



Cumberland County

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes - Final

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

5:00 PM

Meeting Will Be On Zoom

To View: www.cumberlandcounty.org/live
To Participate: See instructions on the agenda.
To Submit Public Comment: gailey@cumberlandcounty.org

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Dustin Ward at 5:03 pm.

WELCOME& INTRODUCTIONS

Present: 4 - Committee Member Bob Vail, Chair Dustin Ward, Committee Member Paul Tworog and Committee Member District 4 Vacancy

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Lee Pratt

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [FC 24-001](#) Approval of the minutes, December 19, 2023, meeting of the County Finance Committee

A motion was made by Committee Member Tworog, seconded by Committee Member Vail, that the Finance Committee Document be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Committee Member Vail, Chair Ward, Committee Member Tworog, Committee Member Vacancy and Committee Member Vacancy

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Pratt

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Budget Presentation: Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Management Director Michael Durkin gave an overview of the Emergency Management Agency's services. Services included Communications Team, sheltering materials, and disaster plans for community and municipal organizations. They have done a lot of training with other Emergency Management personnel outside of Maine.

Committee Member Bob Vail asked about the recent storms especially along the coast. What is being done to prepare coastal communities?

Chair Ward asked how plans are created? Are responses based on finances available?

Commissioner Gorden asked about Hazmat teams why they are going from four team to two? EMA Director Durkin stated that the Hazmat Teams are State funded and jointly funded the County the reduction occurred based on the decision by the State of Maine. Commissioner Gorden followed up and asked if Director Durkin thought it would make sense to have one County Hazmat team to serve the County. Chair Ward followed up about the concept of regionalization. Many municipalities have looked at regionalizing emergency services, would it help with evolving EMA response efforts.

Finance Committee Member Bob Vail added that as Town Councilor, the savings from regionalizing emergency services such as fire and EMS Rescue would be a great benefit to communities. The idea of having rescue services broken into districts to serve the municipalities would provide efficient services. Chair Ward said that it sounds like the municipalities have talked about needing regionalized services and discussions should start taking place about how to implement regionalized services. County Manager Gailey added that there is a Cumberland County Fire and EMS Study that is close to being completed with data and a plan to implement regionalization in the County.

3. Budget Presentation: Regional Communication Department

Director Melinda Fairbrother-Dyer gave a presentation of the Regional Communications Center budget.

Committee Member Vail asked when employees encounter a caller that needs specialized support, is there direct specialized support available for the caller to be connected to.

Committee Member Tworog asked about the renovation of the CCRCC facility and the upgrade of equipment, were there any interruptions in transition of the construction.

County Manager Gailey added that \$2Mil has been dedicated to the renovation and expansion of the existing facility. There is an additional upgrade of the radio conversion project to assist the Communications Department and Towns with equipment upgrades.

Chair Ward asked if there was an increase in particular types of calls that varies from other years. He also asked Director Fairbrother- Dyer to clarify a call, does it include hang ups or service delivered. Chair Ward asked about overtime coverage in regards to staffing compared to the previous year. Deputy Manager Alex Kimball clarified that the staffing budget is usually created off of the assumption that staff will be full time.

Director Fairbrother- Dyer invited the Finance Committee to tour the Dispatch Center in late February when she expected renovations to be complete.

4. Budget Presentation: Cross Insurance Arena

Cross Insurance Arena General Manager Michael Loconte gave an overview events held at the Cross Insurance Arena and the budget changes. He also gave an overview of promotions, contracts and staffing changes for the Committee.

Committee Member Tworog asked about the status of the \$33M bond that was used to pay for the Cross Insurance Arena. Deputy Manager Kimball stated that the bond was half way with an end date of 2032. In 2020 it was able to be refinanced and saved the County hundreds of thousands of dollars in bond payments.

Committee Member Tworog's additional questions were related to the hockey game that he attended. Could the seats have cup holders for hockey games; could the concession lines be shorter, the lines were very long and wrapped around blocking entrances, how could it be improved.

Chair Ward asked about sponsorship and improving commitments from sponsorships. He asked GM Loconte how many shows he was planning to budget for given that he had surpassed last years goal of 100. Chair Ward's final question was about the status of converting the Cross Insurance Arena to a serve as an overflow hospital in response to Covid.

Chair Ward asked what GM Loconte is most excited about in the upcoming shows. GM Loconte stated that he is excited about Cooper Flagg attending Duke and that it would be amazing to host UMaine and Duke at some point.

5. Committee work on the 2024/2025 Budget

Committee Member Tworog proposed a modification to the budget in the Human Services section. He proposed reallocating \$25,000 budgeted from the United Way and giving \$1,000 to community libraries in the County. County Manager explained that the County allocates \$10,000 to the Portland Library because anyone in the County can obtain a membership card at the Portland Library. Committee Member Tworog stated that Portland Library would still receive funding and additional \$1,000 and continue with it's interregional lending.

FINANCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

- a. Tuesday January 30, 2024 5:00 p.m. (Sheriff Office & Jail)
- b. Tuesday February 20, 2024 5:00 p.m. (Wrap-up)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ward thanked the Committee and the staff for their time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.