

# KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

## Regular Meeting

Tuesday – March 11, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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, Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves, EMA Director Ray Sisk, Sheriff Donna Dennison (*left at 2:40 p.m.*), Jail Administrator John Hinkley (*left at 2:40 p.m.*), and Communications Director Linwood Lothrop.

Others in attendance: Chris Wolf of the *Pen Bay Pilot*; and Owls Head resident Ken Wexler (*left at 2:45 p.m.*).

### Regular Meeting – Agenda Tuesday – March 11, 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 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 February 11, 2014.
    - iii. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
    - iv. Reserve Withdrawals.
    - v. Budget Line Transfers.
- IV. 2:20 Action Items**
  - 1. Act to Approve FY15 Knox County Jail Budget.
  - 2. Act to Set Mil Rate for 2014.
  - 3. Act to Set the Interest Rate on Delinquent County Taxes for 2014.
  - 4. Act to Award Bid for Coggins Hill Tower Repeater Installation Project.
  - 5. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Sign the Request for Lease Assignment and Consent and Assignment for Transfer of Hangar #43 from Allan Ivestor to Richard Parsons.
- V. 2:40 Discussion Items**
  - 1. Discussion of County/Municipal Meeting Summary and Action Plan.
- VI. 2:55 Other Business**
- VII. Adjourn**

## I. Meeting Called to Order

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

## II. Public Comment

Commissioner Carol Maines asked for public comment.

### Ken Wexler – Owls Head Resident

Mr. Wexler stated that he had emailed in November requesting of the county administrator that the people who are concerned about the Airport Master Plan have a chance to come before the commissioners to talk for 15 or 20 minutes to express their concerns. He said that in an email to the airport manager, Administrator Hart had said that it might be something that the Commission might be willing to consider but the airport manager was against it, didn't want it to happen, said the residents had had their chance, and that the request should have come from the town. Mr. Wexler said that nobody had expressed that to him personally. The public forums that were given that the residents attended, which they all thought was the

only time to speak, is not quite the same as sitting here facing the Commission, telling the Commission their concerns. At the forums the residents were speaking to Stantec and were surrounded by people who thought that if you're against anything that means you want to close the whole thing down, which is hardly the case. He said that as the Commission is aware, the whole process got delayed by the FAA, so he felt that there was still time to meet with the Commission. The residents would appreciate the chance to express their concerns and what they don't think is being taken into consideration. He suggested doing so at the next Commission meeting in April. He concluded that this was his request and that he hoped the Commission would take it under advisement.

Commissioner Maines commented to Mr. Wexler that he should keep in mind all three commissioners were at that forum.

Mr. Wexler stated that he understood and appreciated that but that it was the residents' understanding that you were going to see the Plan and then approve it to be released. The Airport was adamant that people couldn't see that Plan until the Commission had approved it. He said that he knew there was a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> but no one was told that people were going to have a chance to speak to the Commission. The proponents came with people and all their letters but the residents didn't know about that. He said that he knows that the airport manager feels that the residents should have known that, but they didn't. He said that he had been at every meeting and wasn't stupid. It wasn't made clear to the residents that the Commission meeting would have been an opportunity to come before the Commission. If so, the residents would have been there. Mr. Wexler said the request to meet with the Commission was about fairness and it would not be delaying anything since the FAA has already delayed the process. He just wanted 15 or 20 minutes and it would not be a debate or an argument. He added that he just didn't think that the residents were heard by the Commission clearly at the forum.

Commissioner Maines asked Commissioners Parent and Moody if they had any thoughts on the matter. Commissioner Parent said that he was not sure what harm it would be. Commissioner Moody said that he hated to foreclose on any information but that he didn't know how things were going with the FAA process.

Commissioner Maines asked Airport Manager Northgraves if it's possible that the FAA will still have not done anything by the April Commission meeting.

Manager Northgraves stated that he didn't know the answer to that. He said that he was still waiting on feedback; however, he said he would caution the Commission, as he has before, that right now the FAA has the Commission's tentative approval. The meeting in November had a 30-day response period and that package has gone to the FAA for their review and comment, which is where the process is right now. If the Commission allows either side, regardless of whether it's pro or con, to come in now, then the Commission would be obliged to open it up for further public comment from all. The Commission would have to publicize, per the FAA guidance, that there would be a 30 day period for people to get their responses in. He reiterated that if the Commission was going to open it up for anybody to come before the Commission to make any public comment, then the Commission should formally re-open the public comment to both sides. There would need to be a document that goes out that says that the Commission is reopening public comment and tell them the deadline for their comments.

Commissioner Maines asked Mr. Wexler if he was thinking of allowing both sides to speak on the day he wanted his side to speak to the Commission. Mr. Wexler responded that that was fine. He said that for oral public comment, anybody should be able to speak.

Commissioner Moody commented that if the Commission invited everybody that it was just going to turn into a repeat of the forum because everybody will want to have their say again and rebut each other. To do it in the context of a Commission meeting, it might not work out. He asked why Mr. Wexler couldn't just have people relay their concerns to the Commission in writing and give the packet of material to the Commission to look over. Mr. Wexler responded that he wouldn't say no to that but that he didn't think it's

as effective as having people in front of you verbalizing it. He added that there are still two more public forums coming up anyway that's on the agenda that the Airport originally published. So while that is still going to happen anyway, he still felt that it's better if a few people sat and talked with the Commission, rather than in the adversarial situation that existed at the forum at the Transportation Museum. He said that the proponents had provided their case at the forum and he was just asking for the opportunity to do the same.

Commissioner Parent commented that he didn't care either way. He felt that anybody should have the opportunity to come before the Commission.

Commissioner Moody asked Manager Northgraves to remind him what the sequence of the process is. He asked if Mr. Wexler was right when he said there were two more public forums. Manager Northgraves responded that there's one more public forum scheduled and that will be after the FAA has said that they agree with the package, send it back to the commissioners, and the commissioners say go forward with the next two steps. In the package sent to the FAA, it was the preferred alternatives package, and there are still two chapters to be written, based on those preferred alternatives. You can't go forward with the next two chapters until preferred alternatives are selected by the FAA. The FAA is now looking at the package with the comments from the public. If the FAA came back to the County and say they've approved the package based on the comments they have received, from the public, if the Commission opens this up for further public comment after it's already been approved, the County would be obliged to go back to the FAA and say we got more public comment and the FAA would have to re-review everything. The County can't move on with the other two chapters until the first one is approved by the FAA. Once the other two chapters are written, there is a final public hearing/forum that presents the full Plan, and then the public will have another 30 days period to relay their concerns and opinions.

Commissioner Maines said that it seemed to her that a lot had already been said and done in front of the Commission.

Commissioner Moody commented that he was a little reluctant to go outside the established FAA procedure. He said that if Mr. Wexler felt that he wasn't given the opportunity to relay his concerns at the last hearing, then at the next forum he could bring those concerns forward.

Manager Northgraves noted that there will also be opportunity for public comment at the Commission meeting when the Commission get the packet back from the FAA and have to approve it to go to the public forum. There will be opportunity for public comment during that period, just like there was prior to the last hearing, and then at the public forum there's an opportunity for public comment, with another 30 days after the forum for people to submit comments.

Commissioner Parent asked when the Commission would be getting the package back from the FAA. He asked if it would be before the April Commission meeting. Manager Northgraves said that he didn't know. He said that he has been querying the individual at the FAA who is reviewing it but hasn't heard anything back.

Mr. Wexler stated that if the residents can be at the Commission meeting when the Commission will vote on the Plan when it comes back from the FAA, and tell the Commission their concerns before the Commission makes its decision to forward it back out to the public forum, then that will satisfy him. Commissioner Maines noted that that's what the Commission will do.

Commissioner Moody commented that he personally would find it helpful to receive information in writing so he has time to digest it instead of hearing it all at once in a meeting. Mr. Wexler said that they would definitely do that.

Administrator Hart noted that the Commission will have to decide at that Commission meeting whether to allow comments on the agenda item during public comment at the start of the meeting, or during the

portion of the meeting when the item is discussed. Commissioner Maines stated that she felt the comments should be made during the agenda item itself.

Commissioner Moody suggested holding the Commission meeting in the Jury Assembly Room in case there are a lot of attendees but someone would have to find out if the room would be available. Administrator Hart said that he would check on that once it's known when that meeting will be.

There was no further public comment.

### 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 February 11, 2014.
- iii. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
- iv. Reserve Withdrawals
- v. 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.

Commissioner Maines referred to the Sheriff's monthly report talking about Detective Lieutenant Regi Walker doing polygraph exams. She said that remembered when the Commission approved the purchase of the machine and that one of the selling points was that it would generate revenue for the department, but the Sheriff's report seemed to indicate that there are some polygraphs that don't bring in revenue.

Sheriff Dennison explained that if the Sheriff's Department does them for the courts they don't charge them. If the exams are done for the hiring process at another agency, or for other law enforcement agency, then the department does charge them. She noted that Lt. Walker has been starting doing polygraph exams on the sex offenders in the area, which is long overdue because law enforcement needs to know if they've reoffended. Commissioner Maines asked if the sex offenders agree to do the test. Sheriff Dennison explained that when the sex offenders go on probation they agree that that's part of their probation requirements. Lt. Walker doesn't charge the State for those exams. Commissioner Moody asked how long polygraph exams last. Sheriff Dennison responded that they can take anywhere from 4 to 6 hours. If Lt. Walker determines the person is lying to him, he goes into an interview mode and is often able to find out the truth that way.

Commissioner Maines asked Communications Director Lothrop if he could explain a little about the NextGen training he had mentioned in his report and the concern that current POTS line will not be allowed in the system. Director Lothrop explained that the NextGen system will not allow PSAPs to keep their ordinary phone lines. They are trying to eliminate points of failure and regular landlines (POTS) won't work with the NextGen system so there will have to be separate phone sets at each dispatch console. FairPoint will be providing the County access to a pool of IP lines which may allow his department to lower their phone bills by getting rid of excess phone lines.

Commissioner Maines asked Director Lothrop what "toning out rescue toboggans" means. Director Lothrop explained that dispatch has to notify fire agencies to go to their station and get their specially made toboggan ready to go to wherever it's needed. The toboggans are designed to carry victims behind a snowmobile and some of them have wheels. The fire departments where the toboggans are stored not only provide the toboggan, but they also provide additional manpower.

Commissioner Maines asked EMA Director Ray Sisk how long it might be before the President approves the Governor's declaration request if the Governor submits a request. Director Sisk responded that he didn't know and that the governor got it in on the last possible date so it's possible it could take a while before the State gets a response back from the Feds.

- A vote was taken with all in favor.

**2013 Reserve Withdrawals – December Expense:**

Legal Expense	200008-12650	\$4,820.00
	Total	\$4,820.00

**2014 Reserve Withdrawals:**

Airport Computer	461608-14600	\$484.12
Courthouse Computer	200008-12660	\$53,735.00
Forfeiture Money – Federal	200008-12860	\$16,559.00
Forfeiture Money – State	200008-12870	\$4,720.00
Sheriff’s Computer	200008-12760	\$1,952.33
	Total	\$77,450.45

**2013 Budget Line Transfers:**

FROM:

TO:

**Administration**

Overtime	004003-53800	\$1,430	Mileage	004004-54105	\$1,035
			Telephone	004004-54315	\$272
			Internet Service	004004-54326	\$123

**Airport**

Overtime	416003-53800	\$3,372	ICMA	416003-53960	\$64
Building Repairs	416004-54595	\$832	Electricity	416004-54555	\$1,133
			Copier Equipment Rental	416004-54570	\$182
			Gas	416004-54650	\$2,825

**Building Maintenance – 301 Park Street**

Insurance	016004-54420	\$50	Cleaning	016004-54591	\$2,857
Electricity	016004-54555	\$761	Electrical Repairs	016004-54600	\$214
Sewage	016004-54560	\$1,027			
Water	016004-54565	\$294			
Ground Maintenance	016004-54590	\$251			
Building Repair	016004-54595	\$106			
Rubbish Removal	016004-54620	\$372			
Cleaning Supplies	016005-55315	\$37			
Maintenance Supplies	016005-55325	\$173			

**Building Maintenance**

Sewage	006004-54560	\$228	Telephone	006004-54315	\$22
Water	006004-54565	\$342	Electricity	006004-54555	\$2,006
Equipment Repairs	006004-54575	\$1,935	Building Repair	006004-54595	\$7,974
Computer Repairs	006004-54585	\$250	Elevator Repair	006004-54605	\$51
Ground Maintenance	006004-54590	\$4,398	Heating Repairs	006004-54610	\$1,722
Cleaning	006004-54591	\$3,000	Rubbish Removal	006004-54620	\$347
Electrical Repairs	006004-54600	\$874	Gas	006004-54650	\$416
Cleaning Supplies	006005-55315	\$200			
Maintenance Supplies	006005-55325	\$1,311			

**Communications**

Overtime	518003-53800	\$1,770	Mileage	518004-54105	\$68
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Holiday Overtime	518003-53805	\$5,723	Other, Tolls	518004-54120	\$55
Health Insurance	518003-53910	\$1,349	Postage	518004-54520	\$2
Tower Rental	518004-54320	\$3,800	Equipment Rentals	518004-54570	\$545
Telephone	518004-54315	\$2,499	Radio Repairs	518004-54580	\$13,980
			Fuel	518005-55205	\$445
			Books, Subscriptions	518005-55505	\$46

**Deeds**

Health Insurance	009003-53910	\$4,254	Deeds Clerks	009003-53092	\$259
			ICMA	009003-53960	\$69
			Telephone	009004-54315	\$193
			Microfilming	009004-54665	\$3,662
			Office Supplies	009005-55335	\$7
			Computer Supplies	009005-55385	\$64

**District Attorney**

Overtime	003003-53800	\$2,141	Health Insurance	003003-53910	\$319
			Drug Analysis	003004-54025	\$1,170
			Mileage	003004-54105	\$383
			Lodging	003004-54115	\$32
			Other, Tolls	003004-54120	\$6
			Copier Rental	003004-54570	\$211
			Computer Supplies	003005-55385	\$20

**EMA**

Radio Repairs	002004-54580	\$98	Overtime	002003-53800	\$8
Auto Repairs	002005-55310	\$400	FICA	002003-53900	\$49
			ICMA	002003-53960	\$207
			Lodging	002004-54115	\$125
			Training & Seminars	002004-54545	\$20
			Computer Repairs	002004-54585	\$89

**Finance**

FICA	005003-53900	\$738	ICMA	005003-53960	\$21
			Telephone	005004-54315	\$72
			Postage	005004-54520	\$19
			Equipment Rental	005004-54570	\$103
			Office Supplies	005005-55335	\$266
			Copy Machine Supply	005005-55345	\$257

**Jail**

Corrections Officers	818003-3110	\$97,786	Hourly differential	818003-3607	\$2,304
Part Time	818003-3210	\$3,541	Stipend	818003-3609	\$200
Overtime	818003-3606	\$74,558	Resignation/Term	818003-3909	\$1,651
Employee Medical	818003-3902	\$23,849	Accounting/Audit	818004-4001	\$2,508
FICA	818003-3904	\$121,229	Inmate Expense	818004-4016	\$578
Inmate Medical	818004-4018	\$22,368	Inmate Programs	818004-4019	\$55,590
Food	818005-5101	\$20,256	Sanitation/Pest	818004-4028	\$140
			Other/Tolls	818004-4108	\$107
			Vehicle Repairs	818004-4209	\$2,034
			Fuel	818004-4303	\$24,771
			Underground Tank	818004-4304	\$80
			Building	818004-4602	\$767
			Plumbing	818004-4619	\$6,405
			Mobile Radio	818004-4614	\$226

Insurance	818004-4703	\$6,056
Postage	818004-4815	\$69
Computer Supplies	818005-5215	\$291
Maintenance	818005-5227	\$1,499
Statutes	818005-5239	\$40
Uniforms	818005-5302	\$1,224
Inmate Medical	818004-4018	\$22,369
Inmate Medical Svs	818004-4017	\$234,678

**Probate**

FICA	010003-53900	\$337	ICMA	010003-53960	\$67
Health Insurance	010003-53910	\$650	Mileage	010004-54105	\$69
Resignation/Term	010003-53940	\$325	Telephone	010004-54315	\$163
Equipment – Copier	010004-54570	\$353	Advertising	010004-54510	\$763
Microfilming	01000-54665	\$700	Postage	010004-54520	\$3
Books, Subscriptions	010005-55505	\$21	Printing	010004-54525	\$67
Auto Mileage	010014-54105	\$105	Attorneys-Appt	010004-54680	\$647
			Fingerprinting	010004-54785	\$49
			Statutes	010005-55510	\$663

**Sheriff**

Patrol Deputy	011003-53315	\$11,191	Patrol Supervisor	011003-53313	\$333
FICA	011003-53900	\$7,663	Overtime	011003-53800	\$1,117
Health Insurance	011003-53910	\$5,843	Stipends	011003-53860	\$2,651
Workers Comp	011003-53920	\$1,419	Training & Seminars	011004-54545	\$22,009
Unemployment	011003-53930	\$4,000	Gas	011004-54650	\$518
ICMA	011003-53950	\$3,824	Auto Repairs	011004-54655	\$789
Telephone	011004-54315	\$418	Criminal Investigative	011004-54730	\$164
			Auto Supplies	011005-55310	\$5,861
			Office Supplies	011005-55335	\$5
			Computer Supplies	011005-55385	\$20
			Uniforms	011005-55405	\$891

<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$444,451</b>
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**IV. Action Items**

1. Act to Approve FY15 Knox County Jail Budget.

Administrator Hart reminded the Commission that they had voted at the Commission meeting held on May 14, 2013 to approve the FY14-15 Jail Budget based on the actual and true cost to operate the Knox County Jail. The BOC then approved flat funding for the FY14 budget for all county jails but did not vote on the FY15 budgets. He explained that the BOC has once again requested a flat funded budget for FY15 at the same levels as the previous years, including FY11-12 and FY12-13 budgets. The County had done the wage study and the Commission wanted to treat everybody the same so wage increases are built into the jail budget. Even if salaries weren't increased, there are still increases with budgets that we have no control over, such as health insurance, worker's compensation, food costs, medical costs, other contractual costs, etc.

Sheriff Dennison commented that the jail can't continue operating on a flat budget.

Major Hinkley stated that this budget is about \$276,000 over what it was for 2014 but most of that is for personnel services. He said he was able to cut about \$39,000 out of the medical lines but that didn't cut the total budget much. Utilities go up and the County has no control over that.

Commissioner Maines asked if other counties are doing the same thing of submitting a budget for what they need rather than a flat budget. Major Hinkley responded that some are and some aren't. He noted that the liability for the County if the jail is not appropriately funded is too great. He said that at one point, the governor asked why the counties didn't ask for more money when the jails needed it, but it was because the BOC wouldn't let the counties have the money.

Commissioner Moody asked what will happen if the budget is submitted in its current form. He asked if the BOC would send it back to the County as a smaller budget and say "this is what you're going to do." Major Hinkley responded that he really didn't know what the BOC would end up doing.

Administrator Hart noted that Finance Director Kathy Robinson had also submitted the 10 year capital plan for the jail to the BOC. The BOC has also asked for explanations of why personnel services have gone up. He said he really didn't know what the BOC will do next Tuesday when they meet. He said that when the BOC had asked about why wage percentages were so high, he had explained to them that Knox County did a wage study and are trying to get people to the appropriate pay rate, plus the Commission votes on COLA's each year. The Commissioner of the BOC is leaving to go be the BOC Commissioner for New York so when we get a new Commissioner things could end up changing.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to approve the FY15 Knox County Jail Budget as presented for 3,980,587. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. Act to Set Mil Rate for 2014.

Administrator Hart explained that the Commission needed to set the mil rate for 2014 now that the state valuations have been finalized by Maine Revenue Services. The State Valuations were certified as of January 17, 2014. The Budget Committee and the Commission voted to set the Total Municipal Tax Assessment for 2014 at \$6,635,343. He said that he recommended setting the mil rate for 2014 at 0.0009214219. The overlay figure is \$98,059, which is at 1.5% like the Commission had voted to do in 2013 instead of the 2% maximum that's allowed by statute.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to set the mil rate for 2014 at 0.0009214219. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

3. Act to Set the Interest Rate on Delinquent County Taxes for 2014.

Administrator Hart explained that pursuant to 36 MRSA § 892-A, the Commission may charge and collect interest on delinquent taxes. The rate of interest is established by the State Tax Assessor and shall be specified by a vote of the County Commissioners and notify the towns that they will be charged late fees if they do not pay their taxes on time. This is noted in several places in the tax bills and dispatch fees bills when they are sent to the towns. The County tax is due September 1, 2014, but late payment charges will begin on November 1, 2014 as defined by statute. The rate of interest established by the State Tax Assessor for 2014 is 7% simple annual interest.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Roger Moody to set the interest rate on delinquent County taxes for 2014 at a rate of 7%. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

4. Act to Award Bid for Coggins Hill Tower Repeater Installation Project.

Administrator Hart explained that the County went out to bid on February 7<sup>th</sup> seeking proposals for the purchase and installation of a VHF 50 watt Repeater radio and associated hardware for the purpose of providing a Tactical frequency located at Coggins Hill Tower in Union. The RFP was sent to 8 radio vendors all located in the State of Maine. The County only received one bid by the deadline of February 21<sup>st</sup>, which was from Active Communications (who was the County's vendor for the Radio Simulcast project) for a bid total of \$9,116.99. This will help with the north end of the County. The County is also applying for a grant to help fund that.

EMA Director Ray Sisk clarified that the grant would not fund a portion of the project but rather the whole thing. He said that they will be using Homeland Security Grant money, but all of the projects the County intends to use the money for has to be identified before the County can send in EMA's spending plan saying this is how the County intends to spend the money. The plan has to be sent in before the funds for all of the projects will be sent to the County.

Commissioner Maines asked Communications Director Lothrop if the bid amount was around what he thought the price might be. Director Lothrop replied that it was a competitive bid so he was sure it was a fair price. He added that it is specialized equipment so it sounds more expensive than just a repeater going up. He explained that when the County did a disaster drill, participants realized they were having a problem communicating so it will be a huge benefit having that radio up there. He added that when the County had the ice storm, some of the crews out working on down lines were on portable radios and having the new repeater gives us an extra channel to operate on.

Commissioner Maines asked if the County could front the cash to get the project done sooner and get reimbursed by the grant. Director Sisk responded that it was possible, but that if it was done that way the County might only get 50% reimbursement. Doing it this way ensures they'll fund the whole thing.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to award the bid for the Coggins Hill Tower Repeater Installation Project to Active Communications for a bid total of \$9,116.99 based on the funds available from the Homeland Security Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

5. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Sign the Request for Lease Assignment and Consent and Assignment for Transfer of Hangar #43 from Allan Ivestor to Richard Parsons. Airport Manager Jeff Northgraves explained that Mr. Ivestor has sold his hangar #43 to Mr. Parsons. The lease agreements for the land under the hangars require Commission approval to assign the leases to another individual. The "request for assignment" is the mechanism to gain the approval and the "consent and assignment" is the legal document, filed with the deed that officially transfers the lease.

Commissioner Moody asked what the County generally gets for leasing of the land. Manager Northgraves responded that it's around \$7,000.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Richard Parent to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Request for Lease Assignment and Consent and Assignment for Transfer of Hangar #43 from Allan Ivestor to Richard Parsons. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Moody. A vote was taken with all in favor.

## V. Discussion Items

1. Discussion of County/Municipal Meeting Summary and Action Plan. As was briefly discussed at the last Regular Commission meeting, Commissioner Moody had put together the summary document of the joint meeting that the Commission had held with the Municipalities on January 7th. Commissioner Moody noted that there are 10 subject areas that were brought up by the Municipalities that they would like to have Knox County look into to see what Knox County could provide for a level of service for each. He said he included a place for an action sentence.

Commissioner Parent stated that he didn't think that the Commission should try to pursue every one of the things in the list. Commissioner Moody agreed that the Commission needed to prioritize and do what's manageable and achievable.

Firefighting

Commissioner Maines commented that at the meeting with the municipalities the problem of some towns having a lack of volunteer firemen was not brought up but it has been in the news lately. Houses are burning down before people can get to them. She said she didn't know what the County could do about that. People aren't available during the day to respond to fires because they're at work.

Commissioner Parent noted that some of the problems are the condition of the roads leading to the house, how far their house is from a fire station, and whether there is a volunteer fire department. If it's a volunteer department, the firemen might not be able to respond to a fire during the day because they're at their day job. He asked EMA Director Sisk if he had any opinion on the subject.

Director Sisk stated that the standards for firemen have gone through the roof so a volunteer fireman in the Town of Hope has to have met the same standards as a full-time salaried fire fighter in Boston, which is extremely difficult. A lot of people also now work outside the town they live in so it takes them longer to respond. Probably somewhere down the road there might need to be a County regional fire fighting department with local support but that's a long way off. In other areas, that has worked well, but it's also really expensive. The County has opportunity for grants through FEMA where a community can commit to hiring firemen for five years and the grant will pay for three of the years. A fire on a Tuesday morning is going to require more mutual aid departments responding than on a Saturday because of the fact that there's less manpower available during the week when they're working their full-time jobs. He added that for a County service to succeed, it would need to start at a grassroots level. If the towns and departments want it, it will work. Forced consolidations don't always work out well.

Communications Director Lothrop commented that the more rural the structure fire, the more agencies he automatically tones because there's so few people to go fight the fire. He said that dispatch has often had to call up to five agencies, especially during the daytime, for fires in rural areas.

Commissioner Parent asked Director Sisk if he saw the County handling fire fighting services in the future or if he thought towns will eventually start to partner up with other towns. Director Sisk said that he was not sure but the current fire departments are already working with each other more when it comes to purchasing equipment. They've come a long way in the last 30 years. They do a pretty good job of thinking and planning together.

County Attorney

Commissioner Moody stated that as he had noted at the January meeting with the towns, he felt that the towns could be saved a lot of money if the County had an attorney on staff for utilization by the towns.

Commissioner Maines asked if other counties have an attorney on staff. Administrator Hart said that the only one he was aware of was Cumberland County, but that he's not sure they actually still do.

Administrator Hart commented that no matter what the issue is, the towns are territorial and they don't want the County coming in and consolidating. It would take several towns wanting to work together to get anything off the ground. He said that St. George Town Manager John Falla had contacted him because St. George is losing their Animal Control Officer and wanted to know if any other towns were interested in a regional animal control service. Administrator Hart said he had Administrative Assistant Candice Richards do a poll of the towns, with mixed reactions. He said that he would like to send out a more detailed survey and then schedule a meeting and see what the towns would like to do. He said that he also needed to talk to the Sheriff about it because if the County handled ACO services, it would end up being someone from the sheriff's department doing the work. He said then he would bring a proposal to the Commission. He said that he also wanted to put a part-time GIS position in the EMA department for the towns to use. If it's done through the EMA budget, it's half-funded through EMP Grants. He added that Rockland's Code Enforcement Officer John Root even thinks Rockland might be

interested in participating because he's planning on retiring and they'll need that service too. Administrator Hart said that he planned to ask the towns about that.

Commissioner Maines asked about the floodplain meetings in March. Administrator Hart said that there's been a proposal to have FEMA do March 27<sup>th</sup> and FEMA was supposed to send out letters to the towns but so far there's been no notice received by the towns. He noted that it was not the County's place to do the notifying – FEMA is doing it.

Commissioner Maines asked Administrator Hart if he ever got in touch with the towns that didn't attend last time. Administrator Hart said that he had talked to Tom Luttrell but wasn't able to reach Pat Finnigan. He asked the commissioners if they wanted to meet with the four towns as a special commission meeting with all three of them attending or if they were fine with him meeting with the towns himself. The Commissioners all seemed interested in attending. Administrator Hart stated that he would check with the towns on dates.

## VI. Other Business

### Jail Meeting with Knox County Legislative Delegates

Administrator Hart explained that Knox County legislative delegate Jeff Evangelos had sent out an email about a meeting that was held at Two Bridges Jail with Lincoln County's legislative delegation. Representative Evangelos had attended that meeting because his representation area borders into Lincoln County. He proposed doing a similar meeting in Knox County. Representative Chuck Kruger has said he was interested but no one else has responded. Administrator Hart said that he asked Representative Evangelos what dates the legislature isn't in session and it sounded like Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> is the only day that will work, but Administrator Hart didn't know if it was possible to coordinate a meeting in time. He noted that in the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> he will be attending a union meeting along with Commissioner Parent, and then in the afternoon he and Commissioner Moody will be at the KRCC Steering Committee. Representative Evangelos wants to discuss that jail report of the Commission that studied the BOC. There still hasn't been a bill printed yet from what the study came up with so it's hard to discuss something that you don't have a final version of. Administrator Hart said that he was comfortable missing the union meeting because they won't be making any decisions at that meeting. He said that he hasn't discussed this with the sheriff or the major because Representative Evangelos only sent the email on Saturday. He thought it might be good for the legislative delegates to see the jail. He said that he's tried to keep the delegates updated and asked them to support the jail in the legislature.

The Commission decided to try setting this meeting for Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Administrator Hart thought they could probably meet at the training room at the jail before taking a tour of the jail.

## VII. 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 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Richards  
Administrative Assistant

**The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on April 8, 2014.**