

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – January 9, 2024 – 2:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 2:00 P.M., at the County Courthouse, 62 Union Street, Rockland, Maine.

Commission members present were: Edward B. Glaser, Commissioner District #1, Richard L. Parent, Jr., Commissioner District #2 and Sharyn L. Pohlman, Commissioner District #3.

County staff present included: County Administrator Andrew Hart, Administrative Assistant Wendy Galvin, Sheriff Patrick Polky, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw, Chief Deputy Curt Andrick.

Absent: Systems Administrator Zach Greene, EMA Director Candice Richards, Prosecutorial Assistant/Investigator Shane Riley. Register of Probate Elaine Hallett, Register of Deeds Madelene Cole, Jail Administrator Bob Wood, Communications Director Robert Coombs, and District Attorney Natasha Irving.

Others: Peter Lindquist, Camden Resident

Regular Meeting – Agenda **Tuesday – January 9, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.**

- I. 2:00 Meeting Called to Order**
- II. 2:01 Public Comment** - Public Comment during other portions of the meeting will only be granted by permission of the Chair.
- III. 2:02 Election of Officers**
 1. Elect Chair for 2024.
 2. Elect Vice-Chair for 2024.
 3. Elect Representative for 2024 to:
 - i. CCWI
 - ii. Union Negotiations
 - iii. Airport Public Advisory Committee
 - iv. MCEDD/MCOG
 - v. Strategic Planning Committee
- IV. 2:05 Consent Items**
 1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:
 - i. Agenda - Non-Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.
 - ii. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of December 29, 2023.
 - iii. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
 - iv. Warrants
 - v. Reserve Withdrawals.
- V. 2:10 Action Items**
 1. Act to Approve and Sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Between the County of Knox and the Fraternal Order of Police Knox County Deputy Sheriff's Association Lodge 700 for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026.
 2. Act to Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign a Contract with Dirigo Safety for Consulting Services to be Provided to the Knox Regional Communications Center (KRCC) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$30,000.
 3. Act to Schedule a Special Commission Meeting to Meet with the Knox County Charter Review Subcommittee to Discuss the Charter Commission's Recommendation of Changes and Executive Summary.
 4. Act on Changing the Date of the April Commission Meeting and Discuss Other Dates to be Changed.
 5. Act to Approve and Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the County of Knox and the National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU).

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| VI. | 2:25 | Discussion Items |
| | | 1. Discussion of County Property Identified for Potential Sale. |
| | | 2. Other Items. |
| VII. | 2:30 | Other Business |
| VIII. | 2:35 | Executive Session |
| | | 1. Convene in Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A). |
| IX. | | Adjourn |

I. Meeting Called to Order

Commissioner Pohlman called the regular meeting of the Knox County Commission to order at 2:10 P.M..

II. Public Comment – Public Comment during other portions of the meeting will only be granted by permission of the Chair.

- **Peter Lindquist, Camden Resident:** I bring this before the Commission and also the County to learn about an issue and situation in our Midcoast area, about a meeting coming up on January 17th at 9:00 A.M. at the Thomaston Academy. It is put on by the Midcoast Community Collaborative. It is about our situation with daycare/child care in our region. I don't want to say it specifically about a County because it is a region wide problem. I will go through a couple quick facts because I know you have a busy meeting today. Knox County has the fourth highest rate of children who are neglected and abused. I don't know what the three (3) other Counties are for early childhood abuse and neglect. Knox County has the highest rate of children in foster care. In the youth category as far as younger kids and teens, one (1) out of four (4) in the Midcoast, 23% have experienced four (4) or ore adverse childhood experiences. This is something this collaborative is going to talk about. This is an issue that is not going to go away, and impacts our employers and our workforce in this area. So, if the people of the County are interested in economic development might be a good point to work on. Here are the waitlists for daycare in our area. This is all data, it's not an opinion. These are the head start situations, Rockland closed, High Street infant closed, RSU 13 Pre-K closed, South School Pre-School closing and this was back in October. Lincoln County just waitlists of double digits. Again, this is Federal and State funded and I hate to say it, but there are seventy-five (75) associations and groups listed for attending and part of this Midcoast collaborative. Guess whose name is not on this list, Knox County. I'll share this list with you. I was kind of shocked to not see Knox County on this list. I am here today to encourage us to get involved with something as serious as this. Go talk to any employer in the area and ask them if they've had problems with daycare.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – When did you say it was?
- **Peter Lindquist** – It's Wednesday, January 17th at 9:00 A.M., Thomaston Academy. Three will be probably, I would imagine, there's going to be 50-100 different groups there, people representing different groups who are incredibly impacted by this situation. I encourage the Commissioners to be there.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – Thank you Peter. We are always happy, if we were invited, we'd be more than happy to attend. Once of us can certainly do that. This is the first we have heard of this, so thank you for that. I'd also just like to mention that the name says it all. It's the Midcoast Community Collaborative, which means it's a collaborative opportunity between the County and the Municipalities to work together. Also, what you can do as a citizen, I believe you are a resident of Camden, is that correct Peter?
- **Peter Lindquist** – Yes.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – Have you brought this to the attention of your Selectboard because individually and collectively we can work together. Have you, or will you, be bring this to the Selectboards attention?
- **Peter Lindquist** – There is a Selectboard meeting tonight at 6:30 that I will be attending. I also put this out to the different media outlets. We have a new website here in Knox County, and this is another outlet of information and public outreach that would be a great opportunity to help people become

aware. Many opportunities don't have a County and Town lines. People work in one area, live in another. So it really isn't quite that specific, it's quite regional. That's the way I look at it.

III. Election of Officers

1. Elect Chair for 2024

- Commissioner Parent nominated Commissioner Glaser to serve as Commission Chair for 2024. Commissioner Pohlman seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor. (Commissioner Glaser took over the meeting as newly elected Chair.)

2. Elect Vice-Chair for 2024

- Commissioner Glaser nominated Commissioner Pohlman to serve as Commission Vice Chair for 2024. Commissioner Parent seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all favor.

3. Elect Representative to MCEDD, CCWI, Union Negotiations, and APAC for 2024

- *Commissioner Pohlman nominated Commissioner Parent to serve as Commission Representative to CCWI for 2024. Commissioner seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *Commissioner Pohlman nominated Commissioner Parent to serve as Commission Representative for Union Negotiations for 2024. Commissioner Glaser seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *Commissioner Parent nominated Commissioner Pohlman to serve as Commission Representative to the Airport Public Advisory Committee (APAC) for 2024. Commissioner Glaser seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor*
- *Commissioner Parent nominated Commissioner Pohlman to serve as Commission Representative to the MidCoast Council of Governments (MCOG) for 2024. Commissioner Glaser seconded the nomination. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *Commissioner Pohlman nominated Commissioner Glaser to serve as Commission Representative to the Strategic Planning sub-Committee. Commissioner Parent seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor*

The list as it stands for the 2024 year:

- CCWI - Commissioner Parent
- Union Negotiations – Commissioner Parent
- APAC – Commissioner Pohlman
- MCEDD/MCOG – Commissioner Pohlman
- Strategic Planning Sub-Committee – Commissioner Glaser

IV. Consent Items

1. Approve Consent Items as Presented:

- Agenda – Non-Agenda Items Only Permitted if Emergency in Nature.
- Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
- Warrants
- Reserve Withdrawals

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to approve the consent items 1-4 as presented with the exception of the Warrants and Reserve Withdrawals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

- *Commissioner Pohlman – Want to thank all the Department Managers for all their hard work. Everybody is or most is working overtime to try and do their jobs. It is very much appreciated and recognized by us, even though it was not approved in the 2024 Budget by the Budget Committee.*

V. Action Items

1. Act Approve and Sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Between the County of Knox and the Fraternal Order of Police Knox County Deputy Sheriff's Association Lodge 700 for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026.

Attached is a marked-up version of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that was negotiated between the representatives of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the Management team that consisted of the Sheriff, Chief Deputy Polky, Captain Pinkham, Finance Director Robinson, Commissioner Parent, HR Manager Christie, and Administrator Hart. FOP has voted to approve these changes and will need the Commission and Sheriff to sign once the Commission votes to approve. Originals will be provided to the FOP Management team to sign, and they will keep one original for their files and return one original for the County's files. The Sheriff and Administrator Hart can answer any questions at the meeting. If the Commission has any specific questions in regards to this, please don't hesitate to call Administrator Hart to discuss.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act and Sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Between the County of Knox and the Fraternal Order of Police Knox County Deputy Sheriff's Association Lodge 700 for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

2. Act to Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign a Contract with Dirigo Safety for Consulting Services to be Provided to the Knox Regional Communications Center (KRCC) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$32,000.

The County was originally looking to hire a consultant on a contractual basis and was working with an individual to do that. She was unable to provide insurance and we could not enter into a contract. The Commission then approved at the December 12, 2023, to approve and authorize Administrator Hart to hire a temporary employee within the KRCC, and there was breakdown in communications, and that individual took a full-time job. The Chair, Sheriff, and Administrator Hart then discussed having the 3rd Dispatch Supervisor position replaced with a full-time Deputy Director position, and fund it within the existing Communications Budget. The same individual was contacted to see if they would be interested in this full-time position and they declined. The Sheriff has contacted Dirigo Safety, and they are interested in entering into a contract for consulting services to be provided to the KRCC for an amount not to exceed \$32,000. We will not have the draft contract for the meeting. The Sheriff will provide more information at the meeting.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Approve and Authorize the County Administrator to Sign a Contract with Dirigo Safety for Consulting Services to be Provided to the Knox Regional Communications Center (KRCC) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$32,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

3. Act to Schedule a Special Commission Meeting to Meet with the Knox County Charter Review Subcommittee to Discuss the Charter Commission's Recommendation of Changes and Executive Summary.

Enclosed are emails from James Katsiaficas, Legal Counsel, as well as the marked-up Knox County Charter and Clean Executive Summary for the Commission to review. The Commission will need to schedule a date and time to hold the Special Commission Meeting with the Charter Review Subcommittee members.

- **Administrator Hart** – Jim Katsaisficas wrote an email, and let us know, we can't change the amount of Commissioner from 3-5 until 2030. That is something that is decided by the Legislature. We are at the mercy of the Legislature and Apportionment Committee. It would make sense for the Subcommittee to go over things. I will send out the revised version to you.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – When were the Sub-committee meetings normally?
- **Administrator Hart** – They would meet on Thursday's at 5:00 P.M.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – We could schedule a meeting at their normal scheduled time.
- **Administrator Hart** – We could look to schedule it for the last Thursday of this month. Jim Katsaisficas wrote an email, and let us know, we can't change the amount of Commissioner from 3-5 until 2030. That is something that is decided by the Legislature. We are at the mercy of the Legislature and Apportionment Committee. It would make sense for the Subcommittee to go over things. I will send out the revised version to you.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – Can we do this at the beginning of February? See if Charlie is available the first week of February or the second week of February.
- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Schedule a Special Commission Meeting the first or second Thursday in February to Meet with the Knox County Charter Review Subcommittee to Discuss the Charter Commission's Recommendation of Changes and Executive Summary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

4. Act on Changing the Date of the April Commission Meeting and Discuss Other Dates to be Changed.

Chair Glaser is unable to attend the April 9th Commission meeting, so we need to see about rescheduling that meeting to another date and time. Commissioner Pohlman also indicated she might have some other dates that might need to be moved, and do we finally look at another day of the week to meet. A very open discussion about meeting dates and times.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Schedule a Special Commission Meeting on April 10th to Meet with the Knox County Charter Review Subcommittee to Discuss the Charter Commission's Recommendation of Changes and Executive Summary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

5. Act to Approve and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the County of Knox and the National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU).

The Commission had approved and signed a MOU between Knox County and NCEU for wage stipends for Grades 11, 12., and 14. These stipends were approved through the end of the contract or December 31, 2023. A new MOU will be drafted, and this will be provided review prior to the meeting on Tuesday. This new MOU would continue until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is reached and agreed upon between Knox County and NCEU.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Approve and Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the county of Knox and the National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

VI. Discussion Items

1. Discussion of County Property Identified for Potential Sale:

The Commission agreed to place this on this Agenda and future Agendas for further discussion of what the County's options are with this property.

- **Commissioner Glaser** – Has there been any movement on it?
- **Administrator Hart** – No, there has not. As I said the last time, we will just keep moving it to the next Agenda.
- **Commissioner Parent** – Should be make a Motion to Table it?
- **Administrator Hart** – No, because it's a discussion item, and there is not action needed on it.

2. Other Items:

- **Administrator Hart** – There is a bill before the Legislature, LD 2005, which is an Act to remove the Aircraft Excise tax. They are having a Public hearing right now in front of the committee for Taxation. Administrator Hart sent an email to Representative Matlack, and asked her if she would be willing to speak about this. The Airport Manger also submitted testimony in opposition of it. MMA is against this as there LAPC voted unanimously against it. Representative Matlack said she would let Administrator Hart know the results of the Public hearing. Sounds like there is a lot of opposition to it.
- Under the ARPA funds, we allocated \$100,000 for an ORG study. They did one back in 2009. They have done some updates throughout the years. Administrator Hart spoke with Don Jutton and he wants to reach out to each Commissioner to get some feedback. Then he will reach out within the next week to each Department Manager in Knox County.
- **Peter Lindquist-** What is this costing us.?
- **Administrator Hart** – We have held out \$100,000 for this study. This will do the complete ORG study and include the Wage Classification plan. We are hoping we will not be close to that amount. This was approved by Commission and Budget Committee.
- **Administrator Hart** - The Annual meeting for MCCA was supposed to be tomorrow, but due to weather this was rescheduled for Thursday at 9:00 A.M..

VII. Other Business
None

VIII. Executive Session

1. Convene in Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

- *A motion was made by Commissioner parent to go into Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

The executive session convened at 2:38 P.M.

The executive session concluded at 4:01 P.M.

Adjourn

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with both in favor.*

The regular meeting adjourned at 4:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Galvin
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on February 13, 2024.