

# KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

## Regular Meeting

Tuesday – November 8, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, November 8, 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, Systems Administrator Mike Dean, Register of Probate Elaine Hallett, Sheriff Donna Dennison, Jail Administrator John Hinkley, EMA Director Ray Sisk, Register of Deeds Lisa Simmons, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, and Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves.

Others in attendance: Village Soup Reporter Dan Smith (*arrived at 2:10 p.m.*); Pen Bay Pilot Reporter Chris Wolf; and Bruce Flaherty (*arrived at 2:44 p.m.*).

### Regular Meeting – Agenda Tuesday – November 8, 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 October 11, 2016.
    - iii. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
    - iv. Reserve Withdrawals.
- IV. 2:20 Action Items**
  1. Act to Approve Reappointments to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review.
  2. Act to Authorize County Administrator to Approve, Sign and Execute Grant and Project Documents Associated with the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grants for 2017.
  3. Act to Appoint a Commissioner to Serve as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) and as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) Self Funded Risk Management Pool for 2017.
  4. Act on Lease/Purchase Option for the Knox County Jail Repairs.
- V. 2:40 Discussion Items**
  1. Discussion of Solar Power Project at the Knox County Public Safety Building.
  2. Discussion of MCCA Legislative Priorities.
- 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 2:04 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 October 11, 2016.

- iii. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
- iv. Reserve Withdrawals

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

Commissioner Maines asked the Sheriff about the Year-to-Date statistic in the Sheriff’s report for calls for service being up 73% for stops and offenses in 2016 compared to 2015. She asked why it went up so much in one year. Sheriff Dennison explained that since the department had received some grants to do special details like conducting additional traffic stops and radar details, there have been a lot more vehicles stopped and violations discovered this year compared to last year.

Commissioner Maines asked EMA Director Ray Sisk about the Economic Disaster Loans he mentioned in his monthly report related to the recent drought problems in Maine. Director Sisk explained that the Small Business Administration (SBA) can supply loans that may be used to pay bills but are not intended to replace lost sales or profits. The idea is to help prevent businesses from closing. Commissioner Maines asked if the County has any way to help private individuals or farmers if their wells go dry. Director Sisk responded that they are eligible for any number of USDA grants but there are no direct programs right now. He said that he asks people to register with 211 Maine so EMA staff can keep track of who is having water shortage problems. Information has been left at all of the town offices to let them know where to go for help and it’s on EMA’s social media accounts too. Commissioner Parent asked if it was true that the SBA cannot provide disaster loans to producers. Director Sisk said that was correct.

- A vote was taken with all in favor.

**Reserve Withdrawals:**

DARE	200008-10070	\$20.00
	Total	\$20.00

**IV. Action Items**

1. Act to Approve Reappointments to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review.

Three of the BAR terms expire on November 5<sup>th</sup> so they will need to be reappointed:

- Wesley Robinson
- Tammy Brown
- Marian Robinson

These terms are for 3 years (ending November 5, 2019) and all three of the current Board members want to continue serving on the Board.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to reappoint Wesley Robinson, Tammy Brown, and Marian Robinson to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review for another three-year term each, ending on November 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Act to Authorize County Administrator to Approve, Sign and Execute Grant and Project Documents Associated with the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grants for 2017.

Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves explained that the only project planned for 2017 is the extension of primary runway (Runway 13/31).

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to authorize the county administrator to approve, sign and execute grant and project documents associated with the FAA Airport

Improvement Program (AIP) grants for 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

3. Act to Appoint a Commissioner to Serve as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) and as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) Self Funded Risk Management Pool for 2017.

The Commission has been asked by MCCA to appoint a commissioner to serve on the MCCA Board prior to their annual meeting in January. Commissioner Moody is currently filling both duties but his term as a Commissioner ends on 12/31/16 so another commissioner will need to take over in 2017.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to appoint Commissioner Maines to serve as a director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association and as a director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association Self-Funded Risk Management Pool for 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with 2 in favor (Commissioners Moody and Parent) and 1 abstention (Commissioner Maines).

4. Act on Lease/Purchase Option for the Knox County Jail Repairs.

The Commission had discussed this topic at the regular Commission meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The item was tabled until a later Commission meeting. Administrator Hart explained that he just wanted to know if the Commission wanted to continue keeping the placeholder amount in the budget. He noted that he had spoken with Ryan Anderson at the Department of Corrections about the variance and was told that waiting a year wouldn't do anything negative to the variance as long as the County can show that it is moving forward with specs, etc., and keep the DOC up to date on progress. It might make sense to take a year to get information for going out to bid for a control system, and then proceed after that if things haven't changed with the legislature in terms of the County owning the jail.

Major Hinkley commented that his concern is that the control system continues to fail on a daily basis, so it's a safety and security issue. If something happens and it completely goes down, not only is it a safety issue but it *will* affect the variance because if the County can't maintain the safety of the facility. He noted, however, that it will take time to put together a bid package with specifications because the control system is not something simple or easily replaced.

Commissioners agreed that it made sense to wait on the lease/purchase option until the legislature finishes a few months from now, but continue to keep the amount in the budget as a placeholder for now since the control system still needs to be replaced no matter who ends up owning the jail. If the money isn't spent in 2017, it will go into a reserve for that purpose and be used later. In the meantime, the County will work on preparing a bid package to go out.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to table this agenda item until a future date, but the County will move forward with developing bid specifications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carol Maines. A vote was taken with all in favor.

## V. Discussion Items

1. Discussion of Solar Power Project at the Knox County Public Safety Building.

EMA Director Sisk had asked that this discussion about Sundog Solar's proposal for solar power at the Public Safety Building be on the agenda so he could gauge the commissioners' interest in pursuing solar power as an option for the County. He noted that the proposal now shows the PPA as \$0.10 per kWh for the first 6 years. It will cost \$81,000 to do the buy-out on year 7 and the County won't see annual savings until year 15. If it's something the Commission is interested in, Director Sisk said that he would aggressively seek out what the County's options are, beyond just Sundog Solar's proposal.

Commissioners discussed finding the idea interesting but were not sure they had enough information to make any decisions. Technology changes so quickly but a project such as this is a long-term

commitment. They asked to see something that spelled out year by year what the County would be paying to get some idea of the budgetary impact if the County were to do this. Commissioner Moody asked to be shown what the County is currently spending/consuming projected out for 30 years, and then another column showing the costs of participating with Sundog if the County went that route.

Commissioner Parent had some concerns about how repairs or any other kind of work on the roof, such as re-shingling, of the building would take place if there are solar panels on the roof. The panels will protect the roof from UV rays but they don't cover the entire roof. Director Sisk said that the best thing to do would be have a metal roof and then put the panels up on top of that. The shingles up there have already been exposed to UV rays so it's definitely something to take into account when considering putting solar panels on top of them.

Administrator Hart commented that the Town of Lincolnville had just decided to do a solar project on the town office and potentially some other town buildings so he would check with them to see what kind of project they went with and the costs.

## 2. Discussion of MCCA Legislative Priorities.

Commissioner Moody explained that he had asked for this item to be on the agenda so he could update the other two commissioners on the list of legislative priorities put together by the Maine County Commissioners Association. Out of 12 topics that came up during the discussion at the last MCCA meeting, there were 5 top legislative priorities selected:

- a) Suspension instead of termination of Medicaid/Medicare benefits (for jail inmates)
- b) Elimination of the Jail Tax Cap (in terms of operating funds, and transition to LD1)
- c) Equitable jail sentencing reimbursement
- d) Phlebotomy Assistance Regulation (blood draws for substance abuse – OUI's, etc. – deputies and police aren't trained to do it and it costs a lot to take the person to the hospital to do it)
- e) Video arraignment (significant money to be saved to utilize this more)

MCCA will be having a meeting with MMA, especially about the LD1 tax cap, and see if MCCA can get MMA's support of these initiatives and proposals. If MMA supports them, they are more likely to be successful in the legislature. MCCA will also be reaching out to the Maine Sheriff's Association (MSA) to try and get their support as well. This list may be updated by the time the Commission meets with the legislative delegation and municipalities in December.

## VI. **Other Business**

### Bruce Flaherty – Spirit of America Representative

Mr. Flaherty thanked the Commission for honoring Madelon Kelly as the Spirit of America award winner for 2015 earlier this year. He wanted to know when the County will honor the three award winners selected this year. He suggested having a standard month each year for recognition. Administrator Hart noted that it had been discussed doing the award recognitions in December but it hasn't been finalized yet.

### Fiber Optics

Administrator Hart explained that he had tried reaching out to Assistant City Manager Audra Caler-Bell about what Rockland is planning for fiber build-outs in Rockland but hasn't heard back from her. Alan Hinsey emailed him while he was on vacation, and since Administrator Hart didn't respond right away because he was on vacation, Mr. Hinsey emailed the Commission. Administrator Hart said that the contract with GWI has already been signed because of the issues and concerns with the internet speed for the communications center. It's a four year contract. The build-out will go to the Courthouse and Public Safety Building. Systems Administrator Mike Dean had done some research and gotten quotes from vendors, and it was decided to continue contracting through GWI. Administrator Hart said that he wasn't aware of Lincolnville Communications existing until getting the email from Mr. Hinsey. He expressed some confusion because both LC and GWI claim they are working with the City of Rockland so he doesn't know which one actually is, especially since Ms. Caler-Bell still hasn't called him back about that. He added that

his understanding is that the City doesn't have an actual plan yet – there was just a bond item being voted on today, and that Rockland isn't even looking at putting fiber up Park Street. Over all, it's still cheaper to go with GWI, and it made sense to stay with them since the County had an existing agreement with them. The City never said anything to the County about working together even though two of the KRCC Executive Board members are Rockland citizens and are aware of the issues with the internet at the KRCC.

Commissioner Maines asked why it would take so long to get the 12 poles for the build-out in. Systems Administrator Dean explained that the actual work will only take about a week, but CMP owns the poles and has to approve any changes so it's just a matter of an amount of time for the red tape to get cut.

#### Upcoming Meetings

- Budget meeting Thursday night – the departments being reviewed are Patrol and the Jail.
- Special Commission meeting next Wednesday at 9 a.m. It was originally just going to be the audit presentation but since then the SHAPE certification award has been added. The Department of Labor will be here to do the presentation.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. is the date/time the Commission had picked for the meeting with the municipalities and legislative delegates. Invitations have not been sent out yet since the County has to wait until after the elections to know who to invite.

#### Heating at the Public Safety Building

At one of the budget meetings, there had been a question about looking into efficiencies at the Public Safety Building since the boiler can't be shut off during the summer or the building doesn't have any hot water. Administrator Hart said that he had talked to Chris Seavey at Maritime Energy and they are sending a tech to look at things and see what some options might be. It might be possible to put in a separate water heater, which would allow shutting off the boiler during the summer. Building Maintenance Supervisor Don Decker will be checking with AAA as well. We'll get you some info as soon as I get it.

## **VII. Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards  
Administrative Assistant

**The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on December 13, 2016.**