Purchase Option for Repairs at the Knox County Jail.
 - 4. Act on Interest to be Charged to Municipalities on 2015 County Taxes and Dispatch Fees Paid Late.
- V. 2:40 Discussion Items**
 - 1. Discussion of Proposed Legislative Topics for the Next Session of the State Legislature.
 - 2. Discussion of Setting a Date & Time for a Meeting with Legislative Delegates and Knox County Municipalities.
- VI. 2:55 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. He briefly reminded everyone that all Commission meetings are being live-streamed on the internet. He noted that the microphone was pretty sensitive and asked members of the audience to please refrain from having side conversations because the audio would pick that up.

II. Public Comment

Commissioner Roger Moody asked for public comment. There was none.

III. Consent Items

- 1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:
 - i. Agenda - Non Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.

- ii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of September 13, 2016.
 - iii. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of September 29, 2016.
 - iv. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
 - v. Reserve Withdrawals
- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent approve the consent items as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Reserve Withdrawals:

Airport Computer	461608-14600	\$89.85
Courthouse Renovations & Maintenance	200008-12680	\$3,624.20
DARE	200008-10070	\$517.97
Forfeiture Money - Federal	200008-12860	\$20,306.67
Forfeiture Money – State	200008-12870	\$6,009.41
	Total	\$30,548.10

IV. Action Items

1. Act to Award Bid for 2 New Vehicles for Use by the Knox County Sheriff’s Patrol Division.
 The County went out to bid for two new patrol vehicles for the Sheriff’s department. The invitation to bid was sent to eight local vendors, and received eight bids back from five different vendors. Chief Deputy Carroll explained that the Ford Utility Police Interceptors from Quirk Auto for \$27,184 each are in stock. The other vehicles are all trucks. The County has had very good luck with the interceptor SUV’s so Chief Deputy Carroll wanted to continue using those vehicles.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve awarding the bid for two new vehicles to Quirk Auto for two Ford Utility Police Interceptors at a bid price of 27,184 per vehicle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Sign a Contract Between Knox County and the Towns of Cushing, Thomaston, Saint George, South Thomaston, Warren, and the Georges River Regional Shellfish Management Committee for Shellfish Warden Services for the Term of September 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.
 A previous version of this contract was approved at the August 15th Regular Commission meeting. Since then, the attorneys on both sides made some additional wording changes so it needed to be reapproved.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a contract between Knox County and the Towns of Cushing, Thomaston, Saint George, South Thomaston, Warren, and the Georges River Regional Shellfish Management Committee for Shellfish Warden Services for the term of September 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

3. Act on Lease/Purchase Option for Repairs at the Knox County Jail.
 The possibility of a lease/purchase option has been discussed at several meetings, including as part of the budget process. The funds would be for replacing the control system, replacing the air handling units, improving zone temperature control, improving the cooling system energy, and replacement of the site lighting fixtures, all based on the facility assessment done by SMRT earlier this year. It adds up to about \$1.5 million. Administrator Hart said that he had checked with Machias Savings Bank to see what it might cost the County to do a lease/purchase. The County would pay 3.5% interest for a 10 year lease/purchase (which would be an annual payment of \$175,000), or 2.45% interest for a 15 year lease/purchase (\$133,000 per year). If the County decided to do a bond referendum instead, the maximum length of time that the County could do for repayment is 20 years.

Administrator Hart explained that the Commission didn't need to take any action yet; he just wanted to see what option(s) the Commission was interested in pursuing. He said that he had put \$175,000 in the budget for a lease/purchase since that's the higher amount, just as a placeholder while the options are discussed. Doing so puts the jail budget about \$5,600 over the jail cap.

There was some discussion about whether it was better to wait a year before making any fixes to the jail since there's always the possibility that the State might take over the jails again, in which case the County would be stuck making payments on a jail it no longer owned. The problem is, the Department of Corrections (DOC) gave a two-year variance to the Jail so that the County could get the control system fixed since the jail is currently not in compliance. If the County puts off making an effort to correct the items identified by the DOC as needing action, the DOC might decide to take some kind of action against the County for not complying. Administrator Hart was concerned that since it's a safety issue, if anything were to happen at the jail because of the control system not working, the County would be held liable for not having corrected the problem yet. The system is too old to be fixed anymore – it has to be entirely replaced. Major Hinkley commented that sometimes variances have been extended by the DOC, but in those cases it was because the county was in the middle of working on correcting the problem – it wasn't that they waited to do anything and *then* asked for an extension.

Commissioner Moody was concerned about the jail budget already being over the cap with the lease/purchase payment in it. He said that the County should be looking at alternatives like contracting with another county to board out prisoners. It may not prove feasible but he said he hasn't seen anything saying that's off the table cost-wise, either. He suggested, however, leaving the \$175,000 in the budget to buy time while the State Legislature goes through their process in the hopes that legislation will change the jail landscape. He noted that the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) is pushing legislation for the state to take over the jails again because they're trying to diminish the amount of influence the counties have. Commissioners Maines and Parent both agreed with leaving the expense in the budget as a placeholder, but Commissioner Maines also suggested that the County speed up talks with the other jails the Administration has been negotiating with.

Administrator Hart noted that he was thinking of having a conference call with Rod Miller, who has done work with the jails in Maine, including the Sheriff and Major Hinkley. It would provide an opportunity to get the point of view of an outside person and discuss options. Commissioner Moody thought that sounded like a good idea.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to table this agenda item until a later meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

4. Act on Interest to be Charged to Municipalities on 2015 County Taxes and Fees Paid Late.

This year there is one municipality being charged interest for paying their county tax assessment and dispatch fees late: the Town of Isle Au Haut. Administrator Hart noted that the town has not held their 2016 town meeting yet so they haven't paid their 2016 taxes because they haven't been committed yet, but those aren't due until November anyway.

Municipality	Tax	Date Received	Amount	Days Overdue	Interest Due @ 7%
Isle Au Haut	County Tax	9/21/16	\$81,986.49	325	\$5,110.12
Isle Au Haut	Dispatch Fees	9/21/16	\$1,904.00	386	\$140.95
TOTAL:					\$5,251.07

- A motion was made by Commissioner Carol Maines to approve charging 7% interest on 2015 County taxes and dispatch fees paid late, in a total amount of \$5,251.07. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

V. Discussion Items

1. Discussion of Proposed Legislative Topics for the Next Session of the State Legislature.
Commissioner Moody explained that he had requested having this item placed on the agenda because there has been some correspondence going around between MCCA and MMA with some ideas for the legislature. Commissioner Moody said that MCCA meets tomorrow and will talk about some of this, so he said that if anyone had some ideas or issues they would like emphasized, he will take with him tomorrow to the meeting. It can be hard to find answers to jail issues when the counties can't agree on what's best. Nobody mentioned anything beyond what was already listed by both the MMA and MCCA. Roger said he'd let everyone know what was discussed at the MCCA meeting tomorrow.
2. Discussion of Setting a Date & Time for a Meeting with Legislative Delegates and Knox County Municipalities.
Commissioner Moody explained that he had also requested this agenda item. He felt that the Sheriffs should be involved as well. It was noted that the last time the Commission met with the Legislative Delegation and the Municipalities together was in December of 2014. Administrator Hart noted that he had spoken to Geoff Herman of MMA, who indicated that it would be good to meet in December after new members are elected after the November election. Commissioner Moody asked Administrator Hart to invite Mr. Herman to the meeting.

The Commission settled on a date and time of December 1st at 6 p.m. for a meeting with the municipalities and legislative Delegation.

VI. Other Business

Cupola Repairs Project

Maine Historic Preservation Commission Grant we've been awarded \$24,995. We'll be going out to bid soon. BES is working on the drawings for us.

Budget Review Meetings

The first meeting is October 20th at 5 p.m.

Trees at the Courthouse

Commissioner Maines noted that she had paid a visit to the code office in Rockland, and she said that even though the trees on the courthouse grounds are on the plan, if the County had to cut some of them down, the City might be willing to put some back up in the same spot. Administrator Hart noted that no more trees were planned to be cut down until next year.

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 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on November 8, 2016.