

~Meeting Minutes~

Androscoggin County Commissioners

September 1, 2021

Regular Meeting with Public Hearing 5:15 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – by Chair Sally Christner at 5:15 P.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Chair Sally Christner, Vice-Chair Terri Kelly, John Michael, Roland Poirier, Isaiah Lary, Brian Ames. District 1-Vacant.

Other: Administrator Larry Post, Treasurer Clarice Proctor, Finance Clerk Hillary Nadeau, Sheriff Eric Samson, Communications Director Marty Fournier, Facilities Chris Seddon, EMA Director Angela Molino, EMA Deputy Director Paul Leonard, I.T. Director Doug Butler, District Attorney Andrew Robinson, citizens.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Overview of Budget

Administrator Post presented the budget.

B. Public Comments

No comments.

C. End Public Hearing

V. FINALIZE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Motion from August 25, 2021

Motion: to increase the Sheriff's Department's line 10-1077-3220 Death Benefit to \$25,000.

Lary-Ames (No vote)

Amendment to August 25th Motion: every year in preparation of the budget any Law Enforcement Death Benefit will be subject to the same Cost of Living adjustments as other law enforcement. Commissioner Lary's proposal of \$25,000 would represent a retroactive payment for "cost of living" adjustments made in the past. The new Death Benef payment going forward would be a \$20,633.00 yearly subject to future 'cost of living.'

Lary-Ames 7-0

Motion as amended: every year in preparation of the budget any Law Enforcement Death Benefit will be subject to the same Cost of Living adjustments as other law enforcement. Commissioner Lary's proposal of \$25,000 would represent a retroactive payment for "cost of living" adjustments made in the past. The new Death Benef payment going forward would be a \$20,633.00 yearly subject to future 'cost of living.'

Lary-Ames 7-0

Motion: to reduce Sheriff's Department line *10-1075-3120 Salaries and Wages* by -\$13,000.

Lary-(No second)

Motion: to accept the budget in totality.

Michael-Ames (No vote)

Discussion

Commissioner Poirier pointed out that at this point, "We're being asked to accept the budget that was presented to us, that we reviewed previously with discussions. I don't didn't see any problem with doing it in that process, it will now go to the budget committee and they will do their part. This is not the final budget that we are voting on. This is the budget that is going to the budget committee to be worked on by them. The public was invited to all the prior budget committee meetings also. They had an opportunity to be here as those meetings were open to the public. I personally do not have a problem with voting in totality on the budget."

Commissioner Michael explained that "the motion before us is to vote on the budget in totality and if someone wants to debate the budget separately, they can vote against this, If they have the votes, then separate parts of the budget can be opened up and debated today, but the motion before us is to pass the budget as is."

Motion: to call the question.

Poirier-Ames (5-1)

Opposed: Lary

Motion: to accept the budget in totality as amended (Expenditures \$16,135,114, Revenues \$4,183,315).

Michael-Ames 5-1

Opposed: Lary

Commissioner Lary would like the minutes to reflect that he feels "it is irresponsible for our Commission to rush through a vote and to not consider issues line by line and commit ourself to previous things instead of actually doing the job that we're called to serve the tax payer."

Budget Committee member Allen Ward requested information regarding ARPA funds.

VI. MINUTES

A. Meeting Dates: August 11, 18, 25, 2021 budget meeting minutes, August 18 regular meeting minutes.

(Motion was voted on as one motion, but Commissioner Ames pointed out that he would have to abstain from the August 18th meeting, therefore, there is a 1st half and a 2nd half to show correct votes.)

(1st half) Motion: to approve with a waiver of the reading of the August 25, 2021 budget meeting minutes as amended and to approve the August 11th budget meeting minutes as presented.

Kelly-Michael 5-1

Opposed: Lary

(2nd half) Motion: to approve the August 18th budget and regular meeting minutes as presented.

Kelly-Michael 4-1-1

Opposed: Lary

Abstained: Ames (He did not attend the August 18th meeting).

Commissioner Lary would like the minutes to reflect that “it is not the role of staff to add interjections into minutes to clarify Commissioners statements, for or against, it is wrong it should not be happening.”

Commissioner Lary is referring to the *Note* he requested be removed from from August 18 meeting,

Note: “VII. Comments from the Public” was moved up in order for Mayor Levesque to attend the Auburn School Department Meeting.”

VII. WARRANTS

Motion: to approve all warrants as presented: Payroll, Manual Warrants, 2131, 2208J.

Kelly-Ames 5-1

Opposed: Lary

VIII. REPORTS

A. MCCA – No report.

B. Central/Western Maine Workforce Board – Commissioner Kelly announced that the board is taking up the item on their agenda to change from 2 or 3 meetings per year to the afternoon so Commissioner Kelly may attend.

C. Administrator’s Report – Administrator Post has been working on budgets and will present a report at the next meeting.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Dispatch Proposal Inquiry (Sheriff Eric Samson) – The City of Auburn (regarding moving forward with the LA911 consolidation with County) requested consideration to form a board of governors for the Communications Center to operate under.

Commissioners replied that they were not particularly interested in a board of governors.

A. Removal of Chair (Comm. Lary)

Motion: removal of Chairwoman Sally Christner as Chair of the Androscoggin County

Commission for violating the Constitution, State Law, the Charter, and the Bylaws (pursuant to Bylaws Section 15, Chair to be Presiding Officer: *“The Chair Serves at the pleasure of the Board...The Chair may be removed or replaced at any time by a vote of four members.”*).

Lary (No second)

XI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Christner – Explained that she attends all Budget Committee meetings and would like to bring the Budget Committee concerns back to their meetings.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Poirier-Requested that the MCCA has a remote meeting policy that Administrator Post is working on be presented to the Commissioners by October 6th.

Commissioner Lary-Requested a vote to open up the entire executive session discussion and the legal counsels, summary of discussion with lawyer for public discussion for the April 21st meeting.

XIII. ADJOURN

Motion: to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

Kelly-Ames 6-0

Larry Post, County Administrator