

***Sagadahoc County Commissioners
Meeting Minutes***

August 11, 2015

A regular meeting of the Sagadahoc County Commissioners was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11th, 2015 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the County Courthouse, 752 High Street, Bath, Maine 04530.

Present: County of Sagadahoc Commissioners: Mr. Charles Crosby, III, Chair, Ms. Carol Grose, Vice Chair, Mr. Max Dawson; Pamela Hile, County Administrator; Joel Merry, Sheriff; Brett Strout, Chief Deputy; Lt. Deputy Scott Stewart; Sharon Hinckley, HR Director; Eric Sawyer, EMA Director; Mary Kay Blatz, Asst. to County Administrator

Additional attendees: Adam Garland, Town Administrator, West Bath; Peter Oceretko, Selectman, West Bath

Chair Crosby called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and established the presence of a quorum.

There were no public comments.

The following consent agenda was submitted for consideration:

1. Approval of Minutes for July 14, 2015
2. Approval of Warrants
3. July Financial Statements
4. Departmental Reports (Written)
5. Upcoming Meeting(s):
 - a.) Regular Meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2015
 - b.) Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 IF NEEDED

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| Upon MOTION by Commissioner Dawson and second by Vice Chair Grose, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as presented. |
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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Sheriff's Department/Jail Update – Sheriff Joel Merry

Sheriff Merry reported that preliminary budget reviews indicate that Two Bridges can continue normal operations through November with cash on hand. Additional capacity would require an exchange of money to support operations, but the situation is not as dire as originally thought.

A letter from was sent from Cumberland County to the Department of Corrections, and copied to the counties asking that the new law (ME Public Law, ch. 335 – Reversal of Jail Consolidation) be interpreted differently than intended, with respect to the distribution of funding (i.e.: DOC has \$12.2 million that is distributed based on a formula that includes average daily population for a previous year. The money goes to the county where the inmate is arrested/detained, “county of origin” (sending jail). Cumberland would like the funding to go to the receiving jails. Interpretation in the way that Cumberland County is requesting would mean a

loss of dollars to TBRJ due to its contract with Waldo County, and Sheriff Merry asked that the commissioners not support it. Commissioner Fitzpatrick (DOC) has asked the Attorney General to review the language of the law to ensure that it matches the intent. Currently TBRJ is taking only Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Waldo inmates; however, the jail is open to taking in inmates from other counties if they have capacity in an emergency situation

BUSINESS ITEMS

Authorization to Begin Hiring Process for Transport Deputy

Sheriff Merry requested that the Commissioners authorize the hiring of a Transport Deputy in consideration of Dennis Belanger retiring. Officer Belanger had planned on working per diem but has been unable to fulfill the need; with individuals taking vacation, illness, etc., the department has been short staffed.

Upon **MOTION** by Commissioner Dawson and second by Vice Chair Grose, **the board unanimously authorized the Sheriff to begin the process of hiring a Transport Deputy.**

Donation of Photos

Administrator Hile displayed two framed pieces that were donated to the County by Nancy Connery in memory of former Commissioner Crispin Connery. Mrs. Connery is moving from the area and felt that Crispin would want the items to reside in the Courthouse. Administrator Hile drafted a thank you letter for the Commissioners' signatures. Brass plates are being engraved and the pictures will be hung in the Courthouse.

Authorization to Hire Dispatcher

The Communications Department is continuing in the process of hiring a dispatcher, as the candidate that had been offered the position opted to accept a position elsewhere.

Appointment of Union Negotiating Member

The Transportation Deputies are in the process of exploring forming a union, with the official vote to take place and be tabulated by September 11. The County Administrator respectfully requested that a Commissioner be designated to join her and Sheriff Merry on the County negotiating team.

Upon **MOTION** by Chair Crosby and second by Vice Chair Grose, **the board voted that Commissioner Dawson be appointed to this position.** Commissioner Dawson abstained.

Authorization to Secure a TAN

Administrator Hile presented the possible need for a TAN, which would be dependent on pre-payment of assessments by the municipalities. It is not clear if this will be necessary, but she requested authorization in the event that it is needed.

Upon **MOTION** by Commissioner Dawson and second by Vice Chair Grose, **the board voted unanimously to authorize the Administrator to secure a TAN if it becomes necessary.**

Other

EMA Director Eric Sawyer advised that the Tobacco-free policy would be going into effect in September and that the policy has been sent out to all employees. The EMA Deputy Director has asked for, and Administrator Hile has approved, a press release. Signage will be going up in various places around County property.

Administrator Hile reported that the MMA Risk Management Tour/Assessment went well and that the County is waiting to hear back regarding the outcome of the assessment. The County may receive a discount on our Workers' Comp insurance rates based on the outcome of this assessment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

Upon **MOTION** by Vice Chair Grose and second by Commissioner Dawson, **the Board voted unanimously to enter into an executive session at 3:55 p.m.** Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405, 6., E of the M.R.S.A. for the purpose of discussing rights and responsibilities.

The Commissioners left executive session at 4:37 p.m.

Upon **MOTION** by Commissioner Dawson and second by Vice Chair Grose, **the Board voted by unanimous acclamation to adjourn at 4:37 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

May Kay Blatz, Assistant to the Administrator