

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at the Cumberland County Courthouse in the Peter Feeney Conference Room, the meeting was called to Order by Chair Neil Jamison at 5:35pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Chair Neil Jamieson
Commissioner James Cloutier
Commissioner Stephen Gorden
Commissioner Patricia Smith

Excused:

Commissioner Susan Witonis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023

Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, that the Minutes of March 13 and March 27 be accepted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

2022 Year End Report for the Regional Communications Center

This report for received and filed. The Commissioners agreed that it was very well done and highlighted the hard work of the employees at the Regional Communications Center.

Update on Jail Hiring by Human Resources

Director of Human Resources Amy Jennings gave an update on the hiring process for Corrections Officers. She stated that the Personal History Questionnaire had been reduced to 8 pages. She updated the Commissioners that there were two new Certified Corrections Officers that are due to start soon. There are four candidates in the polygraph phase and two in the negotiation phase for their final offer. Regarding the Union Contract, there is a verbal agreement for the contract to move forward with the increased wage rates. She shared that the Union thanked the Commissioners for approving new wage rates and they have agreed to a tentative Memorandum of Understanding.

Regarding recruiting, the next stage is to focus on a media marketing campaign utilizing various digital platforms. She also stated that the County continues to use Jazz HR, the current applicant tracking software, and will eventually transition all job postings to the software.

Commissioner Smith thanked HR Director Jennings for the update and congratulated her on her progress. Chair Jamieson also thanked HR Director Jennings for the update.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chair Jamieson open the public comment period at 5:41PM, there were no comments from the public. Chair Jamieson closed the comment period at 5:41PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

23-023 Request authorization for the County Manager on behalf of the Cumberland County Public Health Department to enter into a contract with the Maine Department of Public Safety to administer the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Program in the amount of \$360,000.

23-024 Request authorization for the County Manager to renew the 3 year agreement between Cumberland County and City of Portland for continued participation in the City of Portland/Cumberland County HOME Consortium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

23-025 Adopt the order authorizing the 2023 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the amount of \$7,500,000, dated May 16, 2023.

Deputy Manager of Admin and Finance Kimball stated that this TAN was less than the amount borrowed five years ago, as part of a five year plan it assists with the budget transition to a calendar year budget. He stated that though the amount borrowed was less, the interest rate was higher and so the overall amount repaid is unfortunately high. Eventually, the need for borrowing will go away completely. Commissioner Cloutier asked is the bond was tax exempt, Deputy Manager of Admin and Finance Kimball confirmed that it was.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, that the order authorizing the 2023 Tax Anticipation Note be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0.

23-026 Proclamation - National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week for April 9 - 15, 2023.

This Proclamation was read into the record.

23-027 Proclamation - National Community Development Week for April 10 -14, 2023.

This Proclamation was read into the record.

23-028 Authorization of a public hearing and adoption of the Program Year 2023 Community Development Annual Action Plan including the appropriations of the Community Development Block Grant funds and HOME Investment Partnership Program.

Director of Community Development Kristin Styles gave an overview of the Proposed Annual Action Plan posted for a public hearing held on April 10, 2023 and May 8, 2023. Cumberland County would receive \$1.5Mil in Federal Funding that would be distributed to the communities except for City of Portland and Town of Brunswick who receive separate funding. The City of South Portland and Town of Bridgton are set-aside communities and manage their own allocations. The Municipal Oversight Committee (MOC) released the applications in November with a due date of mid-December to allow adequate time for review by the MOC. Applicants presented their application on in early February and then reviewed with input from the County Manager There were 11 projects selected for funding and they can be reviewed on the Community Development website. Additional funds were awarded to a homelessness study requested by the Town of Scarborough. There were \$420k funds awarded to South Portland who also had additional funding from a broadband project. Bridgton received \$190k in funds. The HOME program is a consortium of all of the County communities and program delivery is conducted by the City of Portland. It is allocated to four types of housing activities and includes a program allocation of \$111,371.

Commissioner Smith thanked Director Styles for her hard work and for the volunteers on the MOC. Director Styles stated that it was difficult to select the applicants but eventually the MOC decided to fund larger projects as opposed to smaller numerous projects. Commissioner Gorden asked about the funding formula that is dictated by HUD, Director Styles stated that it is calculated by the Federal Government.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier and seconded by Commissioner Gorden to hold a public hearing. Chair Jamieson opened the public hearing at 6:05pm and closed the public hearing at 6:06pm. The next hearing and final acceptance of the Annual Plan will be at the next Commissioners meeting on May 8, 2023.

23-029 Authorization for the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Portland Downtown and Cumberland County at no cost for the painting of mural at the Cross Insurance Arena on the Free Street side of the Building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, that the order authorizing the County Manager to into an agreement with Portland Downtown for the painting of a mural. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Deputy Manager of Finance and Admin Kimball provided comments on behalf of the County Manager. He shared that the transition to the new budget is going well and that the communities have been very supportive of the transition. The good news for the 6 month budget is that it is already half way through the budget year.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

County Sheriff Joyce shared that the Federal Marshalls had reached out recently wanting to know what type of rate would be used for federal inmates boarded at the County Jail. Commissioner Jamieson asked if this could be discussed more in depth at the May meeting. Deputy Manager of Finance and Admin Kimball add that the County Manager had tried unsuccessfully to get through on the automated portal and that the matter should be discussed in depth especially if the costs associated with borders has gone up. Commissioner Cloutier asked if an attorney could review prior to the contract being signed. Sheriff Joyce confirmed that it could be and that the last contract was from 2010 and needed to be adjusted accordingly as there were newer requests in the contract. Commissioner Smith asked how a rate would be built. Sheriff Joyce stated that there were a number of factors and one of them being that the Federal inmates are kept in a separate pod from regular inmates. The Jail needs to support the request for grievances, offer additional rec time, supply 2 armed corrections officers for medical detail and provide transport detail. The draw on the existing labor will require a higher rate. Deputy Manager of Finance and Admin Kimball stated the county makes a good faith effort to put forth a cost that is well documented. The Commissioners suggested having built in price increases or option to renew to adjust the rate.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cloutier stated that he is excited about the Boston Celtics and Bruins. However, it's too early to tell about the Boston Redsox.

Commissioner Gorden shared that with the Maine County is monitoring the legislature and the jail funding bill and the rural patrol bill. There will need to be more advocacy on behalf of the jail funding bill and the legislature has requested patrol data for the rural patrol bill.

Chair Jamieson wanted to remind everyone that spring has arrived and children will be more active, drivers should be aware of children at bus stops, playing or crossing near the street. Support your local sports teams. He also wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be held on May 8, 2023.