

~Meeting Minutes~
Androscoggin County Commissioners
September 4th, 2019
Meeting with Public Hearing 5:15 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – by Chair Noel Madore at 5:15 P.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Chair Noel Madore, Terri Kelly, Brian Ames, John Michael, Vice-Chair Sally Christner, Marc Roy. Tardy: Isaiah Lary.

Other: County Administrator Larry Post, Treasurer Clarice Proctor, WGLT-TV7 Michael Stephanak & Sally Hebert, Sandy Berube, Facilities Director Dave Cote, Sheriff Eric Samson, Chief Deputy William Gagne, Jail Administrator Jeff Chute, Register of Probate Thomas Reynolds, EMA Director Angela Molino, Communications Director Martin Fournier, Register of Deeds Tina Chouinard, Peter Crichton, Budget Committee Members Allen Ward, Kiernan Majerus-Collins, Mayor Kristen Cloutier, Alicia Rea and Larry Pelletier, District Attorney Andrew Robinson

IV. MINUTES

a. Meeting Dates: August 14th, 21st, and 28th minutes (2019)

Motion: to approve the August 14th, 21st, and 28th minutes.

Christner-Kelly 5-0-1

Abstained-Ames (Did not attend the 21st & 28th)

V. WARRANTS

Motion: to review and approve all bills, part-time deputies' payroll, Warrants #1941, 1942, 1943, 1944. Corrections Division Warrants #1937J, 1938J.

Kelly-Ames 6-0

VI. REPORTS

A. MCCA – No report.

B. Central/Western Maine Workforce Board – No report.

C. Administrator's Report – No report

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – N/A

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Spirit of America –Date set for October 9th at 6 p.m. (Note this is later changed to October 23rd)

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Commissioners Only) –N/A

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XI. PUBLIC HEARING-FINALIZE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Auburn City Manager Peter Crichton spoke in favor of the County becoming a member of AVCOG.

Commissioner Isaiah Lary arrived.

Motion: to approve the 1005 *Superior Court* budget as presented at \$11,200.00.
Michael-Kelly 7-0

Motion: to approve the 1010 *Emergency Management Agency* budget as presented.
Kelly-Madore

Amendment to motion: to change the salary increase to 2.25%.
Lary-(No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 1010 *Emergency Management Agency* budget as presented.
Kelly-Madore 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1013 *Restitution Specialist* budget as presented.
Madore-Roy 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1015 *District Attorney* budget as presented.
Kelly-Ames 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1018 *DA's Joint Budget* budget as presented.
Roy-Madore 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1019 *DA's Victim Witness Advocate Grant* budget as presented.
Madore-Kelly 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1020 *Commissioners* budget as amended (adding +\$1,500 to 1020-4023 *Secretarial Services* and adding +\$5,000 to *Commissioners Bicentennial line*) for a total of \$204,109.00.
Roy-Kelly (No vote)

Amendment to motion: to decrease the Commissioners 1020-4023 *Secretarial Services* line item by -\$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00.

Lary-Michael 3-4

Opposed-Roy, Christner, Kelly, Madore

Amendment to motion: to decrease the Commissioners *Bicentennial* line by -\$5,000 to \$0 (zero) dollars.

Lary-(No second)

Amendment to motion: to decrease the Commissioners *Bicentennial* line by -\$2,000 to \$3,000 dollars.

Lary-(No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 1020 *Commissioners* budget as amended (adding \$1,500 to 1020-4023 *Secretarial Services* and adding \$5,000 to Commissioners *Bicentennial line*) for a total of \$204,109.00.

Roy-Kelly 6-1

Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve 1021 the *Human Resources* budget as presented.

Ames-Kelly 6-1

Opposed-Lary

Commissioner Lary would like the minutes to reflect that his opposition to each of these budget items is not always because of opposition to what's going on in them, but giving a 3% raise when we just gave a 3% raise to the Union, has a significant impact on the financial stability of Androscoggin County and puts a significant burden on the communities that will then be receiving these taxes, and he thinks that given the risks that corrections officers and patrol, transport and those that are working in communications and the stress that goes on in those areas are all, including civil, are all worthy of a higher raise. Not that anyone is a poor worker, but there is a different level of stress and he feels we should be going at a smaller amount, a lower amount for the pay increase.

Motion: to approve the 1025 *Treasurer's* budget as presented.

Kelly-Michael 6-1

Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1040 *Facilities* budget as presented.

Kelly-Michael (No vote)

Amendment to motion: to add a Professional Arborist Services line to the *Facilities* budget for \$9,000.

Madore-Roy 2-5

Original Motion: to approve the 1040 *Facilities* budget as presented.
Kelly-Michael 7-0

Motion: to approve the 1050 *Jail* budget as presented at \$7,130,204.
Michael-Kelly (No vote)

Motion: to remove the Transport Officer position and 2 Correctional staff positions, including the clothing allowance, reducing the 1050 *Jail* budget by -\$66,000 this year (and close to \$200,000 next year).
Lary-(No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 1050 *Jail* budget as presented at \$7,130,204.
Michael-Kelly 6-1

Opposed-Lary
Commissioner Lary would like the minutes to reflect that he is opposed for not getting the information ahead of time and because of the significant cost it will have on the tax payer, not this current fiscal year that were voting in, but the following year, close to \$200,000, probably over \$200,000.

Motion: to approve the 1060 *Information Technology (I.T)* budget as amended (by adding + \$1,345.00 to *Salary & Wages* line 3120).

Ames-Kelly 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1065 *Registry of Deeds* budget as presented at \$192,565.00.
Kelly-Roy 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1070 *Registry of Probate* budget as amended (by adding +\$1,924.00 to 1070-3120 *Salaries & Wages* and reducing 1070-7375 *Computer Software/Hardware* by -\$3,000.00) for a total of \$184,743.00.

Ames-Kelly 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to reconsider the 1040 *Facilities* budget.
Lary-(No second)

Motion: to approve the 1075 *Sheriff's* budget as presented.
Roy-Ames (No vote)

Amendment to motion: to adjust the salaries for the Sheriff and the Chief Deputy to match the 3% raise given to the union instead of the raises allocated by the Administrator.
Lary-(No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 1075 *Sheriff's* budget as presented.

Roy-Ames 6-1

Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1076 *Civil* budget as presented.

Kelly-Roy 6-1

Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 1077 *Death Benefit* budget as presented.

Madore-Kelly 7-0

Motion: to approve the 1078 *Communications* budget as presented.

Roy-Madore (No vote)

Motion: to use a 5-year loan option for *Communications* line 1078-7310 (Simulcast radio system finance) for a loan of \$610,000 total over the course of 5 years at a cost of 150,000.00 per year.

Lary-(No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 1078 *Communications* budget as presented.

Roy-Madore 6-1

Opposed-Lary

Commissioner Lary would like the minutes to reflect that “it would have been nice to have had some numbers to actually, to allow the commission to decide because there is no information, so we were flying blind, it’s only 10 year or nothing else, because I can’t even suggest anything accurate due to the fact that there’s nothing there.”

Motion: to approve 1090 *Auditing* as presented.

Madore-Kelly 6-1

Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve 2000 *Interest* budget as presented.

Madore-Michael 7-0

Motion: to approve the 2002 *AVCOG* budget as presented at \$7,200.00.

Michael-Roy (No vote)

Amendment to motion: to change the 2002 *AVCOG* budget to \$0 (zero).

Lary- (No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 2002 *AVCOG* budget as presented at \$7,200.00.

Michael-Roy 5-2

Opposed-Kelly, Lary

Motion: to approve the 2005 *Twin County Extension Service* budget as presented.
Roy-Kelly (No vote)

Amendment to motion: to amend the 2005 *Twin County Extension Service* budget to \$0 (zero).
Lary-(No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 2005 *Twin County Extension Service* budget as presented.
Roy-Kelly 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 2020 *Western Maine Transportation* budget as presented at \$40,000.

Madore-Roy 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Commissioner Lary would like the minutes to reflect that “it’s not the governments purpose to give everything to people. It’s to protect the people and to punish the evildoers. That’s what we’re here for, and so for us to give extra money is not responsible and this is a colossal waste of tax payer’s money.”

Motion: to approve the 2025 *Benefits* budget as presented.
Madore-Christner 6-1
Opposed-Lary

Motion: to approve the 2035 *Soil Conservation* budget as presented.
Kelly-Roy (No vote)

Amendment to motion: to amend the 2035 *Soil Conservation* budget to \$0 (zero).
Lary-(No second)

Original Motion: to approve the 2035 *Soil Conservation* budget as presented at \$14,000.00.
Kelly-Roy 5-2
Opposed-Lary, Christner

Motion: to approve the 2050 *Insurance* budget as presented at \$100,000.00.
Madore-Roy 7-0

Motion: to approve the *Revenues* as presented.
Kelly-Madore (No vote)

Amendment to motion: to reduce the estimated surplus *Revenues* to \$0 (zero), making the amount to be raised \$200,000.00 more.

Roy-Madore (No vote)

Administrator Post stated that he would like to bring to light is that-where the total valuation last year was \$8,191,950,000.00 and the tax rate was .00124 or \$1.24 per thousand, with the budget that was proposed, before adjustments, it comes to \$1.29 per thousand or an increase of 5 cents for every thousand dollars worth of valuation. So if you look at what the actual tax rate is for the county and the county's portion of somebody's tax burden, it's really pretty low. We have to be better at explaining that.

Amendment to motion: to reduce the estimated surplus *Revenues* to \$0 (zero), making the amount to be raised \$200,000.00 more.

Roy-Madore 3-4

Opposed-Michael, Ames, Kelly, Lary

Original Motion: to approve the revenues as presented.

Kelly-Madore 7-0

Motion: to set the wage increase for 2019 including COLA for all non-union, non-elected general government Androscoggin County employees at 2.5% with the exception of those that are under another contract, in which case the raise will be according to the contract.

Lary-(No second)

XII. ADJOURN

Motion: to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Roy-Madore 7-0

Larry Post, County Administrator