

**~Meeting Minutes~**  
Androscoggin County Commissioners  
January 8, 2020  
Regular Meeting 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, Vice-Chair Sally Christner, Terri Kelly, Brian Ames, Isaiah Lary, John Michael. Absent: Marc Roy.

Other: County Administrator Larry Post, Treasurer Clarice Proctor, Facilities Director David Cote, Sheriff Eric Samson, WGLT-TV7 Sally Hebert & Mike Stephanak, and citizens.

**IV. MINUTES**

**a. Meeting Dates:** December 4<sup>th</sup> & Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Motion: to amend the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes.

Lary-Michael 4-1-1

Opposed: Madore

Abstained: Christner

Motion: to approve the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes as amended & the December 18<sup>th</sup> minutes.

Kelly-Ames 6-0

**V. WARRANTS**

Motion: to review and approve all bills, part-time deputies' payroll, Warrants #1968, 1969, 1970, 2001 & Payroll. Corrections Division Warrants #1955J.

Kelly-Ames 6-0

**VI. REPORTS**

**A. MCCA** – Administrator Post attended the annual meeting.

**B. Central/Western Maine Workforce Board** – Commissioner Kelly met with Executive Director Stacy Kilroy and stated that there was a great deal of structuring and changes being made in order to effectively utilize resources and increase utilization of services locally.

**C. Facilities & I.T. Reports** – David Cotes discussed facilities & I.T. topics.

**D. Administrator's Report** – Administrator Post gave an update on current activities.

## **VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Motion: to change the agenda by moving *VIII. NEW BUSINESS B. Reconsideration of CMPs New England Clean Energy Connect Support*, up and combine it with *VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC*, to be considerate of the people that are here that have come to address that issue.

Christner-Kelly 5-1

Opposed: Lary

Commissioner Lary would like the minutes to reflect that it is not meant to delay the opportunity for the public to speak but it is to follow the agenda as normal.

### **B. Reconsideration of CMPs New England Clean Energy Connect Support**

Tom Saviello-Town of Wilton Selectman. The Town of Wilton initially supported the CMP line, and then voted 162-1 to remove support and actually speak against it. Tom Saviello continued to list several reasons (clearcutting, pesticides, loss of biomass industry, etc.) why the CMP deal is an extremely bad deal for Maine.

Bob Rowe- Mr. Rowe explained a simple concern, that every environmental group in Maine, that has been around for a while and has some real good research people, has come out against it because it is essentially not going to reduce any big carbon emissions.

Nick Bennet-Staff Scientist for the Natural Resources Council of Maine stated, “The Natural Resources Council strongly opposes this project for two reasons. First, this line will cross hundreds of prime brook trout streams. This is the last remaining stronghold of brook trout in the United States of America. Second, it will cut right through-bisect the last remaining large deer wintering area in the Forks region...This is not a good project, it doesn’t benefit the climate, it won’t clean the air, and it will harm important Maine habitat and species.”

Tom Michaud-Waterbrook resident. Mr. Michaud said, “There is no greenhouse gas emissions savings from this..I am opposed to (NECEC) New England Clean Energy Connect, I am also opposed to the Maine Clean Power Connect...It’s the second line the CMP wants to put in Maine. ... I am opposed to (MREI) Maine Renewable Energy Interconnection, that is another powerline that would run from Pittsfield to Arrowsic County to also feed wind power to Rhode Island, Conn. and Massachusetts...Currently Maine is a net exporter of power, which means we generate more than we use, we don’t need this power, it’s just a money maker for CMP.”

Holland Michaud-Citizen of Auburn. Ms. Michaud explained, “From the regional environmental impact perspective, NECEC is not the only way Canadian hydropower can get to Massachusetts...There is also the New England Clean Power Link in Vermont. That project is fully permitted and ready to go. If Maine said no today, they could start it tomorrow. The (Vermont) project requires 48 acres of deforestation and 5 acres of

wetland impacted. The NECEC (Maine project) requires about 2,000 acres cleared and 180 acres of wetlands impacted; that's about 37 times more wildlife habitat destroyed in Maine than in Vermont.”

Ruth Oakley-Supports what has been said and noted that she gathered 200 signatures with no effort. She looks to the future and the character of Maine, and why people visit Maine, and she thinks this project will destroy a lot of that...She does not support this project.

Bonney Starbird-Discussed her experience at a CMP meeting in which over 300 people from all over Maine came to show their opposition to the CMP corridor. Starbird gave specific examples given at the meeting.

Darryl Wood-Citizen of New Sharon. Agrees with all of those who spoke tonight. He asked, Who do you trust, those citizens who have really studied this issue, or CMP who is really standing to make a lot of money off this.”

Renee Coty-Citizen of Auburn. Noted how many diverse groups have joined together to stop the CMP project.

Ed Buzzel-Citizen of Moxie Gore. Mr Buzzel warned, “CMPs proposed project will perversely and permanently scar these mountains with towers and transmission lines, cutting through unique forest eco systems, rising well above the tree canopy. This project will fragment the last and largest undeveloped deciduous forest east of the Mississippi.”

Josephine Stevens-Citizen of Monmouth. Discussed her concerns of pesticides from the CMP project entering wells, property values, CMP's past history of not paying what they promised, and the negative impact on the biomass industry.

**Motion: to rescind the CMP corridor letter.**

Ames-Kelly 5-1

Opposed: Madore

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Election of Chair & Vice Chair**

Motion: to nominate Commissioner Michael as Chair.

Lary-Ames

Ballot Vote 5-1

First Ballot Vote for Vice-Chair

Motion: to nominate Commissioner Lary as Vice-Chair.

Ames-Lary

Motion: to nominate Commissioner Christner as Vice-Chair.

Kelly-Madore

Ballot Vote 3-3

Motion: to table the nomination of the Vice-Chair.  
Kelly-Christner 3-3

2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot Vote for Vice-Chair  
3-3

Motion: to table the nomination of the Vice-Chair until next meeting.  
Kelly-Christner 5-1  
Opposed: Lary

**B. Reconsideration of CMPs New England Clean Energy Connect Support  
See VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**C. Bond Process Presentation**

Motion: to table the Bond Process Presentation until next meeting.  
Christner-Michael 6-0

**IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Commissioners Only)**

Commissioner Lary would like to see what needs fixing before having a bond process presentation.

Commissioner Madore asked about a warrant.

Sheriff Eric Samson discussed departmental topics.

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Christner-Civil Department Fees

Commissioner Madore-Purchasing Policy

**XI. ADJOURN**

Motion: to adjourn.

Lary-Ames 6-0

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Larry Post, County Administrator