

# Maine Cumberland County

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES\*\*

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

5:00 PM

The Finance Committee met in person in the Feeney Conference Room in the County Courthouse, 205 Newbury St, Portland ME 04101

The Finance Committee also allowed for individuals to participate through Zoom.

### Attendance

#### **Finance Committee**

Janice de Lima, Falmouth  
Tim Thompson, Cape Elizabeth via Zoom  
Bob Vail, Cumberland  
Chair Dustin Ward, New Gloucester

#### **Cumberland County**

Alex Kimball, Deputy Manager via Zoom  
Jim Gailey, County Manager  
Theresa Grover, Finance Director  
Commissioner Patti Smith  
Commissioner Steve Gorden

1. Call to Order & Attendance  
Chair Dustin Ward called meeting to Order and took attendance.
2. Public Comment Received  
No Comments were received.
3. Budget Update  
No budget update by staff as nothing had changed since the last meeting. The County Manager made mention that the County staff continue to monitor revenues and will so right up to the time the budget is taken up by the County Commissioners.

#### 4. Finance Committee Budget

Vail – Year end savings – how is it applied

De Lima – Health Department provides a great service especially with the opioid settlement. The Fire position will be helpful to towns and will be a long-lasting impact to towns. Look forward to implementation.

Ward – Federal grants still going to be around?

Vail – I think 7% increase is a very high number. When everyone is working it is easier to absorb. Provide

more services to offset local expense. Can't keep doing the same and expecting different results. Talked about a need for a matrix for the fire position. Can't say the budget is a bad budget.

De Lima – See such value with County work. Would welcome a presentation at a Council meeting taking about what the County does or can do. Generate ideas. Maine needs to start thinking of greater county involvement.

Gordan – Cost of jails and the lack of funding from State. State needs to cover their mandates.

Vail – Newly formed legislature should be asking towns what the needs are. We all need to be sitting at the table and taking about our needs.

De Lima – Does County meet with legislators? We need to mark the County and get interest.

Thompson – Every town has the opportunity to sit on the MMA LPC. Talked about legislature dictating what can and cannot tax.

Ward – Explanation of good work and budgeting impacts of the County to the towns. Have towns understand what County does. AI will help to improve service. What can help soften the budget impact. Social media promoting the County.

Smith – Any town strong with AI?

Grover – Talked about AI and how it works in government.

De Lima – Notion of Home Rule needs to soften

Vail – The turf wars needs to show how to save money.

Ward – Can you use AI to show the cost of consolidation, allowing people to visualize?

Gorden – Back office could be consolidated without anyone knowing.

Ward – Thanked staff for all the work

Vail – Thanked staff who made presentations during the December meeting.

De Lima – Last year – she is termed out. County has an invite to Falmouth.

Thompson – Appreciate being able to participate. What our funds to for county services.

Smith – Thanked the Committee for volunteering. Appreciate the questions. Helps a lot.

De Lima - Motion to Recommend the 2025/2026 budget as presented by the County Manager. Second by Vail. Vote 4-0

## 5. Adjournment

At 5:57 pm Vail made a motion, seconded by De Lima to adjourn. Vote 4-0

\*The meeting was recorded and can be found on the County's website.

\*\* These meeting minutes have not been approved by the Committee due to the Committee has adjourned for the year.

