



Cumberland County

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Action Results

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

The Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30pm in the Peter Feeney Room unless otherwise noted.

Monday, June 12, 2023

5:30 PM

Feeney Conference Room, County
Courthouse, 205 Newbury St,
Portland ME 04101

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 5:35 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present: 5 - Chair Neil Jamieson, Commissioner James Cloutier, Commissioner Susan Witonis, Commissioner Stephen Gorden, and Commissioner Patricia Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[CD 23-004](#) Approval of the minutes, May 8, 2023, meeting of the Board of Commissioners

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Smith, that this Minutes Report be APPROVED. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

[CD 23-005](#) Informational Report - GFOA Certificate for 2021

The County was recognized for their excellence in financial reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association and awarded the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Report.

This Report was RECEIVED AND FILED.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Witonis requested that workshop be held in the fall of 2023 to discuss the services outlined in the County patrol contracts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Jamieson, Commissioner Cloutier, Commissioner Witonis,
Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Smith

No: 0

[23-044](#) Approval of the Sheriff's Office Commissions for January 2023 - May 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that this Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[23-045](#) Authorization of a Law Enforcement Services contract between Cumberland County and MSAD #15 and the Town of Gray for the amount of \$143,464.32.

This Order was APPROVED.

[23-046](#) Authorization of a Law Enforcement Services contract between Cumberland County and the Town of Frye Island from May 25, 2023 - October 9, 2023 for the amount of \$52,259.44.

This Order was APPROVED.

[23-047](#) Authorization of a Law Enforcement Services contract between Cumberland County and the Town of Chebeague Island from May 25, 2023 - September 4, 2023 for the amount of \$36,346.56.

This Order was APPROVED.

[23-048](#) Authorization of a Law Enforcement Services contract between Cumberland County and Long Island from June 29, 2023 - September 4, 2023 for the amount of \$26,644.55.

This Order was APPROVED.

[23-049](#) Authorization of the County's Emergency Communications contract between the CCRCC and the Town of Cumberland from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026.

This Order was APPROVED.

[23-050](#) Authorization of the County's Emergency Communications contract between the CCRCC and the Town of North Yarmouth from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026

This Order was APPROVED.

[23-051](#) Authorization of the County's Emergency Communications contract between the CCRCC and the Town of Windham from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026.

This Order was APPROVED.

[23-052](#) Authorization for the County Manager to accept a monetary donation of \$80,000 on behalf of the Cumberland County Jail from the Point Church, South Portland, for housing assistance to recently released inmates.

This item was discussed out of order per the request of Commissioner Cloutier. Members of the Sheriff's Officer were invited to speak on behalf of Item 23-052. Sheriff Kevin Joyce spoke and when he had been approached by staff about a

potential donation he was open to the idea as long as it was truly a donation and not a solicitation for a donation. Chaplain for the County Jail, Reverend Jeffrey McIlwain, spoke about purpose of the donation and that it was uncomplicated. The Point Church is aware of the struggle that inmates have when they're released into the community. The donation will support programs that address drug use and support reentry into the community. County Jail Reentry Specialist Jennifer Galletta spoke about the growth of the reentry program. It started in 2006 and has morphed into a very robust program and now includes Medically Assisted Treatment and other services that support reentry. There are current grants that go towards purchases for inmates after they're released from Jail. There are some grants that support housing. These purchases include bus passes and transportation, clothing, and a release bag. The release bag is funded by grant, but has been depleted, which contains naran and toiletries. Other grants fund transportation to and from treatment. Grant funds are exhausted quickly and this donation will help replenish funds.

Commissioner Gorden asked about the length of the assistance that inmates receive. Reentry specialist Galletta stated that majority of the assistance is for one time use as inmates when inmates are released. Assistance can go up to one month for living arrangements. Portland Recovery Community Center is also a partner. Commissioner Cloutier stated that the donation was a happy surprise and will have a positive impact. Chair Jamieson expressed thanks to the staff for their efforts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes:	5 -	Chair Jamieson, Commissioner Cloutier, Commissioner Witonis, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Smith
No:	0	

ARPA BUSINESS23-053

Authorization for the County Manager to award bid Lake Region Homeless Services Study and enter into a contract between Cumberland County and Levin Planning Strategies for the Planning and Consulting services in the amount of \$115,000.00.

Compliance and Audit Manager Sandra Warren said that the bid for the Tedford House housing study would be awarded to Levine Consulting to conduct a housing study of the Lakes Region area. The study will identify barriers faced by Towns; look at housing and land availability; and identify the needs specific to the region. Levine Consulting is managed by Jeff Levine who has an extensive background in government planning and housing. The study will start in November, the data gathered will also be shared with other outreach agencies including Community Development. The Commissioners agreed that the Housing Study would be an asset to the community and appreciated the focus on the Lakes Region area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Jamieson, Commissioner Cloutier, Commissioner Witonis, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Smith

No: 0

23-054

Approval of the ARPA Municipal Water & Sewer Grant Action Plan

Eight applications were received for the ARPA water and sewer program. They were ranked according to the following criteria; equitable, community benefit, environmental impact, severity, sustainability, due diligence and companion funds. The committee also looked at the overall project description particularly the income of the populations being served.

The proposals that were awarded the highest scores by the AAC received funding.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Smith, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Jamieson, Commissioner Cloutier, Commissioner Witonis, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Smith

No: 0

NEW BUSINESS23-055

Approval of the 2023-2024 Jail Operating Budget

County Manager Gailey the jail budget presented was challenging to address the \$2.4 Million loss of revenue and the budget relies on revenue from the Department of Corrections. To address the shortfall, \$164,000 in expenses were identified in staffing levels. This could be achieved by unfunding, not cutting, 48 staff positions. Management is still committed to recruiting and hiring corrections officers. This leaves 88 positions, current positions filled are 66. Another change is that a sergeant position is being converted to a lieutenant position as a

housing manager for the anticipated federal inmates. Sheriff Joyce spoke and stated that he agreed with the presented budget and that it's a realistic solution. He added that the federal inmates will return after the per diem rate is finalized. Commissioner Witonis asked when that would be finished, County Manager Gailey stated that it would be mid to late August.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Witonis, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Jamieson, Commissioner Cloutier, Commissioner Witonis, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Smith

No: 0

[23-056](#)

Approval of the 2023/2024 Cross Insurance Arena Operations and Trustee Budgets

The Cross Insurance Arena budget was put together by General Manager Mike Loconte and includes the Operational and Trustee budgets. The Operational Budget does not include any new positions or capital requests. There is an anticipated \$299,000 loss but that is slowly being offset given there are four additional shows booked in August through September. The Trustees budget is scaled down and includes adjusted costs for insurance, board meetings and management incentives. The total budgeted amount is \$190,000 for the fiscal year. Commissioner Gorden asked if the Arena had insurance separate from the county, County Manager Gailey confirmed that it did. Commissioner Cloutier commented that he was pleased with the direction of the Arena and that when it was rebuilt they had been assured it would be a positive financial investment. It's true, it's community friendly with a popular franchise.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Jamieson, Commissioner Cloutier, Commissioner Witonis, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Smith

No: 0

[23-057](#)

Adoption of the 2023 County Strategic Priorities

County Manager Gailey presented the selected priorities for the next 3 years. The priorities were selected based on the number of votes. Goals identified include provide and include regional services, provide data, bring funding to the region, build capacity, foster diversity equity and inclusion, increase communications to the County. Committees will be formed to meet the objectives. Commissioner Gorden asked how the goals approached? County Manager Gailey stated that there would be an overarching committee to oversee the mission with the formation of smaller subcommittees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Jamieson, Commissioner Cloutier, Commissioner Witonis, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Smith

No: 0

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Gailey shared that the Opportunity Alliance is no longer administering general assistance to municipalities which include Cape Elizabeth, New Gloucester, Baldwin, and others. There is recent interest in the County administering general assistance. The County is considering stepping into that role and there are going to be further discussions with Town Managers to see what type of program can be developed. Commissioner Gorden asked if it would be similar to the Regional Assessing program, County Manager Gailey confirmed that it would be. County Manager Gailey and the Commissioners discussed the next meeting date would be July 10th and no meeting in August. He proposed that the finance committee caucus meet prior to the September meeting instead of July to discuss the 2024-2025 budget. He also shared that at the annual Greater Portland Council of Governments meeting at Saint Joseph's College, Standish, Maine, Cumberland County was recognized as the Pandemic Recovery Champions for navigating the pandemic. The award was presented to Chair Neil Jamieson, Jr., on behalf of the Cumberland County Commissioners.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Deputy Manager of Finance and Administration Alex Kimball stated that the County's new fiscal year will start in July of 2023 and referred to as the FY 23-24 budget.

Public Affairs Director Travis Kennedy shared he will be meeting with Dynamix and Windham Fire Chief Libby to do Fire Chiefs and Town Managers to continue the EMS regionalization study. There will be about three to five meetings and the commissioners are welcome to attend. The legislature is in special session since Spring which means that the budget does not need to meet the deadline according to statute but most likely be completed in July.

Human Resources Director Amy Jennings shared that recruitment efforts were continuing and there was a slight increase in staff turnover that management is aware.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cloutier said that he was glad that the County is considering taking over G.A. (General Assistance) services and it would be very beneficial to the communities. He was also very grateful for the \$80,000 donation from the Point Church and has appreciated their support in the past. The award from GPCOG reminded him of all of the work that was done during the pandemic to prepare the Cross Insurance Arena as a third hospital site and how close they were to actually opening it.

Commissioner Witonis stated that she was disappointed that Sheriff Joyce did not stay to give a staff update. She noted that there have been a lot of bad vehicle accidents that his staff have responded to. This time of year is a dangerous time to drive and she recognizes the hard work of the staff. She recently attended the ribbon cutting ceremony with Governor Mills and Bill Diamond for the new correctional center in Windham.

Commissioner Gorden stated that there is a high interest in regionalization of services. Especially administering general assistance services. Regionalizing services will save on costs and should be done with lots of planning and to ensure that it aligns with the goals of the community's needs.

Commissioner Smith stated that there is a lot of community and partnerships developing as a result of regionalization. She is excited to be part of the progress and provide support. She is excited to watch

the development of services over the next four years. She congratulated the new high school and college graduates!

Chair Jamieson stated that he was also eager to be part of the regionalization of County Services. He joined the County 12 years ago and the concept of regionalization was a rumor. But today, it's already happening with public health and with the Fire and EMS study. He encouraged the public to contact their Town leaders to advocate for regionalization because it does work. To echo Commissioner Smith's comment, congratulations to all of the new graduates and happy Father's day.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Board of Commissioners' next scheduled meeting **Monday, July 10, 2023.**