



Cumberland County

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes - Action Results

142 Federal St
Portland, ME 04101

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

5:00 PM

Peter Feeney Room, 205 Newbury St,
Portland ME 04101

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Finance Committee 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 Justin Ward at 5:05 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Committee Member Bob Vail, Chair Dustin Ward and Committee Member Paul Tworog

County Commissioners:

Patricia Smith, District 4
Susan Witonis, District 2
Stephen Gorden, District 3

County Staff:

James Gailey, County Manager
Alex Kimball, Deputy Manager
Theresa Grover, Director of Finance

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[FC 24-003](#) Approval of the minutes, January 30, 2024 meeting minutes for the meeting of the Finance Committee

A motion was made by Committee Member Vail, seconded by Committee Member Tworog, that this Finance Committee Document be APPROVED. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments from the public.

5. 2024/2025 BUDGET WRAP-UP

The County Manager gave an overview of the budget.

Committee Member Bob Vail asked about the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) are there constraints with a revenue carryover balance?

Deputy Manager Alex Kimball explained that the TAN was used to address a timing issue regarding the County Budget Calendar year. Previously the taxes received from the municipalities would be received at the nine month mark instead of the three month mark. That date is set by the State. With the transition to the fiscal year, the fund balance is better.

Committee Member Bob Vail stated that the Town of Cumberland pays the school 12 times a year, could the Towns pay monthly? Deputy Manager Kimball stated it's unnecessary and burdensome on the Towns.

Chair Ward asked that when the revenue is coming in at the 6 month mark, when July hits, you bill for the previous year, you're also going to plan for another 60, how are you going to differentiate between what that comes? Deputy Manager Kimball stated for the 24-25 budget year, it will be clear what is going to be included for the potential Family Medical Leave Fund. This will be a struggle for all municipalities not just the County.

Committee Member Bob Vail noted that a town in Ohio was notified Cumberland Town that patrol vehicles were for sale. Is that helpful to the County? What causes delayed receipt of the County's patrol vehicles, the ordering and procurement? County Manager Gailey stated that vehicles ordered in 2022 are finally being delivered. Commissioner Smith: Is it related to the chip manufacturing delay? Chair Ward confirmed with the County Manager that the vehicles were retrofitted after they were built.

[FC 24-004](#) Recommend the proposed County Manager's Budget 2024-25 be accepted and returned to the Board of County Commissioners for final authorization and apportionment.

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 and Committee Member Tworog

No: 0

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ward thanked the County Manager and staff for their hard work on the budget. Committee Member Bob Vail stated that he is looking forward to sitting on the finance committee the following year. He also stressed the importance of committee members with institutional knowledge. Committee Member Paul Tworog echoed member Vail, he is also happy to serve next year. Could there be more clarity on the Jail budget? What should it look like? County Manager agreed, he would like to know state funding and possible federal funding that the jail could receive.

Chair Ward asked County Manager if he had any ideas about increasing municipal participation on the Finance Committee? County Manager explained that the biggest hurdle was setting Committee meeting dates with conflicting schedules.

Commissioner Gorden asked the FC how to increase participation.

Committee Member Bob Vail suggested that Council Chairs could assign a member to the committee versus volunteer.

Committee Member Paul Tworog suggested a day long presentation versus multiple meeting dates.

Chair Ward agreed and encouraged participation because it's duty as a council member to participate in the finance committee. He also agreed that a single day as opposed to multiple meetings would be helpful. Meeting in person is also much more engaging as opposed to meeting online.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.