

**State of Maine
Androscoggin County**

**Minutes of Budget Committee
Public Hearing
November 18, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Emily Darby, Norman Beuparlant, Steve Bolduc, Shane Bouchard, Guy Desjardins, Belinda Gerry, Joseph Grube, Michael Lachance, Michael Marcotte, Anthony Reny, Andrew Titus, Jeffrey Wakeman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ralph Caldwell, Mark Lunt.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lewiston City Administrator Ed Barrett, Poland Selectman Stan Tetman, Sheriff Eric Samson, Director of Public Safety Raymond Lafrance, Chief William Gagne, County Administrator Larry Post, Treasurer Robert Poulin, Administrative Assistant Sandy Berube, Register of Deeds Tina Chouinard, Facilities Director David Cote, I.T. Director David Parker, District Attorney Andrew Robinson, EMA Director Joanne Potvin, Jane Heikkinen, Steve Sherlock-Sun Journal, Dick Clark-WGLT, Chair Beth Bell, Commissioner Alfreda Fournier, Commissioner Elaine Makas, Commissioner Randall Greenwood, Commissioner Matthew Roy, Commissioner Sally Christner, Nick Konstantoulakis, Kurt Schaub, Lisa Cesale, Dillon Pesce, Steve Friend, Jim Tierney, Mary Roussel and other citizens.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Emily Darby.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ed Barrett, Lewiston City Administrator – Read a letter, dated November 18, 2015, written by City Administrator Edward Barrett to Chair Emily Darby regarding the Lewiston City Council’s Resolve expressing its concern over the budget process instituted by the County Commissioners. Mr. Barrett called upon the Commissioners “to recognize that the intent of the Charter Commission was for the Budget Committee to have final authority over the salaries and benefits of elected county officials and the ability to modify the County budget by an 11 vote majority.” Mr. Barrett called upon the Commissioners to accept the Budget Committee’s work in its entirety.

Stan Tetman, Poland Board of Selectmen – Noted that the County Assessment increased the assessment for the Town of Poland last year by approximately \$25,000 dollars, and under the proposed budget by the Commissioners, it’s going to be another \$25,000 dollar increase. Mr. Tetman stated that they work very hard in Poland to maintain the tax rate and control spending but they have no control over what happens with the County. He said that the Select Board of Poland believes the County Commissioners are not acting responsibly in representing the communities of Androscoggin County.

Michael Lachance – Read a letter, dated November 18, 2015, from Peter J. Brann to Ronald P. Lebel regarding Brann’s response to the litigation settlement proposal and to set the record straight in regards to litigation matters, the County, and the Charter. Brann’s letter stated that “the municipalities are not going to dismiss this lawsuit with prejudice... Instead, the municipalities offer, once again, to meet with the County, either with or without a professional mediator, in an effort to reach a settlement that addresses the concerns of both sides.”

Motion of Michael Marcotte, seconded by Guy Desjardins, it was

VOTED:

(106-2015) To accept the November 4, 2015 Minutes.

**VOTE: 11-0-1
Abstained-Wakeman**

***Motion** of Michael Marcotte, seconded by Anthony Reny:

To approve the 2016 County Tax at \$8,487,828.00.

NO VOTE

On motion of Michael Lachance, seconded by Shane Bouchard, it was

VOTED:

(107-2015) To table the motion to set the proposed County Tax at \$8,487,828.00.

VOTE: 12-0

On motion of Norman Beauparlant, seconded by Jeffrey Wakeman, it was

VOTED:

(108-2015) To set 2016 Revenues at \$3,639,974.00.

VOTE: 12-0

On motion of Michael Lachance, seconded by Anthony Reny, it was

VOTED:

(109-2015) To set 2016 Expenditures at \$12,127,802.00.

VOTE: 12-0

On motion of Michael Lachance, seconded by Shane Bouchard, it was

VOTED:

(110-2015) To take the motion to set the 2016 County Tax at \$8,487,828.00 off of the table.

VOTE: 12-0

(Tabled Motion) On motion of Michael Marcotte, seconded by Anthony Reny, it was

VOTED:

(111-2015) To approve the 2016 County Tax at \$8,487,828.00.

VOTE: 12-0

On motion of Jeffrey Wakeman, seconded by Anthony Reny, it was

VOTED:

(112-2015) To adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

VOTE: 12-0

Larry Post, County Administrator