

**~Meeting Minutes~**  
**Androscoggin County Commissioners**  
November 1, 2023  
Regular Meeting 5:15 p.m.

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - Chair Sally Christner at 5:14 P.M.**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

\* Commissioner Kelly read the names of those who lost their lives:

*“Ronald G. Morin, Peyton Brewer-Ross, Joshua A. Seal, Bryan M. MacFarlane, Joseph Lawrence Walker, Arthur Fred Strout, Maxx A. Hathaway, Stephen M. Vozzella, Thomas Ryan Conrad, Michael R. Deslauriers II, Jason Adam Walker, Tricia C. Asselin, William A. Young, Aaron Young, Robert E. Violette, Lucille M. Violette, William Frank Brackett, and Keith D. Macneir.”*

\* Chair Christner shared the following:

*“One week ago, lives across this county were changed. Many of our own employees will never be quite the same. I would like to take a moment to recognize the dedication of those who protect and serve Androscoggin County.*

*Androscoggin Sheriff’s Department*

*You were called to care for victims and survivors in a way I am sure you never thought possible. You responded in a way that left the Sheriff saying to Commissioners, “I could not be more proud.” Officers who had just finished a long shift received the call, put their boots back on and were ready for duty in minutes. Officers who were on vacation left their vacation and were ready to assist the community that needed them. It was all-hands-on-deck for as long as they were needed. Knowing an active shooter was at large, they left their own homes and their own families to protect their community.*

*Dispatch-We will never know the pressure of receiving a call and having someone on the line that needs you to act quickly and help them through the most harrowing time of their life. While the rest of us were taking a step back to absorb what was happening, you didn’t have that opportunity. You had people on the line that desperately needed a calm professional. Then, in the following days, the sheer number of calls with leads in addition to your regular calls-You are true professionals.*

*EMA-The EMA director writes, plans and prepares for the worst. When the worst arrived, you were ready. Tirelessly all night, organizing, caring for the needs and requests of the first responders.*

*I spoke with Angela a couple times a day and she was always calm, confident and on top of the duties she was called on to do.*

*DA’s Office-I have heard nothing but high praise from those who were here in the county building and the support they received from the DA’s office.*

*As Commissioners and Budget Committee, when we meet and we negotiate, audit, generally work together but we should never lose sight of the caliber of people we are working with.*

*With my heart, I believe I serve employees of true and proven greatness.*

*On behalf of the Commissioners and Budget Committee, Thank You, and we echo Sheriff Samson to say, we could not be prouder.”*

\* Commissioner Edouard Plourde said the following on behalf of Lewiston:

*“I represent District 1 of Androscoggin County. Last Wednesday we realized horrifically that our county is not exempt from terrorism. Regardless of where these events took place, we can say that citizens of each of our county districts were affected in some way. Myself, I had met with an employee of Just-In-Time Recreation just last week, before the incident to make arrangements for a group bowling event which included lunch with a short meeting and two hours of bowling. I was shocked to read that Thomas Ryan Conrad, age 34 of Lewiston, was tragically killed on the evening of October 25 while attempting to stop an armed shooter at Just-In-Time/Spare Time Recreation in Lewiston. Many witnesses to the event described him as a hero and friends said it was characteristic of him to act quickly to defend others. His daughter, Caroline’s mom described him as, “The exact person you’d want in an emergency. Any chance he could jump into action he did. What he did on the night of October 25 perfectly exemplifies his character at its core. Thomas lived to help others and lived to protect the people all around him. He will always be remembered for his heroic action that night.”*

*Thomas, by the way, is also the nephew of Becky Conrad and her husband Arty, they used to have Arty’s Café and Wine Bar on Main Street in Auburn, if you remember.*

*I was shocked to read this, I couldn’t believe that Thomas Conrad, whom I had just spoken with a week before, had been one of the victims. I’m still struggling with this. Many are still coping with the effects of losing so many victims and we feel the pain of each of their families, relatives and friends. That day we were terrorized by a single individual with the tools to instantly destroy many lives. It could have been a lot worse. Emergency and help response were swift, as was local and county law enforcement, and our thanks go out specifically to Sheriff Samson and his team and to local police for their resolute professionalism. My prayer is this, for law makers to finally take meaningful common sense legislative action to help protect the safety of those in public gatherings. We continue to learn from these events, and I know that the people of Lewiston and in our county are strong and will become even stronger as we deal with such horror.”*

### **III. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners: Chair Sally Christner, Vice-Chair Terri Kelly, Brian Ames, Roland Poirier, Edouard Plourde, Andrew Lewis. Absent: Garrett Mason.

Other: Interim County Administrator/Sheriff Eric Samson, Facilities Director David Cote, Martin Fournier, Michael Perry, Hillary Nadeau, Sun Journal Steve Sherlock, Sandy Berube.

### **IV. MINUTES**

**A. Meeting Dates:** October 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

Motion: to approve with a waiver of the reading of the October 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Kelly-Lewis 6-0

### **V. WARRANTS**

Motion: to approve all warrants as presented: AP Warrants JV1307, JV1308, JV1310 & Payroll Warrants.

Kelly-Ames 6-0

## **VI. REPORTS**

DA Office Manager-Michael Perry shared the role of the DA's Office in the October 25<sup>th</sup> shootings. He noted that the Victim Witness Advocates and the Trial Assistants were asked to assist victims and their families with the mass shooting. The Victim Witness Advocates acted as the point person to help with coordinating services for (both injured and not injured) victims present and their families.

The Lewiston Armory was temporarily turned into the Family Assistance Center (FAC) and the DA's office (the Victim Advocates and Trial Assistants) maned this from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and some of the staff has had several 12-hour days in a row.

Perry also noted that there may be some type of federal grand reimbursement for overtime, but reimbursement could take 12-18 months.

**A. MCCA**-No report.

**B. Central/Western Maine Workforce Board**-No report.

**C. AVCOG Report**-No report.

**D. Treasurer's Report**-Treasurer Clarice Proctor was not in attendance but provided the ARPA quarterly report and requested that Commissioners consider allowing a 10-day grace period (with no interest) for towns that may be a bit late on their tax payment.

Motion: to grant a 10-day grace period to the town of Greene as a goodwill gesture, seeing that we did not give a final notification.

Plourde-Ames 4-2

Opposed: Lewis-Poirier

**E. Administrator's Report**-Interim County Administrator/Sheriff Eric Samson noted that he met with department heads.

## **VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**-None.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. PSAP Fees/Updated Census Report Numbers**

Motion: no increase but to use the 2020 Census numbers.

Ames-Kelly 6-0

### **B. Approve Tax Anticipation Note (with reading)**

Motion: to approve the Tax Anticipation Note

(1) To authorize the issuance of the County's Tax Anticipation Note in an amount up to six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to Androscoggin Bank at an interest rate of 5.98% per annum.

(2) The Note shall be dated January 2, 2024, shall mature on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 or before; shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners; shall be payable to Androscoggin Bank, 30 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, Maine or registered assigns, and otherwise be in such form and bear such details as the signers may determine.

(3) Said Note is hereby sold and awarded to Androscoggin Bank.

- (4) Said Note is designated as a qualified tax-exempt obligation of the County for purposes of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- (5) All things heretofore done and all action heretofore taken by the County, its officers and agent in the authorization of said Note are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed, and the Treasurer and the Chair of the Board of Commissioners are each hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of this vote including delivering said Note against payment therefor.

Ames-Lewis 6-0

**C. Updated ARPA Report**

Sheriff Samson & Facility Director David Cote explained that the overage in previous package was a clerical coding issue.

Commissioners requested that Treasurer Proctor explain the ARPA report when she returns.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approve Contract for 774 Center St. Property Development**

Motion: to approve the Harriman contract for the 774 Center St. property development.

Ames-Kelly 6-0

**X. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- \* Letter from Harry Moore to be read at the Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 tonight.

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- \* Opioid Settlement – (Workshop or Agenda Discussion)
- \* Strategic Planning Workshop (After budget season)
- \* 774 Center Street (ongoing)
- \* Building Committee
- \* Hiring of County Administrator
- \* ARPA Report (when Treasurer is in attendance)

**XII. ADJOURN**

Motion: to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.

Ames-Poirier 6-0

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Interim County Administrator/Sheriff Eric Samson