

MEETING AGENDA

Androscoggin County Commissioners
2nd Floor Conference Room
March 16, 2022
5:15 p.m.



I. **Call Meeting to Order** Time: _____

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Roll Call** Commissioners Absent: _____

IV. **Accept and approve with a waiver of reading the Minutes**

A*	Meeting Date: March 2, 2022	
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V. **Review and approval of all bills, part-time Deputies payroll**

A*	Payroll, Manual Warrants, Warrants 2229J, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2230.	
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VI. **Reports** **Notes:**

A	Maine County Commissioners Assn.	
B	Central/Western Workforce Board	
C	Treasurer's Report	
D	Administrator	

VII. **Comments from the Public**

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VIII. **New Business** **Notes:**

A	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ARPA Presentations<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Safe Voicesb. Maine Community Integrationc. R.E.S.T. (Recovery, Employment, Support, Training)2. ARPA Funding Approvals<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Jail Security System Upgradeb. EMA Vehiclec. Other	
B	Sheriff's Department Ammunition Bid	
C	Property Acquisition/Signing Resolution	
D	Conflict of Interest Policy	
E	Designated Maintenance Person for Corrections	

IX. **Discussion Items (Commissioners Only)**

X. **Future Agenda Items**

XI. **Adjourn** Time: _____

Next Commissioners' Meeting: April 6, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room



The What

Safe Voices is renovating our 12,000 sq. ft. building at 100 Lisbon Street to create a trauma-responsive, community-based Program Hub for survivors of domestic abuse and sex trafficking in the heart of downtown Lewiston.

The Why

Safe Voices has been part of the movement to end domestic violence in Androscoggin County since 1977. While the shape of our services continues to evolve in response to new research and the learning that comes from working alongside survivors, our core values of advocacy and empowerment will guide our work for years to come.

Survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking are whole people whose entire lives have been affected – through no fault of their own – by the abuse and violence they have experienced. The COVID-19 pandemic has created increased risk and instability for this population, as community resources are strained and social distancing measures leave survivors spending more time with their abusers. Additionally, COVID-19 has exacerbated needs and safety concerns for those experiencing domestic abuse and violence. The most basic of human needs — shelter, food, clothing — are deeply intertwined and strained by the actions of the abuser, and now further compounded by an unprecedented public health crisis.

The following is a separate allowable use of the ARPA funds of which we see our proposal aligning with:

- **Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts.**

While many people associate domestic violence advocacy with emergency shelter for victims fleeing abusive relationships, the vast majority of survivors we work with are seeking safety in place — in their own homes or with family and friends, near their natural support systems. They need help navigating the Child Protective Services system; obtaining a Protection from Abuse order; engaging in community services and resources; or establishing ongoing case management to achieve stable housing, rebuild their finances, or go back to school. At the same

time, Safe Voices has not had adequate community-based programmatic space designed for the needs of survivors.

Located within a quarter-mile of key community partners, our new 12,000 square-foot location will allow us for the first time to have ample space to provide more easily-accessible resources and services to survivors in all stages of their journey. Funds will be used toward the renovation of the programmatic spaces to create immediate positive impact for survivors and for our community. Development of the Program Hub is an opportunity to build community among the people we serve and those in a position to help.

The Impact

The Program Hub will provide flexible space where trained advocates and survivors work together to meet immediate safety needs, create linkages to local partners and systems, and foster connections between survivors and the community, helping grow their natural supports and create long term stability.

At this time, our Program Hub has begun renovations to include the elements including: Advocacy offices for confidential meetings with professional advocates, a private lounge and a lactation and prayer/meditation space, food pantry, computer work stations to allow survivors safe and confidential access to the internet, training space, an open-concept area for flexible program opportunities and a community kitchen.

The Program Hub at our new Androscoggin County location will allow us to take a survivor-centric, trauma-responsive, and community-based approach to the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and financial wellness of survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking and their children. As we build out the space, we continue to enhance services and programming to empower survivors' safety and wellbeing.

The health and wellness of Androscoggin County is predicated on the wellbeing of individuals and their ability to function together as a community. Survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking are our neighbors, our friends, our family. If we believe in their inherent right to safety and health, we need to engage them in our community by supporting every facet of their healing and humanity, and by building connectivity with intention and compassion.

Community partners will play a key role in program and service delivery within the Program Hub. We want to leverage existing relationships so as not to duplicate work happening across our communities, but to instead make services more accessible and relevant to the experiences of survivors. Examples of program collaborations could include nutrition education and demonstrations with St. Mary's Nutrition Center and Healthy Androscoggin; financial literacy seminars with local banks; support groups for survivors engaged in the Child Protective

Services system; and pro bono legal services with local attorneys. The Program Hub will also provide volunteerism and survivor-leadership opportunities. These activities include managing the flow of in-kind donations, assisting survivors with resource navigation, and orienting survivors to the space.

At Safe Voices, we listen, and we believe in the inherent dignity of every person who reaches out for support. The proposed Program Hub is an expression of that commitment and a site for deeper engagement and collaboration among advocates, community partners, systems, and survivors. Together with support from funders, we seek to

1. Enhance the accessibility and relevance of our services for all people affected by domestic violence and sex trafficking.

The Program Hub will create greater accessibility both geographically and culturally: it is centrally located in downtown Lewiston, within a quarter mile of key service providers and is on the bus line and walkable from the “Tree Streets” neighborhoods. The space will also create more opportunities for proactive outreach with New Mainer communities.

2. Increase survivor safety and empower the more than 65,000 people affected by domestic violence in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties.

We will be able to offer trauma-responsive programming that increases immediate safety and long-term stability for survivors, by providing a trauma-responsive space that empowers survivors as they navigate systems like law enforcement, the courts, and DHHS. Survivors report feeling more empowered and have better outcomes when they can interface with these systems alongside knowledgeable advocates, in spaces that are designed with their safety and well-being in mind.

3. End the cycles that perpetuate violence and inequity within our communities by creating more opportunities for outreach/engagement and programs for building resiliency for survivors.

Our advocacy model embedded in and enhanced by trauma-informed community-based space will help increase survivors’ stability and self-efficacy by offering programs that address the constellation of survivors’ needs at every stage of their journey and allow for greater long-term success and independence.

The Program Hub in Androscoggin County will allow Safe Voices to increase the well-being of those affected by domestic violence and sex trafficking by:

1. Providing programmatic space (not just offices) to support our advocacy model,

- which includes safety planning, support groups, criminal and civil court advocacy, resource navigation, and support within the Child Protective Services system
2. Operating drop-in hours at the Program Hub for survivors to access computers, meet their basic needs, and connect with an advocate
 3. Partnering with local service providers to support a survivor's connection to critical resources
 4. Providing holistic, wrap-around advocacy services for survivors as their needs shift from immediate crisis to longer term goals
 5. Providing space for activities designed to support a survivors, decrease isolation, and build a sense of community.

The Funding

We are requesting \$150,000 in ARPA funds from Androscoggin County Commissioners towards the over \$1 million dollar renovation of the Domestic Violence Resource Center in in Androscoggin County. Thus far we have received close to \$900,000 in donations and pledges towards this project from local donors, foundation grants and corporate/business supporters throughout the community. Including this ARPA Androscoggin County Commissioner's request, we are in the process of requesting \$500,000+/- additional funds to cover the costs of the creation of the Program Hub from other local (City of Lewiston) and national sources.

The Ongoing Funding Streams

The ongoing costs of programs, services and facility maintenance of this space will be covered by annual fundraising, both state and federal grants, and private foundation support.



**ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

2 TURNER ST. UNIT 9
AUBURN, ME 04210
207-753-2500

ERIC G. SAMSON
SHERIFF

WILLIAM GAGNE
CHIEF DEPUTY

March 10, 2022

Larry Post, County Administrator
County Commissioner's Office
2 Turner Street
Auburn, Maine 04210

RE: Ammunition bid

Mr. Post,

After going out to bid for ammunition for the sheriff's office only two bids were received. The vendors were Eagle Point Gun of Thorofare, New Jersey for \$10,448.94 and Howell's Indoor Range and Gunshop for \$4,500.00. At the February 16, 2022 commissioner's meeting the bid was awarded to Howell's Gun Shop.

Chief Deputy Gagne had numerous conversations with Adam Copp, CEO of Howell's Gun Shop, to ensure they understood what we were looking to purchase as well as sending Mr. Copp a purchase order for the ammunition on 02/17/22. Yesterday when Chief Deputy Gagne spoke with Mr. Copp about purchasing additional ammunition Mr. Copp informed him that he misunderstood as he believed he was purchasing ammunition from us and not selling us ammunition and that he could not and would not be able to fulfill the bid request.

Therefore, I requesting that the County Commissioner's award the bid to Eagle Point Gun of Thorofare, New Jersey. We understand we will need to re-evaluate and prioritize our needs to ensure we come within budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "ES", written over a white background.

Eric G. Samson,
Sheriff

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Federal Grants & Contracts

This policy is consistent with Uniform Guidance 2 C.F.R. § 200.318(c) and is applicable to all Federal Grants and Awards.

No employee, officer, or agent must participate in the selection, award or administration of a contract supported by a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. The officers, employees, and agents must neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts.