

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – January 14, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 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 (*left at 4:17 p.m.*), Sheriff Donna Dennison (*left at 4:17 p.m.*), Jail Administrator John Hinkley (*left at 4:17 p.m.*), Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves, and Finance Director Kathy Robinson.

Others present: County Attorney Jim Katsiaficas; Chris Wolf from the *Pen Pay Pilot*; Juliet Laaka from the *Courier Gazette*; Owls Head Selectboard Chair Richard Carver; Owls Head Selectman Nancy Colson, Owls Head Selectman Linda Post; Owls Head Resident Ken Wexler; Kathy Allain of the APAC; Steve Betts from the *Bangor Daily News* (*arrived at 2:08 p.m., left at 3:01 p.m.*); Budget Committee member Ann Matlack (*arrived at 2:11 p.m.*); and Larry French, Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross.

Regular Meeting – Agenda Tuesday – January 14, 2014 – 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 Election of Officers**
 1. Elect Chair for 2014.
 2. Elect Vice-Chair for 2014.
 3. Elect Representative for 2014 to:
 - i. MCEDD
 - ii. CLEO
 - iii. Union Negotiations
 - iv. Airport Public Advisory Committee
- IV. 2:45 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 (Budget Public Hearing) of December 5, 2013.
 - iii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of December 10, 2013.
 - iv. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of December 16, 2013.
 - v. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
 - vi. Reserve Withdrawals.
- V. 2:25 Discussion Items**
 1. Meet with Owls Head Selectmen.
- VI. 2:50 Action Items**
 1. Act to Authorize the County Administrator to Sign an Agreement Between Knox County and the American Red Cross for Office Space at the EMA Office.
 2. Act on PETITION BY JEFFREY NORTHGRAVES AND WILLIAM E. O'BRIEN FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN, Postponed by the Knox County Commission at its Special Commission Meeting of Monday, December 16, 2013 to the January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting, act on Return of Doings and Order in that Matter, and Filing of the Same with the County Administrator.
 3. Act to Approve the Knox County Budget Committee Re-Districting Plan and Submit to the Secretary of State.
 4. Act to Approve and Sign the Inter-Agency Cooperation Agreement for 2013-2016.
 5. Act on Appointments to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review.

6. Act on Interest to be Charged to Municipalities on County Taxes and Fees Paid Late.
7. Act to Approve the Amended Job Evaluation & Salary Administration Policy.

VII. 3:20 Discussion Items

1. Discussion of the Report of the Commission to the State Board of Corrections and the Unified County Corrections System.
2. Discussion of a Meeting in Late February on Floodplain Maps and Providing Information for Municipalities Within Knox County.

VIII. 3:15 Other Business

IX. Adjourn

I. Meeting Called to Order

Commission Chair Carol Maines called the January 14, 2014 regular meeting of the Knox County Commission to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Commission Chair Carol Maines asked if there was any public comment.

Ken Wexler of Owls Head

Mr. Wexler said that he just had a few comments. He said it was about the Airport Master Plan but not about the details of the Plan because he had been told that the time for discussing the Master Plan details had passed. He said he had asked Administrator Hart for an extension for the Town. He said that he, and a number of members of the town, felt that the whole process has been skewed to anybody who was opposed to the Plan from day one. Mr. Wexler said he didn't believe that the Commission was aware of what's been going on, particularly around the airport and the main beneficiary of the Plan - Downeast Air; they worked hand in hand to get this where it is. A number of people in the town, including himself, spent almost \$1,000 between the County and the FAA for Freedom of Information Act papers. He said that he has papers back and forth where if a letter came in, Andrew Hart asked Jeff Northgraves to answer it. People who were opposed to it got referred to John Newcomb to answer it (Downeast Air). 95% of the letters that the Commission received at the November meeting were written before the Master Plan was released. He said that the residents didn't have the Master Plan and couldn't get it. Mr. Wexler said that he had a formal letter from Andrew Hart saying that the copies of the draft of the Master Plan are confidential and could not be given out. Mr. Wexler said he then wrote to the commissioners asking for the same chance for the public to come present that what was in the letters ahead of time, and the Plan, and was told that I could have been here as well as other people in the town. He said that if anybody thought that he wouldn't have been here if he knew he was going to have a chance to speak to the Commission, they are mistaken. He said that there was a document that was published from day one that the Public Information Forum was November 18th. That was when the public was going to have its chance to make comments about the Plan, but the week before that on the 12th is when the Commission approved the draft of the Plan for submission to the forum. There were a number of people in the town that thought the Commission approved it already. Mr. Wexler stated that the process hasn't taken into consideration the concerns and the needs of the town. There were a lot of letters that came in, which he received copies of when they were handed out at the APAC meeting, but all of the letters were written before the Plan was approved to be issued. In his opinion, in some of the letters the writers were talking about things they could only have known about if they had seen the Plan. He stated that the process is fatally flawed and he asked the Commission to rethink the next few steps. He said that the Plan is held up anyway now by the FAA, and this is why he understood from Mr. Hart that it wasn't on the agenda. The FAA hasn't signed off on it. Mr. Wexler said that he thought there was still time for people with legitimate objections, concerns with the Plan, to come forth and present them. It's clear cut in his mind that this is a giveaway to Downeast Air who is going to make thousands and thousands of dollars on it without any consideration for the Town of Owls Head. He said that he and others are skeptical of things going on are because of things included in the Master Plan, such as the fact that the apron built a few years ago is too big. He said that a number of people spent months fighting the size of that apron, and had to go to the DEP and get it reduced in size, and now the FAA and Stantec say it's way bigger than it needs to be anyway. He said that it isn't a given that everything that comes the Commission's way from the

airport is correct. He said he didn't think the Commission knew that the Master Plan Subcommittee, which he can't find any meeting notes on, has 3 members who were prepared to vote against the Plan. The APAC itself has never voted on it. Mr. Wexler concluded speaking by asking the Commission to take his comments under advisement.

Commissioner Maines asked if there was any further public comment. There was none.

III. Election of Officers

1. Elect Chair for 2014

- Commissioner Richard Parent nominated Commissioner Carol Maines to serve as Commission Chair for 2014. Commissioner Roger Moody seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Elect Vice-Chair for 2014

- Commissioner Roger Moody nominated Commissioner Richard Parent to serve as Commission Vice-Chair for 2014. Commissioner Carol Maines seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with 2 in favor, and 1 abstention (Commissioner Richard Parent).

3. Elect Representative to MCEDD, CLEO, Union Negotiations, and APAC for 2014

- Commissioner Richard Parent nominated Commissioner Roger Moody to serve as Commission representative to the MCEDD. Commissioner Carol Maines seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.
- Commissioner Roger Moody nominated Commissioner Richard Parent to serve as Commission representative to CLEO. Commissioner Carol Maines seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with 2 in favor, and 1 abstention (Commissioner Richard Parent).
- Commissioner Roger Moody nominated Commissioner Richard Parent to serve as Commission representative to the management team during union negotiations. Commissioner Carol Maines seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with 2 in favor, and 1 abstention (Commissioner Richard Parent).
- Commissioner Richard Parent nominated Commissioner Carol Maines to serve as Commission representative to the APAC. Commissioner Roger Moody seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.

The list as it stands for the 2014 year:

- MCCA – Commissioner Roger Moody
- MCCA Risk Pool - Commissioner Roger Moody
- MCEDD - Commissioner Roger Moody
- CLEO - Commissioner Richard Parent
- Union Negotiations – Commissioner Richard Parent
- APAC – Commissioner Carol Maines

IV. 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 (Budget Public Hearing) of December 5, 2013.
- iii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of December 10, 2013.
- iv. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of December 16, 2013.
- v. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
- vi. Reserve Withdrawals.

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

Commissioner Moody asked about some figures not being included with the Finance Director’s reports. Finance Director Robinson explained that the Finance Office is still closing out 2013 because it’s year –end and the numbers will be available later.

- A vote was taken with all in favor.

Reserve Withdrawals:

Forfeiture Money – Federal	200008-12860	\$6,426.00	July - building
	Total	\$6,426.00	

V. Discussion Items

1. Meet with Owls Head Selectmen.

The Commissioners moved to the large table and invited Owls Head Selectmen Nancy Colson, Linda Post, and Richard Carver to join them. Commissioner Maines noted that the Commission had received Mr. Carver’s letter and asked if he wished to speak to that.

Richard Carver started out by saying that after the Master Plan public hearing at the Transportation Museum, one of the selectmen received a phone call from the county administrator about whether the Owls Head Airport Committee is duly appointed and a standing committee. He stated that it is. He said that in the letter the Town sent to the Commission, the Select Board asked if they could have a member of their board be a member of the County’s Airport’s Public Advisory Committee. He said it was important because no matter what happens at the Airport, directly or indirectly, it affects the Town of Owls Head. He explained that his statement in the letter about the County forwarding information to the FAA regarding the cemetery issue was apparently a misunderstanding.

Commissioner Maines commented that after the Commission had met with Town representatives at a previous meeting to discuss the cemetery lease, it was understood that the Town’s legal representative would look at the agreement as it is now and propose some changes before the County sends it to the FAA. The Commission is still waiting to receive that from the Town.

Linda Post said that she hoped the Town would have the County’s support in getting the lease wording changed.

Commissioner Maines responded that when the Commission sends a letter of support it’s important for the Commission to know what they are supporting. So far the County hasn’t seen what the Town proposes for wording changes. She asked if Fred Newcomb would rewrite the agreement since he had drafted the original lease.

Ms. Post replied that the Select Board would have to decide that at their next meeting.

Commissioner Maines noted that the Commission would be looking for the wording changes next month and asked to be notified if the Town did not think it would be ready by then.

Airport Manager Northgraves noted that he was told by the FAA that the County needed to get the Master Plan passed before getting the cemetery agreement redone because the earlier Master Plan didn’t allow for concurrent use, which is what the County is doing right now with the cemetery. He also cautioned again that FAA rules have become more strict.

Manager Northgraves gave a brief explanation of the current makeup of the Airport Public Advisory Committee. There are 9 seats on the Committee:

1. District 1
2. District 2
3. District 3
4. Environmental
5. Nearby Citizens
6. Business
7. FBOs
8. Flying Club
9. Commercial Pilot

There was some confusion over whether the Town was asking to have an additional seat added to the APAC (so there would be 10 instead of the current 9) or if it would be sufficient to have the bylaws changed to reflect that at least one of the 9 seats must be held by an Owls Head resident. Either way, the bylaws would have to be changed.

Manager Northgraves noted that this is the first time that there hasn't been an Owls Head representative on the Committee. Usually there are several. He added that none of the seats that are up to be filled this year are going to have the possibility to have it be filled by a citizen of Owls Head.

Mr. Carver stated that the Town of Owls Head wanted a permanent seat on the APAC that they would fill themselves by selecting a member from their own Airport Committee and then the Commission would approve it. He said that the Town's preference was not to have the bylaws say that there must always be at least one Owls Head or South Thomaston resident on the committee, but rather a designated seat just for Owls Head.

Manager Northgraves noted that when the committee was formed they wanted either 7 or 9 members. You need an odd number to break ties. Ten seats won't work. If a seat was added for Owls Head, another one would have to be added for South Thomaston as well, which would then make 11 seats total. Having said that, Manager Northgraves stated that he did not agree with adding more seats to the APAC or eliminating any of the existing seats to create new ones.

Commissioner Moody suggested having the APAC review this issue.

Ken Wexler asked to speak. He said he was in support of the selectmen's position and that he didn't believe the current APAC is going to change itself. The last changes to the bylaws came from the Commission making the changes after he came in and raised some issues. He said it had only taken a month to make the changes to the bylaws so he didn't see why they couldn't be changed again. He said that he did agree with Manager Northgraves that both Owls Head and South Thomaston should always be represented at all times by people that the towns suggest.

Administrator Hart stated that he disagreed with Mr. Wexler saying it was only a month to get the bylaws changed. It was more like a 6 month process that involved including the County's attorney and contacting the towns in Knox County to get their feedback as well. If the County is going to make more changes to the bylaws, he felt that the Commission should follow the same procedure as last time – send it to the APAC first and then have the Commission review that along with legal counsel.

- Commissioner Roger Moody motioned to refer the matter to the APAC for their recommendations. Commissioner Richard Parent seconded. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Manager Northgraves asked the Owls Head Select Board to notify him of when their Airport Committee meetings are so that he could attend. He also advised them to consider that they don't

currently have anybody on their committee that has an aviation background that can advise them in aviation matters.

VI. Action Items

1. Act to Authorize the County Administrator to Sign an Agreement Between Knox County and the American Red Cross for Office Space at the EMA Office.

Administrator Hart explained that the American Red Cross has been working with EMA Director Ray Sisk to have office space in EMA for an American Red Cross employee to bring a presence back to Knox County since the closure of their office on Broadway here in Rockland. County attorney Peter Marchesi has reviewed the draft and the Red Cross has agreed to sign it. Administrator Hart said that he, Director Sisk, and Systems Administrator Mike Dean met with the American Red Cross Representatives Larry French and Mike Mason on January 9th to discuss this and to come to an agreement. He asked the Commission to give him authorization to sign the agreement.

Commissioner Maines commented that the agreement should specify that it's Knox County in the State of Maine as there are other states with a Knox County in them and the Red Cross is nationwide organization. She also noted that the agreement doesn't show a date for when the agreement would end. She said that it didn't seem to allow for changes to be made to the agreement. She asked if the Red Cross staff would be using County space for fundraising. Mr. French responded that his position is solely responding to disasters, not fundraising.

Commissioner Moody asked if they are non-profit. Mr. French answered yes.

Commissioner Maines asked Mr. French if he wanted a provision for altering the agreement or a termination date. Mr. French responded no. He said that their hope is to be there permanently, but if it doesn't end up working out, the Red Cross can just expire the contract. He added that currently he is the only employee using that space.

Commissioner Moody felt that there really needed to be a termination date in any agreement. He also thought the square footage of the space should be specified and that the Red Cross should pay some token amount, even if it's only a dollar a year, to show that the use of the space is taken seriously.

Mr. French stated that the way the Red Cross is paying, or giving in return, is giving free classes or scholarships towards classes.

Commissioner Parent asked what happens if EMA ends up needing the space that the Red Cross is occupying. Administrator Hart responded that the agreement would have to be revised and the County could either find them a new space or tell them that the County can't house them anymore. That could technically happen anytime but it would be discussed well in advance.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody that action on this item be postponed until an upcoming meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Act on PETITION BY JEFFREY NORTHGRAVES AND WILLIAM E. O'BRIEN FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN, Postponed by the Knox County Commission at its Special Commission Meeting of Monday, December 16, 2013 to the January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting, act on Return of Doings and Order in that Matter, and Filing of the Same with the County Administrator.

County Attorney Jim Katsiaficas explained that the petition for eminent domain to take an avigation easement over the Benner parcel at 50 Buttermilk Lane in South Thomaston was filed in November and on December 16th the Commission had held a hearing and viewed the site. The Commission took any statements from Mr. Northgraves and Mr. Benner and any others at that time. Now the Commission will be doing the filing of the Returns of the Doings and Order under the statute.

Attorney Katsiaficas stated that the Commissioners have already found that the petitioners are responsible persons so the findings that are necessary today is that the taking of the avigation easement over the Benner property at 50 Buttermilk Lane in South Thomaston is for public exigency and for public use (meaning that it's open to the public), and that it's for common convenience and necessity. The Commission would make those findings based on statements made by the Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves regarding the safety needs of the Knox County Regional Airport. Also included will be that the proper measure of damages is \$18,500, which has been approved by the FAA for this project and supported by the appraiser, Leland Buzzell. That would be the amount of damages being awarded for this easement.

Attorney Katsiaficas said that the last thing to consider is to whom the damages are awarded, and that's primarily what he wanted to discuss with the Commission. There's a mortgage over the property and a lot of mortgages say if there's a condemnation the mortgage holder get the money, or at least must be alerted to it. The Commission received a letter from Shannon Merrill, an attorney for Bayview Loan Servicing, which is the company servicing the mortgage. There's also four other bids of execution of amounts owed to other lenders on this property, divorce judgments, and there's also foreclosure action. All of these are public record. So the problem becomes, who do you pay?

Attorney Katsiaficas stated that his advice was to have Bayview sign a Release of Claims and Indemnification Agreement to get the entire \$18,500, and they would defend the County if any lawsuits were brought against the County from any of the other claimants. The alternative would be to, before the 30 days of the appeal period are up, file a declaratory judgment action in Superior Court saying here are all these claims, can you please tell us to who we should be paying these damages to? Attorney Katsiaficas stated that he had spoken with the attorney at Bayview and she does not as of yet have the authority to enter into this release of indemnification. She will, but as have yet had not received that authority. Attorney Katsiaficas noted that it would be a shame to have to go to Superior Court if the County doesn't have to if Bayview is willing to sign. He stated that in the award of damages on page 4 of the Return of doings and Order, he stated that the amount of damages was \$18,500, which shall be paid to:

“A. Bayview Loan Services if it provides a Release and Indemnification, signed by its duly authorized representative and in a form acceptable to the County's counsel, or if not,

B. to the Maine Superior Court, Knox County, in order for it to determine to whom the payment should be made in light of the existing encumbrances on the title to the Premises; the County may initiate its own civil action in this regard or join existing proceedings, such as the pending foreclosure action.”

Attorney Katsiaficas stated that if the County did either of these two options, the Commission wouldn't be paying the money and taking on the burden on the action. The County is simply saying if Bayview will sign the agreement, the County will give them the money. If not, the County would give the money to the Superior Court in escrow and let the court decide.

Commissioner Parent commented that the way the Department of Transportation does it is to put the names of all interested parties on one check and let them figure it out. Attorney Katsiaficas replied that that is one way of doing it but he wasn't sure it would work given the geographic distribution of the interested parties.

Commissioner Moody asked if it would be expensive for the County to file with the Superior Court. Attorney Katsiaficas replied that the County would have to pay the filing fee, which is a few hundred dollars, and it would take probably a couple hours of his time to put together the complaint to file. He thought it would be less than \$1,000 to do that, which is far less expensive then defending an action in court if the County was sued.

Attorney Katsiaticas recommended that a copy of the Return of Doings and Order with Attachment B attached (the Notice) be sent to all of the interested parties so they would know what took place here today. The Commission will file this with the county administrator for 30 days before it is recorded in the Registry of Deeds and the damages paid.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody that based upon the testimony of Airport Manager Jeffrey Northgraves as to the need for this easement for the public safety at the Knox County Regional Airport, the County Commission finds that there's public use and public necessity, common convenience and exigency justifying the taking of this easement over the Benner property at 50 Buttermilk Lane in South Thomaston, Maine. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent that based upon the testimony and reports of Appraiser Leland Buzzell, and the agreement of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Commission finds that the appropriate damages for the taking of the aviation easement over the Benner property is \$18,500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent that based on the information on the encumbrances on the property at 50 Buttermilk Lane in South Thomaston, Maine in the Knox County Registry of Deeds, the Commission determines that the damages should be awarded to Bayview Loan Serving LLC if it provides and signs a Release of Indemnification signed by a duly authorized representative in a form acceptable to the County's counsel or to the Maine Superior Court, Knox County, in order for it to determine any payments that should be made in light of the encumbrances with the title to the premises, with the County initiating its own civil action in this regard or joining a proceedings such as the pending foreclosure action. The Commission also authorizes the county administrator to enter into such Release of Claims and Indemnification Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to adopt the Return of Doings and Order as drafted by the County's counsel and as revised by the commissioners in this session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.
3. Act to Approve the Knox County Budget Committee Re-Districting Plan and Submit to the Secretary of State.

Administrator Hart explained that the subcommittee met on December 16th to review a proposal for the redistricting of the Budget Committee in Knox County. Once a plan is approved by the Commission, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State to go before the legislature for approval. Administrator Hart explained that currently, Camden is split. The proposal was to put Camden back together into one district. He noted that Representative Evangelos thought that Warren's population should be changed because of the prison population but the law change was only for building code and dispatch assessment. It can't apply to this.

Budget Committee member Ann Matlack stated that she thought the original push for redistricting was to separate Warren and Hope. Administrator Hart said that the subcommittee was looking at the districts and Warren is already split. Hope can't be moved unless Bill Jones decided not to run again when his term is up because it would take him out of his own district. Administrator Hart noted that the County is already late getting this to the legislature and a decision needed to be made.

Commissioner Parent asked how long the Commission had to get their decision to the State. Administrator Hart responded that he was told it needed to be done ASAP and that was a month and a half ago. Commissioner Moody asked Administrator Hart to find out how much time the Secretary of

State would give the Commission to make a decision so that some more thought could be put into making a decision. Commissioner Parent suggested that the matter be put on the agenda for the January 22nd meeting if a decision needed to be made quickly.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to table this until meeting again on the 22nd of January. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

4. Act to Approve and Sign the Inter-Agency Cooperation Agreement for 2013-2016.

Administrator Hart explained that the Inter-Agency Group voted at their meeting on September 5, 2013 to renew the Agreement and to send the Agreement to the municipalities of Thomaston, Rockland, Rockport, Camden, and the County Commission for their approval of the agreement. The only changes are the dates and the names of any selectmen or councilmen that have changed since the last Agreement was signed. All four municipalities have approved the Agreement so it is now the Commission's turn. Once signed, complete copies of the Agreement will be mailed out to the four municipalities.

Sheriff Dennison stated that she thought it would better serve the County to look at the whole agreement and turn the Inter-Agency group into more of an advisory committee like what the KRCC has. She said that there were some errors when the agreement was set up. She added that the licenses have been held by the Sheriff's office for 25 years.

Administrator Hart explained that he had discussed with the 4 municipal departments about partially paying for the licenses but they already pay dispatch fees and County taxes. If another law enforcement agency, or a Fire or EMS agency wanted to come in, they would have to pay for those additional licenses themselves.

Commissioner Maines asked Administrator Hart if he agreed with the Sheriff that the agreement needed to be completely reworked.

Administrator Hart responded that he did not completely agree with the Sheriff on that but that he did understand some of where she's coming from. Spillman used to be paid out of the Sheriff's department budget but now it comes out of the Administrative & IT budget. The licenses are under the sheriff's name, but all things purchased with County funds belong to the County. The name says sheriff, but it's like any other County asset.

Commissioner Parent asked what the advantage would be of making it an advisory committee. He said it would be like the towns coming in telling KRCC Director Lothrop how to run Dispatch.

Chief Deputy Carroll stated that the County Sheriff's Department purchased the licenses in the beginning. He said that the County has made a significant investment but he didn't feel that the County has equal voting or representation for what the County holds for the value of the system. If the four towns don't like what the County does, they can tell the County what equipment should be purchased, etc. If more towns are brought in, the County would have even less of a voice.

Commissioner Moody commented that three of the directors on the Board (the Sheriff, District Attorney, and KRCC Director) are from the County (the other 4 are the municipal police chiefs) so that's reasonable representation. The County puts very little money into the towns' police departments. The agreement encourages them to work together with the County. He said that he would regret if each of them had to buy the software on their own. He felt that the Commission should approve this agreement as it is. He added that it would be a total breach of faith and trust to reject it at this point after the four towns have already approved it. He noted that it's only a three year contract and perhaps the County can come up with ways to improve it before the next renewal. He suggested to the sheriff that there be a process to work on that over the next couple years.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to approve and sign the Inter-Agency Cooperation Agreement for 2013-2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

5. Act on Appointments to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to re-appoint Rick Lavoie, Marian Robinson, and Tammy Brown for another 3-year term, expiring on November 5, 2016, on the Knox County Board of Assessment Review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

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

Dispatch fees were due September 1, 2013 and taxes were due September 1st but municipalities are not charged interest until November 1, 2013. The Finance Office does send reminders beyond just sending the bills for the taxes and dispatch fees. The interest rate is set by state statute.

Municipality		Date Received	Amount	Days Overdue	Interest Due @ 7%
Matinicus	Dispatch fees	10/1/13	\$1,868.00	31	\$11.11
Thomaston	Dispatch fees	9/3/13	\$70,208.00	2	\$26.93
TOTAL					\$38.04

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve charging interest to the two municipalities for having paid their dispatch fees late. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

Finance Director Robinson asked the Commission if they wanted this to be brought up every year or if the finance office should treat it like any other invoice that is paid late to the County that are then charged late fees. The commissioners all agreed that it didn't need it to come before the Commission but just asked Director Robinson to update the Commission this time each year to let them know what towns hadn't paid their taxes or dispatch fees on time.

7. Act to Approve the Amended Job Evaluation & Salary Administration Policy.

Administrator Hart explained that the Policy will now be called the Position Evaluation & Salary Administration Policy. This brings the Policy name in line with the wording in the Position Classification Committee Guidelines that was approved by the Commission on December 10th. It changes “job” to “position” in many places and also further defines the pay policy for Part-Time Employees for specific part-time positions.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve the amended Position Evaluation & Salary Administration Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

VII. Discussion Items

1. Discussion of the Report of the Commission to the State Board of Corrections and the Unified County Corrections System.

Administrator Hart explained that the Executive Director had e-mailed a copy of the final report of the Commission to Study the BOC dated Friday December 13, 2013, but the full report is 71 pages, so he had provided the Commission with the 4 page Executive Summary to review and discuss.

Commissioner Moody commented that it's the proposal with the least amount of changes in it. Something has to change. Counties are supposed to be working together and they're not. There's still

the issue of funding; he said he wasn't sure what the County would get for funding in the 4th quarter of the fiscal year.

Administrator Hart noted that with the State suddenly having a \$119,000,000 deficit, he doubted that counties will get any supplemental funding.

2. Discussion of a Meeting in Late February on Floodplain Maps and Providing Information for Municipalities within Knox County.

Administrator Hart explained that last week he had a meeting with Ray Sisk, Don Grinnell, JoAnn Mooney of MEMA, Leticia van Vuuren Knox EMA Intern for GIS, Peter Slovinsky and Elizabeth Hertz, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry-Floodplain Management Program, Audra Caler-Bell of MCEDD, and Eric Galant from MidCoast Regional Planning Commission to discuss Sea Level Rise and Floodplain mapping. The discussion resulted in a recommendation to have a meeting, possibly at the end of February, with all of these same people but also with Bob Gerber, who is an engineer who has been hired by other counties to go over their Floodplain maps and to try to come up with some more accurate numbers. The City of Rockland is also looking at hiring Mr. Gerber. Administrator Hart said that he would probably also want someone from the Allen Agency to attend the meeting to discuss flood insurance. He said he would like to have a meeting for the towns to get accurate information back to the citizens. Eric Galant had suggested waiting until possibly the end of February or in March when the next set of maps come out. He said he would like to try to have the meeting at Rockland City Hall so it could be recorded. He said there's no way of knowing exactly when the maps are coming out but the County needs to be proactive about the date. He added that this agenda item was really just more of an FYI and there will be a lot more information in the future. The meeting with the towns will be scheduled when the County has accurate maps.

VIII. Other Business

Joint Meeting

Administrator Hart reminded the Commission of the Joint meeting of the Commission, the Budget Committee, and the KRCC Executive Board on Wednesday, January 22nd at 4 p.m.

IX. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on February 11, 2014.