

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – November 8, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 2:00 P.M., at the Knox County Courthouse, 62 Union Street, Rockland, Maine.

Commission members present were: Dorothy G. Meriwether and 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, EMA Director Candice Richards, Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw, IT Director Zach Greene and Communications Director Robert Coombs.

Absent: Prosecutorial Assistant/Investigator Shane Riley, Register of Deeds Madelene Cole, Jail Administrator Bob Wood, Register of Probate Elaine Hallett and District Attorney Natasha Irving.

Regular Meeting – Agenda

Tuesday – November 8, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.

Due to the presence of COVID-19 and its variants in Knox County and the resulting concern for risk to the health and safety of County Commissioners and employees and of the public, the Chair of the Knox County Commissioners determines that until further notice, the Knox County Commission will hold its public meetings in a “hybrid” format, meeting in-person in the Commission Hearing Room on the ground floor of the Knox County Courthouse in Rockland, and also permitting Commissioners and members of the public to attend remotely via Zoom video conference, as allowed under the Knox County Commission Remote Participation Policy and 1 M.R.S. Section 403-B.

I. 2:00 Meeting Called to Order

II. 2:05 Public Comment - Public Comment during other portions of the meeting will only be granted by permission of the Chair.

III. 2:10 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 October 11, 2022.
 - iii. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of October 14, 2022.
 - iv. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of November 1, 2022.
 - v. Monthly Written Departmental Reports.
 - vi. Warrants.
 - vii. Reserve Withdrawals.

IV. 2:20 Action Items

1. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Consent and Assignment to Transfer Hangar # 5 Lease from Cantwell Clark V to James Peffley and Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Request for Lease Assignment.
2. Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Consent and Assignment to Transfer Hangar # 15 Lease from Willard Hardy Jr. to Cantwell Clark V and Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Request for Lease Assignment.
3. Act to Authorize the County Administrator to Close on the Purchase of the Benner Lane Hangars and to Further Authorize the Payment of \$750,000 to the Owls Head Transportation Museum for the Purchase.
4. Act to Award the Bid for a New Truck for Use by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency.
5. Act to Approve the Six (6) –Month Contract Between Knox County and Maine Pretrial Services for Pretrial and Diversion Services and Authorize the Sheriff and County Administrator to Sign the Contract.
6. Act to Approve the Job Description for a Human Resources Manager.
7. Act to Approve Reappointments to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review.
8. Act to Appoint a Commissioner to Serve as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA), and as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) Self-Funded Risk Management Pool for 2023.

- V. 2:45 **Discussion Items**
1. Discussion of Solar Project at the Airport.
 2. Update on the Correctional Facility HVAC Project.
 3. Update on Other Projects.
 4. Other
- VI. 2:55 **Other Business**
- VII. **Adjourn**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Commissioner Meriwether called the regular meeting of the Knox County Commission to order at 2:01 P.M.

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

None.

III. 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 October 11, 2022.
 - iii. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of October 14, 2022
 - iv. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting of November 1, 2022
 - v. Monthly Written Departmental Reports
 - vi. Warrants
 - vii. Reserve Withdrawals
 - *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to approve the consent items 1-7. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
 - *Candice Richards - 211 Maine: 211 Maine is a tool that all levels of Government in Maine use. When there is anything going on where we need to open a warming center, the Towns notify us, we pass that along to the State and it goes into the 211 system. No matter where you are in the State, just use your zip code and see where services are. You can go on website 211maine.org, or you can call “211”. This service is free.*

IV. Action Items

1. **Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Consent and Assignment to Transfer Hangar #5 Lease from Cantwell Clark, V. to James Peffley and Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Request for Lease Assignment.**
This privately owned hangar was owned by Cantwell Clark V. He has sold the hangar to James Peffley. We require reassignment of the land leases, associated with each hangar, to be approved by the Commission. The Airport Manager recommends approval and execution.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Pohlman to Act t Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Consent and Assignment to Transfer Hanger #5 Lease from Cantwell Clark, V. to James Peffley and Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Request for Lease*

Assignment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.

2. **Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Consent and Assignment to Transfer Hangar #15 Lease from Willard Hardy, Jr. to Cantwell Clark, V. and Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Request for Lease Assignment.**

This privately owned hangar was owned by Willard Hardy Jr. He has sold his hangar to Cantwell Clark V. We require reassignment of the land leases, associated with each hangar, to be approved by the Commission. The Airport Manager recommends approval and execution.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Consent and Assignment to Transfer Hangar #15 Lease from Willard Hardy, Jr. to Cantwell Clark, V., and Approve and Authorize the Chair to Execute the Request for Lease Assignment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

3. **Act to Authorize the County Administrator to Close on the Purchase of Benner Lane Hangars and to Further Authorize the Payment of \$750,000 to the Owls Head Transportation Museum for the Purchase.**

The Commission authorized Administrator Hart to sign the Purchase & Sales Agreement for the 32 Benner Lane Hangar Complex owned by the Owls Head Transportation Museum in the amount of \$750,000 at the October 11, 2022 Commission Meeting. Under the terms of the Agreement, the Commission previously approved, Knox County is obligated to close and pay the \$750,000 if there are no problems with any conditions to close. All conditions have been satisfied (including the appraisal and zoning environmental due diligence), and so we want you all to know that and want to obtain your approval to close on this purchase. Airport Manager Shaw will report on the due diligence efforts that were made under the P& S Agreement and the motion we are seeking is the above authorization to close on the purchase, including the payment of the purchase price to the Owls Head Transportation Museum. The motion will formalize the County's purchase of this property.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Pohlman to Act to Authorize the County Administrator to Close on the Purchase of the Benner Lane Hangars and to Further Authorize the Payment of \$750,000 to the Owls Head Transportation Museum for the Purchase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

4. **Act to Award the Bid for a New Truck for Use by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency.**

The RFP was e-mailed to eight (8) truck vendors on Monday October 24, 2022, with bids due back to the Administrative Offices on Thursday November 3, 2022 at 2:00 PM., at which time, they were publicly opened. Three bids were submitted. The EMA Director will be present for the meeting to answer any questions of the Commission. The bid results sheet is included in your packet.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Award the Bid for a New Truck for Use by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *A motion was made to withdraw the motion made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Award the Bid for a New Truck for Use by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to reject all bids for a New Truck for Use by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency, and will resend the RFP with a trade in included in the new bid. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *Administrator Hart stated when we placed this out to bid he was not sure what to do with the current 2010 EMA truck. We did reject bids and will start over including the trade in of the 2010 EMA truck. Vendors will give the most money on a trade in where there is a shortage of vehicles at this time.*

5. **Act to Approve the Six (6) – Month Contract Between Knox County and Maine Pretrial Services for Pretrial and Diversion Services and Authorize the Sheriff and County Administrator to Sign the Contract.**

Enclosed is a marked up version of a 6-month contract for your review. Peter Marchesi, Knox County Attorney has reviewed the enclosed contract and made changes and these were provided to Elizabeth Simoni, MPS Executive Director and she has agreed to the proposed changes. The Sheriff will be present at the meeting to answer any questions of the Commission. Peter is also currently working on a 1-year renewal that will cover January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Thus, marked up contract will come before the Commission for approval and to authorize the Sheriff and Administrator Hart to sign, once Peter completes the draft and it is reviewed by Elizabeth Simoni, on behalf of MPS.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Pohlman to Act to Approve the Six (6) Month Contract Between Knox County and Maine Pretrial Services for Pretrial and Diversion Services and Authorize the Sheriff and County Administrator to Sign the Contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

6. **Act to Approve the Job Description for a Human Resources Manager.**

This request is to approve a new job description for a Human Resources Manager. This position is being proposed for the 2023 Budget. Administrator Hart will be able to explain the new job description and answer any questions that you have. This position will take some responsibilities like workers Compensation, FOA requests, finance duties and create an accreditation position for the Sheriff's Department with the HR position.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Approve the Job Description for a Human Resources Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *Commissioner Meriwether – Have you considered using an Oral Board.*
- *Administrator Hart – Yes, we would use an Oral Board.*
- *Commissioner Meriwether – Will you reach outside the County? Are you on same page with Sheriff's Department regarding the FOA requests because of the privacy of the Police reports?*
- *Sheriff – The Admin. and I have talked, and this is a work in progress. With FOAs there are some sensitive/confidential items, but those things can be dealt with here, and then the HR person can have training on this to be able to work with the confidential information as well.*
- *Director Coombs – We definitely need a fulltime HR person for the County.*

7. **Act to Approve Reappointments to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review.**

Every November several of the Knox County Board of Assessment Review board members come up for reappointment when their term ends on November 5th of that year. This year Marian Robinson, Chair of the BAR, Wesley Robinson, and Tammy Brown all need to be reappointed to another term ending November 5, 2025. Marian, Wesley, and Tammy all wish to continue on the Board. A copy of the membership list is in your packet.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Pohlman to Act to Approve Reappointments to the Knox County Board of Assessment Review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

8. **Act to Appoint a Commissioner to Serve as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA), and as a Director on the Board of Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) Self-Funded Risk Management Pool for 2023.**

The Commission has been asked by MCCA to appoint a Commissioner to serve on the MCCA Board prior to their annual meeting in January. At the same time, the Commission should also go ahead and appoint a Commissioner to the Risk Pool. Commissioner Pohlman is currently filling both duties. The MCCA by-laws state in Article IV, *Elections and Terms of Office*, Section 1, *Board of Directors*, of the Maine County Commissioners Association Bylaws states that each County Commissioner and the President of each Association named in Article III, Section 2 by December 1 of each year shall be notified to caucus and elect a Director for the coming year from their county or association to serve as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association. Section 1 of Article IV of the Bylaws further states, "*The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of each County and the President from each Association shall inform the Executive Director of the Board's nominee at least two weeks before the annual meeting. The Executive Director will advise all County Commissioners and the President from each Association of the entire list of proposed Directors at least one week before the annual meeting.*"

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act to Appoint Commissioner Pohlman to Serve as a Director on the Board of the Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA), and as a Director on the Board of Maine County Commissioners Association (MCCA) Self-Funded Risk Management Pool for 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meriwether. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to have Administrator Hart serve as Proxy Director on the Board of Maine County Commissioners Association MCCA, and as a Proxy Director on the Board of Maine County Commissioners Association MCCA Self-funded Risk Management Pool for 2023 in the absence of Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

V. Discussion Items

1. **Discussion of Solar Project at the Airport**

- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Solar panels are not readily available in the United States. Revision Energy let us know last week that they cannot provide a Tier 1 manufacturer company to provide us panels. Tier 1 means the company has been in business for five (5) years or more. They do not want to use a Tier 2 company, which means that company has been in business less than five (5) years. The discussion right now is that Provision would like to have Power Purchase option. The other option is (which was discussed with the FAA yesterday) because we used CARES Act funding we could go to the next bidder which was Pine Tree Solar. They are able to do the Tier 2 panel and they would be able to (inaudible). This is a beneficial project for the Airport as it would generate another \$80,000 in revenue and pay all of our power cost. We just wanted to let you

know what was going on with that. There are some changes that will be coming and we will bring those before the Commission.

- **Administrator Hart** – At this point we don't know if we are remaining with Revision Energy.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – At a future meeting we will have to make a decision if the County chooses to go forward with their proposal for a new option or go to the second bidder.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – You said something about a Power Purchase can you explain that?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Yes. It is similar to what other Airports are doing. They are leasing out their land and companies are paying them \$1,000 per acre per year. Here they would invest in the facilities and they would pay us for the power that we generate.
- **Commissioner Parent** – Do we have to reapply to the Town of Owls Head to get permission to do this?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – No. We have an active permit and we have a active Interconnection Agreement. We just need to find someone to purchase the Tier 2 panels. There is no re-permitting.
- **Commissioner Parent** - CMP is about maxed out with the number of Solar facilities around. If they are not able to pick power and redirect it to where the people want to use it then what happens?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – This system will generate all the power the County will need. We have the level two (2) connection approved.
- **Administrator Hart** – If we choose the other option is there anything else we have to do?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Yes. I do not suggest we go that way. We have the money to be able to build that ourselves and reap the benefits of it.
- **Administrator Hart** – So ultimately Revision meets the requirement. That was at a lower cost.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Correct. Pine Tree Solar's cost is \$1.2 million and Revision Energy's cost is \$1.8 million.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – Tier 2 panel is based on the age of the company producing it. It sounds like Revision does not want to buy panels from a company that has been in business for less than five (5) years. Why would we want to take a risk if Revision does not want to take the risk?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Pine Tree Solar does this all the time.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – There is a risk and I tend to be conservative. I am going to turn to our Finance Director and say, “ with everything we have done with CARES Act money in the last couple of years that's going to be revenue generating do we really need this that much that we should be taking on any risk of installing with something that Revision won't do.”
- **Finance Director Robinson** – This is very hard to answer. We have been very public with pursuing solar and that we are going to make that one of our projects. Revision cannot meet what our guidelines are. In their capacity they just cannot meet what FAA is saying they need to meet. This means in my eyes that the vendor may not be the best fit for this project.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – We could also finance the project with County funds, and we could still do it with Tier 1 panels, we just cannot use CARES Act money. So that would free up \$1.9 million dollars of CARES Act. We could use money out of Undesignated surplus.
- **Finance Director Robinson** – That is an option.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – So Revision could do the installation if we were not using CARES Act dollars because of the restrictions of the CARES Act.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – If we use County revenue the Airport saved over the last three (3) years and will save over the next year then we could pay for that out of the County revenue. It would just not be reimbursed by the government.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – Our objective is to be good neighbors, and provide an Airport that is self-sustaining. It seems like we have been trying to use a significant amount of money from CARES Act to be putting into generating revenue generating projects. Do we really need solar? The Airport will be self-sustaining for a very long time.
- **Finance Director Robinson** – I have not done a projection over the next twenty-five (25) years. Anything that we can do for a project that will be revenue generating is a benefit. The Solar will benefit other departments and our cost will go down. This will be the only project that will benefit across the whole County.

- **Commissioner Meriwether** – I certainly agree with the use of solar energy for anything to cut down burning fossil fuels. I am concerned that to use lesser quality equipment or potentially less well known equipment. If it fails then we have a cleanup job and that just makes me nervous.
- **Administrator Hart** – (Inaudible) We have two (2) projects right now; one (1) Solar for \$1.8 million and the other is Charging Station for Aircraft and Vehicles. With the Airport projects some could come in at more than what the original amount was projected because of unrelated events or unrelated costs that seem to come up. There was a discussion with Jim Katsiaficas about it. We had a lot of Amended Budget meetings because of Airport items because things changed with the FAA. The question was with current money we have would it make sense to increase it so we don't have to have future Joint Budget Meetings to amend it and just increase it by a percentage so it covers it. I wanted to discuss that with the three (3) of you to see if you supported that and then we would discuss it tonight with the Budget Committee and Commission. We have \$1.8 million for the Solar Project. If we stayed with Revision I thought it might make sense to increase the amount by 25 % which would bring the amount up to \$2.25 million. This would allow us the flexibility if it did increase and that way we would not have to have another meeting.
- **Commissioner Parent** – Solar is a great tool and I welcome the idea of Solar. Do we need it? Not as long as CMP is in business but why not save money where you can?
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – The two (2) specific questions is any concern about the CARES Act requirement of reaching 60% by American, and Revision not being willing to do that because they are not willing to buy Tier 2, and supporting increasing the Budget to prevent having to Does the Tier 2 make any concerns for you Commissioner Parent? Revision cannot satisfy the requirement for CARES Act for 60% of panels to come from American made. We would either have to fund it through Undesignated Fund Balance to keep Revision or go to the next bidder, Pine Tree Solar at a lower bid. They can satisfy the CARES requirements by purchasing panels from a Tier 2 company. Does any of that hold any concern for you? My stated concern is it seems Revision is holding their job to a higher standard than Pine Tree. They are not willing to compromise.
- **Commissioner Parent** – Does anyone know anything about Pine Tree. If we go with Revision then the County pays the whole tab and does not receive any reimbursement, correct.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – There are two (2) possibilities – or we pay using the Undesignated Surplus, which is just a different funding pool. Our projected power use this year at the Airport is \$50,000. If we own the electricity then our cost saving will be \$50,000. If we lease our property to Revision we would benefit maybe \$5,000.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – If we own the electricity then the benefit cost saving would be about \$50,000. If we lease the property to Revision then our benefit would be maybe \$5,000. Have we allocated \$1.8 million from CARES Act funding to this project?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Yes we have.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – So if we bump it to \$2.25 million where is that 25% differential coming from?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – We have approximately \$600,000 from CARES Act remaining that is undesignated. We tried to scale things down but FAA will not let us. We need to move forward as planned.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – If we still bump it up (25% increase) we still have the problem of meeting the requirement that 60% needs to be Tier 1. Isn't there any way to do 60% of Buy American and 40% of something else?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – We tried. We tried to get them to scale the project down so all of our landscaping, fences, all of the mounting, the electrical equipment and scale the Solar panels down but the FAA will not allow that. They say we have to build it as designed.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – So if 60% needs to be Buy American then we could only use the money in the CARES Act up to that 60%.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – No we can't use any of it
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – It's all or nothing?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Yes.

- **Commissioner Meriwether** – So there is about a \$60,000 savings from our electrical usage in the County, but how much revenue are we anticipating above that?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** - \$80,000 is projected.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – So there is going to be about \$20,000 of electricity that can we can sell to So. Thomaston
- **Airport Manager Shaw** –Yes. It’s one of the few projects that have been approved by the Town of Owls Head and not been appealed.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – Did Pine Tree ever present to us?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – We had four (4) bids to us this time. The selection committee was APAC, and they provided you with packets. Pine Tree has never done a presentation.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – Pine Tree was not a close second. Both times the APAC came out emphatically in favor of Revision. What Jeremy said was the Tier 2 classification means the company has not been in business in the United States for five (5) years. In percentage terms, using Undesignated Fund Balance to do the project with Revision, what percentage or how much this would drop our Undesignated Fund Balance for the Airport?
- **Finance Director Robinson** – I can get that info for you.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – What are our options?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – Option one (1) is to continue with Revision and have them fund the project and we do a Power Purchase with them. Option two (2) is continue with Revision but we pay for the project out of Undesignated Surplus vs .CARES Act. This will then increase CARES Act to \$2.4 million. Option three (3) is to follow the FAA guidance and select the second highest bidder for a lower amount.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – My sense is that no one is enthusiastic about doing the Power Purchase.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** - Agreed.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – We are already doing Benner Lane through Undesignated Fund Balance which is originally intended as CARES. And now we are talking about the possibility of doing the Solar through undesignated Fund Balance. Are those basically the only two (2) projects that are coming out of Surplus?
- **Finance Director Robinson** – The car chargers will come out as well. Any time we are doing an AIP project we are still responsible for 5% of that project or any costs that do not fit the criteria.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – Do we have solid numbers on maintenance costs for the pieces of equipment we have purchased for the Airport.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** - We have a new runway broom, excavator and compact tractor. We are under warrantee for a few years, and it’s probably going to be less that what we had when we kept fixing old equipment.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – We do not want to deplete the Undesignated Funds to fund the Solar Project. Could the money that we designate for the charging stations through the Undesignated Funds Balance could we use CARES Act for that?
- **Finance Director Robinson** – They were originally listed that way and we had to shift the funding source.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – Why?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – The FAA has not caught up tot technology yet. Things have to be AIP eligible to use CARES Act.
- **Commissioner Parent** – He feels we need to have a meeting with Pine Tree Solar. To find out how reputable they are.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – There is an APAC meeting happening next week can you get them to talk to APAC first?
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – The most prudent course of action is we need to talk with our legal department first. If Revision is unable to perform their contract as they said they would by (inaudible) By American, then I think legal has to weigh in on that. In December of 2022 we signed a two (2) year agreement with Revision that they had the exclusivity for that project. That way legal could give guidance on how to move forward.

- **Commissioner Meriwether** – Time is of the essence. If you talk to legal and they give you guidance and they tell you it's ok to talk to Pine Tree you need to get that to APAC somehow.
- **Airport Manager Shaw** – It's on the Agenda for APAC. The meeting is scheduled for December 14th.

2. **Updated on Correctional Facility HVAC Project**

- We have continued with Phase 4. Finding there is some trouble shooting items as we are transitioning in temperature.

3. **Other Items**

- Paving at Jail & Public Safety Building we have decided to hold off for a bit. This is due to the weather temperature concern. The Vendor is extremely busy right now, and have decided we will start this project in the Spring of 2023. Brick replacement will take place in Spring as well. We did receive a cost savings by delaying until Spring. We were able to add a few additional items at no additional cost to the County.

VI. Other Business:

- Administrator Hart forwarded an email to the Commission he received from Carrie Kipfer, the Administrator from Lincoln County about a mutual Broadband partnership. Lincoln County, through their planning office, submitting an application to Maine Connectivity Authority to become a regional partner expanding Broadband and Digital inclusion. They will have a County outreach at local levels and education. She reached out to Knox County and Sagadahoc County to see if we were interested in writing a letter of support. A sample letter of support was sent and he let Carrie know he would be discussion it with you today.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – Does that include the Islands of Vinalhaven, North Haven, Matinicus, and Isle au Haut?
- **Administrator Hart** – She said it included all of Knox County with the exception of the Island Towns and St. George (inaudible).
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – So I presume the Island Towns are going to benefit some way through the connection of the Island Institute?
- **Administrator Hart** – Correct. Are you all ok if I send the letter of support?
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – I feel that anything we can do to help provide our Communities with the Broadband service then I absolutely support that.
- **Commissioner Parent** – I agree.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – I absolutely agree too. Village Soup says that MidCoast Internet Coalition is still planning on moving ahead. I assume that is Rockport and Camden?
- **Administrator Hart** – Yes. Also Rockland and a couple other Towns.
- **Commissioner Meriwether** – They pulled St. George out, why?
- **Administrator Hart** – All she said to me was the Island Institute has a separate application that includes the Island Towns and St. George.

Adjourn

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 3:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Galvin
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission will approve these minutes at their regular meeting held on December 13, 2022.