

**KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION  
KNOX COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Joint Commission & Budget Committee Review Meeting**

**Knox County Commission and Budget Committee**

**Thursday – November 5, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.**

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A Joint Commission and Budget Committee Review Meeting was held on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 5:00 P.M., via ZOOM Meeting. The Administrative Assistant was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

**Commission members present:** Commissioner Dorothy G. Meriwether, District #1 and Commissioner Sharyn L. Pohlman, District #3.

**County staff present included:** County Administrator Andrew Hart, Administrative Assistant Wendy Galvin, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, EMA Director Ray Sisk, Interim Jail Administrator Robert Wood, Chief Deputy Patrick Polky, Patrol Administrator Paul Pinkham and Sheriff Tim Carroll.

**Budget Committee members present:** Chair Bob Duke, Gayle Gallant, Shawn Levasseur, Roger Peabody, Randy Stearns (*arrived at 5:10 P.M.*), Charles Grover, Thomas Marshall, Jr, Nick Lapham and Barry Norris.

**Absent:** *Commissioner Richard L. Parent, District #2*

**Other:** House of Representative District #93 Anne “Pinny” Beebe–Center, Programs Re-entry Consultant Ray Porter - Waldo County, Restorative Justice Senior Director of Programs and Grants Carrie Sullivan. Executive Director of MCEDD William Najpauer and Camden Town Manager Audra Caler.

**Joint Commission & Budget Committee Review Meeting  
via ZOOM**

**Thursday – November 5, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Please click on the link below for the ZOOM Meeting/Public comment**

<https://zoom.us/j/95262232629>

**Please use the link below for Town Hall Streams to finish watching the meeting.**

[https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location\\_id=50&id=33083](https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=50&id=33083)

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|-------------|-------------|---|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>5:00</b> | <b>Meeting Called To Order</b> (Chair Shawn Levasseur for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Sharyn Pohlman for the Knox County Commission) |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>5:01</b> | <b>Public Comment</b>   |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>5:05</b> | <b>Approve Minutes</b><br>1. Minutes of the Joint Budget Meeting of October 29, 2020  |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>5:10</b> | <b>Budget Review</b><br>1. MCEDD<br>2. Restorative Justice<br>3. Sheriff’s Department - Corrections<br>4. Sheriff’s Department - Patrol                     |
| <b>V.</b>   |             | <b>Adjourn</b>  |

The November 5, 2020 Joint Commission and Budget Committee Review Meeting was called to order by Budget Committee Chair Shawn Levasseur and Commissioner Chair Sharyn Pohlman at 5:04 P.M.

- *Chair Levasseur made a motion to call the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.*
- *Commissioner Pohlman made a motion to call the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.*

## **II. Public Comment**

- Letters from Restorative Justice advocates. Those will be read during the Presentation for Restorative Justice.

## **III. Approve Minutes**

### 1. Minutes of the Joint Commission and Budget Committee Review Meeting of October 29, 2020.

- *Tom made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Joint Commission and Budget Committee Review Meeting of October 29, 2020 as amended. Gayle Gallant seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *Commissioner Meriwether made a motion to approve the amended Minutes of the Joint Commission and Budget Committee Review Meeting of October 29, 2020 as amended. Commissioner Pohlman seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

- ***Please note: All votes taken at each Joint Commission & Budget Committee Budget Review Meetings on Departmental Budgets are “straw votes”, with the exception of the December 10, 2020 final vote on the 2021 Knox County Budget.***

- Administrator Hart spoke:
- Late yesterday sent our Agenda, revised Budget, revised Capital Plan and the Personnel Services Summary, emails that were received and two (2) letters in support of Restorative Justice.
- Health Insurance was lowered from 10% to 2.94% (*includes the additional pay period.*)
- Had one time expenses that have been pushed from 2021 to 2020
- Moved some Capital expenditures from the 2021 Budget and delayed them until 2022
- Utilizing \$100,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance

### 1. MCEDD

- Camden Town Manager Audra Caler spoke on behalf of MCEDD.
- Bill Najpauer talked about MCEDD and answered questions.
- MCEDD has provided technical assistant to applicants, reviewed and processed applications for our region and will be sending out checks to Grant awardees within the first two weeks of November. A total of 145 businesses and non-profits were awarded \$6,298,46 in Knox County. Over the entire region there were 352 Grants awarded for a total of \$13,706,382.
- MCEDD is also processing a second round of Grants for the Maine Recovery Grant Program. At this time there are 179 applications for our region. Awards will be made at the end of November.
- MCEDD Dues (Current request \$48,468) for Knox County has leveraged the following:
  - \$6,298,416 in Maine Recovery Grant Program funds awarded in Knox County
  - \$330,0000 Norther Border Grant funds awarded in Knox County
  - Pending Grant requests of over 3 million dollars in Economic Development Administration funds for projects in Knox County
  - \$400,000 in Covid-19 Economic Recovery funds awarded by the Economic Development Administration for the entire MCEDD Region

*A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator’s Budget recommendation of \$48,468:*

*In favor: 8 (Nick Lapham Gayle Gallant, Tom Marshall, Jr., Roger Peabody, Bob Duke, Charles Grover, Shawn Levasseur and Barry Norris)*

*Against: 0*

*Abstained: 1 (Randy Stearns)*

*A consensus vote was taken by the County Commission on whether to approve the Administrator’s Budget recommendation of \$48,468:*

*In favor: 1 (Commissioner Pohlman)*

*Against: 0*

*Abstained: 1 (Dorothy Meriwether)*

## **2. Restorative Justice**

- Commissioner Pohlman read letters from Restorative Justice Project advocates.
- Sheriff Carroll spoke and asked Programs Re-entry Consultant Ray Porter to be in attendance so he could speak for Restorative Justice Project. Senior Director Carrie Sullivan and Maine House of Representative Anne “Pinny” Beebe-Center spoke.
- **Overall goal:** Expand Knox County’s capacity to provide Community Restorative Justice Services for its citizens and residents.
- Increasing county-wide capacity to accept referrals from law enforcement for adults and young adults who have caused harm through RJP’s successful Community Resolution Program.
- LEAD pilot - this is a national best practice, drawing up local policy and procedure, with participation from the DA’s office, establishing a Diversion Advisory Committee made up of officers, and crafting a communications effort to support this initiative – (recent story on WABI). The goal of this initiative is to address conflict / harm upstream of the courts... and within the community.
- Supporting and working with Sheriff Carroll and Administrator Porter to grow and expand restorative reentry services in the county, similar to the services we’ve successfully provided in Belfast/Waldo County Midcoast Regional Reentry Center.
- Established an Advisory Committee of people with lived experience of incarceration who have been meeting regularly to inform what worked and what gap were in their own experience. Weaving together multiple different grants and initiatives focused on combating the opioid crisis and, more broadly, becoming 'recovery ready' communities and gathering perspective on what a Community Justice Center should be and how it should function.
- Bring on a half time position to coordinate the growth and provision of restorative services while also leveraging community and volunteer support and participation.
- Bring a full-time RJ Coordinator position to serve Knox County.

*A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator’s Budget recommendation of \$25,000:*

*In favor: 9 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, Tom Marshall, Jr, Barry Norris, Shawn Levasseur, Roger Peabody, Bob Duke, Charles Grover and Randy Stearns)*

*Against: 0*

*Abstained: 0*

*A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator’s Budget recommendation of \$25,000:*

*In favor:* 1 (Commissioner Pohlman) (Commissioner Meriwether left the meeting)  
*Against:* 0  
*Abstained:* 0

**3. Sheriff - Corrections**

- The overall Budget has increased by \$124,965 which is a 3% increase
- 82.5% of that increase is benefits alone. The Health Insurance came in a lot less than expected (2.94%).
- There was a \$20,000 increase in the Employee benefit package this year due to three (3) Employees that have expressed looking at retirement
- Just at the Jail Personnel costs are 85% of the total Budget for the Corrections side
- Commodities are down by \$5,000 from last year. This increase was basically uniforms for Staff and Inmates.
- Capital has increased by (634%). The partnership with Waldo is what is driving this. The Jail is a 30 year old facility, a lot of original parts and original pavement job. The HVAC system alone would be approximately \$2,000,000 project. If we can do it with the partnership with Waldo County then that will help offset costs. There is a twenty (20) year life span on the equipment there and it's a thirty (30) year old building, so we've gone way beyond the life span
- The anticipated paving job would be a onetime event

***A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator's Budget recommendation of \$3,857,185:***

*In favor:* 8 (Gayle Gallant, Tom Marshall, Jr., Randy Stearns, Barry Norris, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, Charles Grover, Shawn Levasseur)  
*Against:* 0  
*Abstained:* 1 (Nick Lapham)

***A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator's Budget recommendation of \$3,857,185:***

*In favor:* 2 (Commissioner Pohlman and Commissioner Meriwether)  
*Against:* 0  
*Abstained:* 0

**4. Sheriff - Patrol**

- Overall increase is \$151, 000 and 97.5% of Patrol Budget is Personnel driven
- Contractual number went down by \$835.00
- Commodities have come down due to did not do as much firearms training (\$1,860)
- Revenue \$30,000 increase due to the Contractual Agreements with both of the Islands that split the costs of the service, and the contract with MDEA
- As the COVID situation goes on, in Knox County we are seeing more crime - Domestic violence has increased, child sex crimes increased and it's not just increased in numbers but in the level of severity. Knox County handled two (2) cases of Attempted Murder within two (2) days
- Levels of incarceration have gone up (*currently at capacity at the Jail.*)
- Administrator Hart confirmed that the Union Contract has not been finalized yet. The Union presented us with some info and we then did some calculations of our own and verified some information. The thing we are running up against is that other Counties, as

an example, Hancock County decided to make an increase of 7% each year for three (3) years. This is a 21% increase for their law enforcement. That sets the stage us to look at how we get the increase back up so we are not at the bottom. Between the State and other Counties that are giving substantial increases we have had to reevaluate our current situation next year

- Sheriff stated the benefits are about the same as other agencies. Looked at neighboring Counties and we are down 6% below the average. Knox County is falling behind
- Used drug forfeiture money to buy a boat to go to use as the Island boat

***A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator’s Budget recommendation of \$2,337,425:***

*In favor: 7 (Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, Barry Norris, Charles Grover, Randy Stearns, Tom Marshall, Jr)*

*Against: 1 (Shawn Levasseur)*

*Abstained: 1 (Nick Lapham)*

***A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to approve the Administrator’s Budget recommendation of \$2,337,425:***

*In favor: 2 (Commissioner Pohlman and Commissioner Meriwether)*

*Against: 0*

*Abstained: 0*

- Administrator Hart asked the Budget Committee and Commissioners if there were any Departments they would like to come back to the next meeting. No one needed a Department to come back.

## **5. Adjourn**

- ***Bob Duke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger Peabody seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.***
- ***Commissioner Pohlman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Meriwether seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.***

The next Joint Quarterly Budget Committee & Commission Meeting will be held on **November 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 P.M.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Galvin  
Administrative Assistant

**The Knox County Budget Committee and Knox County Commission will approve these minutes at the Joint Meeting held on November 12, 2020.**