

~Meeting Minutes~
Androscoggin County Commissioners
February 21, 2024
Regular Meeting 5:15 p.m.

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Chair Sally Christner, Brian Ames, Edouard Plourde, Vice-Chair Terri Kelly.
Via Phone: Roland Poirier. Tardy: Garrett Mason. Absent: Andrew Lewis.
Other: Interim County Administrator/Sheriff Eric Samson, Finance Director Clarice Proctor,
Bookkeeper Deb Smith, DA Office Manager Mike Perry, Maine Mill Traci Gere, Sandy Berube,
Steve Sherlock, Zeb Letourneau, Hillary Nadeau, citizens.

IV. MINUTES

A. Meeting Dates: January 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Motion: to approve with a waiver of the reading of the January 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Kelly-Plourde 5-0

V. WARRANTS

Motion: to approve all warrants as presented: AP Warrants JV1367 & Payroll Warrants.

Kelly-Ames 5-0

Commissioner Mason arrived at 5:19 p.m.

VI. REPORTS

A. MCCA-No report.

B. Central/Western Maine Workforce Board-Commissioner Kelly noted that they will be focusing on the health & well-being of children in the county as it correlates with family employment status. More information will be provided going forward.

C. AVCOG Report-No report.

D. Treasurer's Report-Treasurer Proctor introduced the new bookkeeper Deb Smith and proceeded to give Commissioners a financial report.

Motion: to approve the Treasurer's report.

Ames-Mason 6-0

E. Administrator's Report-Interim County Administrator/Sheriff Eric Samson updated Commissioners regarding ongoing events.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Maine Museum of Innovation, Learning and Labor (Maine MILL's) Strategic Advisor Tracy Geer thanked Commissioners for the ARPA funds and discussed the status of the Maine MILL project (e.g., to break ground in the summer of 2024 and to open in the early fall of 2025). She pointed out the benefits of the project, shared details on incoming funding, and concluded with an additional ask of \$700,000 from the ARPA funds.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Zeb Letourneau from BarryDunn

Zeb Letourneau revisited the ARPA Projects list and updated Commissioners with information regarding the remaining projects in various funding stages along with their eligibility under ARPA.

B. ARPA Project List & Sheriff's Office ARPA Request

Motion: to approve the purchase of 80 new batteries for \$9,987.20 (with ARPA money).
Ames-Kelly 6-0

Commissioners discussed using ARPA money to recognize first responders with a memorial in regards to the October 25th, 2023 shootings.

Commissioner Mason suggested they try to set up a revolving loan fund (maybe one million) in perpetuity for the future development of the Androscoggin County building. He said that he thought it was important to architecturally maintain this historical building and noted that *Maine Preservation* can navigate developers through the renovation of a building like this.

C. Opioid Settlement Ballot Request

Motion: for Treasurer Proctor to cast the vote according to the advice of the attorney (James Belleau).
Poirier-Ames 6-0

D. Maine Recovery Council Invite

Commissioners decided not to present to the Maine Recovery Council at this time.

E. Approve Tax Assessment Commitment

Motion: to accept a 3% interest rate.
Mason-Ames (no vote)

Motion: to accept the 2024 Tax Commitment as presented.
Kelly-Mason 6-0

Commissioners considered various tax rates.

Motion: to approve the Tax Commitment interest rate at 3% commencing on November 1, 2024.
Ames-Kelly 4-2
Opposed: Poirier, Plourde

F. DA's Office – Revisiting Building Issues/Rent

Office Administrator Michael Perry noted they (the DA's office) have not paid rent for the last two months. Incidentally, the elevator has begun to be disabled; the new cylinder is scheduled to be installed during the week of March 18th. In addition, fire extinguishers have been inspected and replaced where necessary. Nevertheless, Perry is currently exploring potential buildings.

Motion: the moratorium on rent payment remains.
Mason-Ames (No vote-Commissioners agreed that they do not need a motion at this time)
Motion withdrawn.

G. Personnel Policy Review

Interim County Administrator, Sheriff Eric Samson pointed out the draft changes made in the Personnel Policy and suggested the Commissioners review the changes and place the topic back on the agenda in April.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS – N/A

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- * Personnel Policy-April
- * Strategic Planning Workshop - Commissioner Plourde
- * 774 Center Steet (updates when available)
- * Building Committee (updates when available)

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

A. Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) Subsection (E) Consultation with legal council.

B. Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) Subsection (C) Discussion or consideration of acquisition of real or personal property.

~~**C. Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) Subsection Discussion of personnel issues.**~~ (Cancelled) Commissioners will review the County Administrator applications over the week and meet on March 6th for interviews.

Motion: to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) Subsection (E) Consultation with legal council (letter from legal council) and (C) Discussion or consideration of acquisition of real or personal property.
Kelly-Ames 6-0

Motion: to enter into public session.
Plourde-Ames 6-0

Motion: to authorize the county Treasurer Clarice Proctor and Androscoggin County Commissions Chair Sally Christner to sign on their behalf a Contract for Sale of Commercial Property in regards to the purchase of the John F Murphy (JFM) office building on (800) Center Street, Auburn.

Ames-Kelly 6-0

XII. ADJOURN

Motion: to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Plourde-Ames 6-0

Interim County Administrator/Sheriff Eric Samson