

**State of Maine  
Androscoggin County**

**Minutes of Budget Committee  
Meeting of  
October 8, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Norman Beuparlant, Ralph Caldwell, Don Fournier, Joseph Grube, Michael Lachance, Michael Marcotte, Nancy Richard, Anthony Reny, Andrew Titus, Emily Tuttle, Jeffrey Wakeman.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Donald D'Auteuil, Vacant Seat District 5 Auburn, Vacant Seat District 4 Lisbon

**OTHERS PRESENT:** County Commissioner Randall Greenwood, County Commissioner Elaine Makas, Register of Deeds Tina Chouinard, Treasurer Robert Poulin, Register of Probate Joanna Said, Candidate for County Commissioner Alfreda Fournier, and County Clerk Patricia Fournier.

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Marcotte.

On motion of Mr. Beuparlant, seconded by Mr. Fournier, it was

**VOTED:**

**(007-2014)** To nominate Mark Lunt of Lisbon as Budget Committee member to replace Michael Bowie for District 4.

**VOTE: 11-0**

The Committee discussed reformatting the budget committee minutes. It was agreed that members absent and others present would be included in the minutes. It was requested that the time of adjournment be noted on the minutes. Mr. Lachance suggested that the minutes include brief notes on the committee's discussions. Ms. Tuttle agreed with Mr. Lachance's comment and felt it would be appropriate to mention that there was some discussion on the interpretation of the Charter.

On motion of Mr. Beuparlant, seconded by Mr. Wakeman, it was

**VOTED:**

**(008-2014)** To table the October 1, 2014 minutes to the next meeting.

**VOTE: 11-0**

Chairman Marcotte opened the discussion for members to express their expectations for this budget process.

- Michael Lachance – The goal, like the Lewiston budget goal, would be a zero net tax in the end. We may not fully reach a zero budget, but it is the target. How we do that is yet to be determined.
- Ralph Caldwell – Agrees with Michael Lachance on a zero budget.
- Andrew Titus – Zero tax increase, understanding that there are things that may cause that to be not true. I like the idea of an increase at zero percent, unless for a very good reason and the decision is made unanimously among the committee members. I believe we are here for a reason, and will question and scrutinize the budget and try to get to zero.
- Don Fournier – Would like to keep taxes as low as possible, and as close to zero as possible.
- Emily Tuttle – Would like to keep taxes as low as possible, but would like to see that we do what is necessary. Also, would like to see that rural areas are well represented and served.
- Norm Beuparlant – Agrees with Emily, and I would like to do everything I can to keep taxes as low as possible and to see that rural areas are well represented. However, that does not set the goal at a zero because looking to the budget, with four new commissioners and a new administrator coming on next year; that in itself is a percent or two increase. Yet, would like to keep it as low as possible.
- Jeffrey Wakeman – Echoes the sentiment of keeping it as low as possible. Also, not sure that the zero is attainable knowing that costs go up, but would like to keep taxes as low as possible and limit the increase as much as we can.
- Joe Grube – Echoes Mr. Lachance in saying, our goal is zero net tax. We also have a concern about the increase, we would expect to have information from the department as to why the request is higher.
- Nancy Richard - Echoes the majority; I don't believe we could reach zero because of the increases, because of the Charter. However, we need to make sure we are looking at all line items and keeping them well within reasonable increases, or the same.
- Tony Reny – Goal is to do a complete and diligent review of the budget, deliberate and come to a point where we have zero, if that is attainable, but the most reasonable budget that we can put forth for the communities in this county. Given changing the charter, there are expenses inherent with that change going in. We need to face them in the fiscal year and take them head on.
- Michael Marcotte (Chair) – I would love to see us reduce taxes. However, zero net would be perfectly fine with me. That's what we were trying to work towards last year and we did a good job. Next, the chairman read some statistics from the Sun Journal and noted that he would like to see the proposed 4.24 percent, rate of increase, cut in half.

At his time, Emily Tuttle asked that it be noted for the record that she wanted the Charter Commission's intent and explanation on section 5.5.2. of the Charter. Section 5.5.2. is as follows: "The Budget Committee shall have the authority to reject or modify any line item in the budget by the affirmative vote of eleven (11) of its members. The Budget Committee proposed budget shall include proposed salaries and benefits for elected officials."

**At this time, Department 1005/Superior Court was reviewed**

On motion of Mr. Reny, seconded by Mr. Lachance, it was

**VOTED:**

**(009-2014)** To set line 1005/Witness Fees (Superior Court)/4925 at \$13,000.00 and 1005/Witness Fees (District Court)/1005 at \$10,000.00.

**VOTE: 8 – 3**

**Beuparlant, Wakeman and Richard opposed**

On motion of Mr. Lachance, seconded by Mr. Reny, it was

**VOTED:**

**(010-2014)** To set line 1005/Postage/4835 at \$150.00.

**VOTE: 11-0**

**At this time, Department 1013/Victim-Advocate Restitution Specialist was reviewed**

On motion of Mr. Beuparlant, seconded by Mr. Reny, it was

**VOTED:**

**(011-2014)** To set the 1013/Victim-Advocate Restitution Specialist bottom line at \$58,010.

**VOTE: 11-0**

**At this time, Department 1015/District Attorney was reviewed**

Deputy District Attorney Andrew Robinson gave a power point presentation on the changes in the law governing discovery. This was a justification for the request for a part-time discovery clerk as well as the request for a new software program called JusticeWeb.

On motion of Mr. Lachance, seconded by Ms. Tuttle, it was

**VOTED:**

**(012-2014)** To reduce the following 1015/District Attorney budget lines by:

4080/Transcripts	(\$ 450.00)
4930/Registration/Enrollment	(\$ 250.00)
5345/Printing & Reproducing	(\$1,000.00)

**VOTE: 11-0**

On motion of Mr. Wakeman, seconded by Mr. Reny, it was

**VOTED:**

**(013-2014)** To reduce line 1015/Office Supplies/5335 to \$4,800.

**VOTE: 11-0**

On motion of Mr. Reny, seconded by Mr.Lachance, it was

**VOTED:**

**(014-2014)** To reduce 1015/Automobile Mileage/4105 by \$750.00 to \$2,750.00.

**VOTE: 9-2**  
**Grube and Richard opposed**

On motion of Mr. Titus, seconded by Mr. Lachance, it was

**VOTED:**

**(015-2014)** To reduce 1015/Misc Professional Services/4099 to \$2,000.00.

**VOTE: 11-0**

**At this time, Department 1018/District Attorney Joint Budget was reviewed**

On motion of Mr. Reny, seconded by Mr.Grube, it was

**VOTED:**

**(016-2014)** To set the 1018/District Attorney Joint Budget bottom line at \$11,295.00.

**VOTE: 11-0**

**At this time, Department 1019/Victim/Witness Advocate Grant**

On motion of Mr. Reny, seconded by Mr. Beauparlant, it was

**VOTED:**

**(017-2014)** To set the 1019/Victim Witness Advocate Grant bottom line at \$92,607.44.

**VOTE: 10-1**  
**Mr. Titus opposed**

**At this time, Department 1065/Registry of Deeds was reviewed**

On motion of Mr. Grube, seconded by Mr. Reny, it was

**VOTED:**

**(018-2014)** To set the 1065/Registry of Deeds bottom line at \$202,862.

**VOTE: 11-0**

**At this time, Department 1070/Registry of Probate was reviewed**

On motion of Mr. Reny, seconded by Mr. Wakeman, it was

**VOTED:**

**(019-2014)** To set the 1070Attorneys-Court Appointed/4020 to \$10,000.00.

**VOTE: 11-0**

On motion of Mr. Lachance, seconded by Mr. Reny, it was

**VOTED:**

**(021-2014)** To set the following 1070/Registry of Probate budget lines to:

4105/Automobile Mileage	\$ 250.00
4110/Meals	\$ 200.00
4125/Airline, Rail or Bus	\$ 800.00
5335/Office Supplies	\$2,000.00
5650/Misc Minor Equipment	\$ 500.00

On Amendment by Mr. Wakeman, seconded by Mr. Marcotte, it was

**VOTED:**

**(020-2014)** To reduce 1070/Computer Soft/Hard Equip/7375 by \$1,000.00.

**VOTE: 0-11**

On call of the main motion

**VOTE: 11-0**

**At this time, Department 1040/Building was reviewed**

The committee discussed the capital improvement plan for the building. The committee asked questions about the Clock Tower repairs.

On motion of Ms. Tuttle, seconded by Mr. Reny, it was

**VOTED:**

**(022-2014)** To set the 1040/Building bottom line at \$464,366.00.

**VOTE: 11-0**

**VOTED:**

To adjourn at 9:17 p.m.

---

Patricia Fournier, County Clerk