

# KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

## Special Meeting

Tuesday – August 29, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.

The Special Meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 9:00 A.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 (*arrived at 9:19 A.M.*) and Sharon L. Pohlman Commissioner District #3 (*arrived at 9:15 A.M.*).

**County staff present included:** County Administrator Andrew Hart, Administrative Assistant Wendy Galvin, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, HR Manager Amber Christie and Sheriff Patrick Polky.

**Absent:** EMA Director Candice Richards, Security & Operations Coordinator Shawn Wallace, Chief Deputy Curt Andrick, Patrol Administrator Paul Pinkham, Jail Administrator Robert Wood, Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw, Communications Director Robert Coombs, Prosecutorial Assistant/Investigator Shane Riley, Register of Probate Elaine Hallett, Register of Deeds Madelene Cole, and District Attorney Natasha Irving.

**Others:** Knox County Attorney Peter Marchesi and Steve Betts, Reporter for Village Soup/Courier Gazette

### Special Meeting – Agenda

Tuesday – August 29, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.

**Town Hall Streams link:**

[https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location\\_id=50&id=54609](https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=50&id=54609)

- I. 9:00 Meeting Called to Order**
- II. 9:01 Public Comment**
- III. 9:05 Executive Session**
  - 1. Convene in Executive Session for Consultations with Legal Counsel Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E).
- IV. 9:25 Action Item**
  - 1. Act on Approval of a Litigation Settlement.
  - 2. Act on Approval of an Amendment to Section 4.3 of the County of Knox Personnel Policy Handbook.
  - 3. Act on Approval of an Amendment to Section 6.1.3 of the County of Knox Personnel Policy Handbook.
- V. 9:35 Discussion Items**
  - 1. Personnel Updates
  - 2. Other Topics
  - 3. Scheduling of Additional Meetings as Needed.
- VI. Adjourn**

### **I. Meeting Called to Order**

Commissioner Glaser called the Special Meeting of the Knox County Commission to order at 9:20 A.M.

- ### **II. Public Comment - Public Comment during other portions of the meeting will only be granted by permission of the Chair.**
- None**

### **III. Executive Session**

1. Convene in Executive Session for Consultations with Legal Counsel Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E).

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to go into Executive Session for Consultations with Legal Counsel Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

The executive session convened at 9:12 A.M.

The executive session concluded at 10:47 A.M.

1. **Act on Approval of a Litigation Settlement.**

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to Act on Approval of a Litigation Settlement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

2. **Act on Approval of an Amendment to Section 4.3 of the County of Knox Personnel Policy Handbook**

- *A motion was made by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ to Act on Approval of an Amendment to Section 4.3 of the County of Knox Personnel Policy Handbook. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_. No motions and no actions were made per County Attorney Peter Marchesi.*

3. **Act on Approval of an Amendment to Section 6.1.3 of The County of Knox Personnel Policy Handbook.**

- *A motion was made by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ to Act to Act on Approval of an Amendment to Section 6.1.3 of the county of Knox Personnel Policy Handbook. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_. No motions and no actions were made per County Attorney Peter Marchesi.*

**Discussion**

- **Sheriff Polky** – Is available for questions, specifically for Communications.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – You have been sending out daily updates to the fire, police and other law enforcement in the County. I hope they are sharing these with their Town Managers and Selectboards to show that they are also apprised of all the work that is going on behind the scenes to make things happen. I would ask that if it's possible for us to send them directly to the Town Managers or the Selectboards because I watched the Rockport meeting last night and apparently, they were not aware.
- **Sheriff Polky** – I am up to 70 something recipients at this point. That does include service Chiefs, Town Managers and Selectboard members from various towns. I hope that they are sharing those but if not, it is ok to share. that I have to send it out to.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – Is John Duke, Town Manager of Rockport on that list?
- **Sheriff Polky** – He is not, but the Fire Chief and Police Chief are on the list.
- **Commissioner Pohlman** – I do not believe that John Duke or Selectboard were aware of those, for whatever reason. If we could send it to them and Camden as well that would be great.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – I gave the Camden Selectboard names for this.
- **Sheriff Polky** – Any email addresses I will add to the list.

- **Commissioner Glaser** – Call volume.....are we seeing about the same number of calls beforehand?
- **Sheriff Polky** – Without the 911 it makes it a little more difficult. This will take a little more time to see the same amount as far as what's being dispatched. I won't be able to get any 911 numbers until the Director of the Waldo dispatch center returns as he is on vacation. We should be able to run those numbers today to at least give what it looks like roughly last week.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – Just sort of an idea for people, what's the percentage more that come in as 911 calls vs. wind up being dispatched. Are there dispatches that come from anything other than 911?
- **Sheriff Polky** – The answer is yes. The numbers I'll have to work on. The issue is our phone system, that is an older system that is going to be unsupported. So, we will eventually have to transition to a more modern phone system. It makes it hard for us to count the actual phone calls. We will have to (inaudible) records system to try to figure that out.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – There was some discussion of needing to update our server to accommodate the new software. Are we moving ahead on that at all?
- **Sheriff Polky** – Yes. The quote actually came in below expectation. We are moving quickly for fear that the price may change if we don't move within thirty (30) days. That project is expected to start now, and will take about three (3) weeks to be final.
- **Commissioner Glaser** – About how much money is that going to cost us?
- **Sheriff Polky** – We thought it was going to be around \$70,000. At the moment we are looking at between \$30,000 -\$50,000. There are a couple other items that didn't get put in the original quote, one of the three products that we need, so we're just waiting for word to come back to get the final numbers on that project.

### 1. Personnel Updates:

**Sheriff Polky –Corrections** - Corrections is still at the same point. I sent you all an email discussing that we aren't getting any forward progress in recruiting and retaining, that perhaps we look at a similar thing with Corrections. Do we have an amended emergency wage prior to the coming years budget? Just to maybe see if that can get us an influx of staff because our many are in the same boat as Dispatch. Many are working 5/6 days, 12 hours a day, lucky to get one (1) day off and being mandated multiple times. A recipe to be heading down the same path if we do not do something now.

**Patrol** – Yes, there is a few vacancies there. We don't see any further losses at the moment. I think if negotiations continue to go well, we will be in a better position there. I feel that some are just waiting to see what happens.

### 2. Other Topics:

None

### 3. Scheduling of Additional Meetings as Needed:

None

## III. Adjourn

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

The special meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Galvin  
Administrative Assistant

**The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on September 12, 2023.**