

**~Meeting Minutes~**  
**Androscoggin County Commissioners**  
April 3, 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, Andrew Lewis. Via Phone: Roland Poirier. Tardy: Garrett Mason, Vice-Chair Terri Kelly.  
Other: Interim County Administrator Sheriff Eric Samson, Finance Director Clarice Proctor, DA Office Manager Mike Perry, DA Neil McLean, Hillary Nadeau, Greene Broadband Committee Carl Bucciantini, Sandy Berube, Real Estate Agent Chad Sylvester.

**IV. MINUTES**

**A. Meeting Dates:** March 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Motion: to approve with a waiver of the reading of the March 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Ames-Lewis 5-0

**Commissioner Mason arrived at 5:17 p.m.**

**V. WARRANTS**

Motion: to approve all warrants as presented: AP Warrants JV1399, JV1402 & Payroll Warrants.  
Lewis-Plourde 6-0

**VI. REPORTS**

**A. MCCA-Interim County Administrator Samson** noted that the main topic discussed at the MCCA meeting was the budget.

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

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

**D. Treasurer's Report**-No report.

**E. Administrator's Report**-Interim County Administrator/Sheriff Eric Samson said that the EMA Director's position has been posted, the Sally Port floor is being repaired, and the County building will be closed tomorrow (due to the incoming nor'easter).

**VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Franco Center requested a letter of support to help them obtain Congressionally Directed Spending/Appropriation funding and it was granted by Commissioners.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Barry/Dunn-Zeb Letourneau** updated Commissioners about ongoing ARPA projects (i.e. MaineMILL scope change request and Greene ARPA request.)

Maine Mill Strategic Advisor Traci Gere also commented on the scope change, request for an additional \$700,000, and museum plans for the memorial.

As in a former meeting, Commissioner Mason again suggested that they create a revolving loan fund or grant, ideally through a partner (e.g. like a quasi-governmental organization or a 501(c) (3) to house (ARPA) money, or remaining money, as a grant that could be awarded to a developer who buys the county building to develop it into affordable housing. He explained that this incentive should make the county building more attractive to developers and pointed out that the county building is on the National Register of Historic places and located in an opportunity zone, and is therefore attractive to someone who is looking to offset capital gain for a large investment, not to mention a dollar-to-dollar match on renovations. Mason surmised that it may have to be structured in a way that is a loan, forgivable, at a zero percent interest, just to protect the developer for various reasons, but this should raise the dollar amount of the sale of the county building considerably and would allow the county to use those monies in the future towards the campus project on Center Street.

Zeb Letourneau agreed and noted that there were some ways to structure the program that would be more beneficial to both the developer and the County. He then gave specific examples before suggesting he sit down with the Maine Preservation Foundation to help him understand what they envision for the project.

**B. Revisit-Town of Greene ARPA Request**

Motion: to approve Greene request for \$100,000 (in ARPA money for Spectrum) broadband as long as the town of Greene votes to support it (by approving the \$151,793 at the town meeting in August).

Ames-Lewis 6-0

*At this time (6:00 p.m.), Commissioners jumped to XI. Executive Session B..*

**C. ARPA Projects, Other - N/A**

**D. DA's Office-Revisiting Building Issues/Rent-**Commissioners decided to continue to withhold rent payments.

**E. Remote Voting**

Motion: to repeal the Remote Meeting Policy and to go back to the original operating procedure and to dispatch HR to present a suggestion for a new policy, effective for the next meeting.

Mason-Ames 4-3

Opposed: Lewis, Plourde, Poirier

**F. Revisit Personnel Policy-**Commissioners agreed with the changes proposed by Sheriff Eric Samson and requested them to be sent to their lawyer for review.

**IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Ames was assigned as the representative for the State Claims Commission.

*At this time, Commissioners continued to XI. Executive Sessions A.*

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- \* Strategic Planning Workshop - Commissioner Plourde
- \* 774 Center Steet (updates when available)
- \* Building Committee (updates when available)
- \* Remote Meeting/Voting Policy

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

**A. Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) Subsection (A) Discussion of personnel issues.**

Motion: to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) Subsection (A) Discussion of personnel issues.

**Kelly-Lewis 6-0**

**Commissioner Plourde left at 7:50 p.m.**

*At this time, Commissioners continued to XII. Adjourn*

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

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

Ames-Lewis 6-0

**Commissioner Kelly arrived at 5:55 p.m.**

Motion: to enter into public session.

Kelly-Mason 7-0

*At this time, Commissioners returned to C. ARPA Projects-Other*

**XII. ADJOURN**

Motion: to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Ames-Kelly 6-0

---

Interim County Administrator, Sheriff Eric Samson