

**The County of Cumberland is committed to providing quality services to all citizens equitably, in a responsive and caring manner.**

## **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**January 22, 2008**

The Board of Cumberland County Commissioners, Esther B. Clenott, Richard J. Feeney, and Malory Shaughnessy convened a meeting at the Cumberland County Courthouse in the Peter J. Feeney conference room.

Chairman Clenott called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM and the following business was conducted.

Minutes of the Cumberland County Commissioners Regular Meeting of December 17, 2007 and the Special Commissioners Meeting of January 16, 2008 were read and both were approved unanimously.

#### **Comments from the County Manager:**

Peter Crichton, County Manager, reported on 2 items. 1) The finance director and the county manager have been reviewing the governor's plan for the takeover of the county jails. Governor Baldacci has not included Department of Corrections funding for county jails in his supplemental budget which leaves a budgetary whole of \$1 million for Cumberland County's current fiscal year. If nothing else changes during the special legislative session this represents a major shift onto the local property taxpayers. The county manager can't begin to imagine how we would be able to address this fiscal change without having a large number of very difficult decisions. Mr. Crichton believes the county needs to start taking some financial precautions with the budget just recently approved in December of last year. A very important event will be the hearing held on Monday, January 28th when the Governor's Bill is heard before the Criminal Justice/Public Safety Committee. The finance director explained that \$1 million is received in July of each year. From a budgetary point of view, with the elimination of the DOC funds we are losing \$800,000 in non-tax revenues and \$200,000 in community correction funds which is currently being utilized for Maine Pre-Trial Services to help divert people from the jail helping to save taxpayers annually hundreds of thousands of dollars.

2) The county manager provided an update on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Prescription Card Program that Elizabeth Trice, Grants/Special Projects Coordinator, reported on several weeks ago. As a member of NACo, Cumberland County is eligible to participate in their prescription drug program that they have established through an agreement with Caremark as a benefit to their more than 2,000 counties. This allows citizens to be able to receive a 20% discount off their retail price at the participating pharmacies. In Penobscot County

last year over 200 people used the cards each month and saved a total of over \$47,000. We are looking now to implement the program. Cards are being dropped off at town offices, non-profit organizations and the participating pharmacies.

**Comments from the Commissioners:**

**Commissioner Feeney:**

Commissioner Feeney reported on 2 items: 1) He read a portion of a letter from Gorham Fire Chief Bob Lefebvre who reported there was a power loss in Gorham to the extent that some of the elevators at USM were shut down and students were trapped in the elevators. The Chief indicated there had been several emergencies within the last few weeks and the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center's staff has stepped up to the plate and performed above and beyond. Once again, he feels that Gorham's consolidation with the County Communications Center was a wise and beneficial move. 2) The Cumberland County Civic Center events income was \$12,178 over budget for the month of December, which is from the John Mellencamp concert and some of the Pirates games. Municipalities should be interested to know that the Civic Center has booked 220 hours for local hockey teams. They have also made donations, such as Bonny Eagle High School with 8 tickets for a Pirates game for their Project Graduation Auction. Each year it is the responsibility of the Commissioners to appoint members to the Board of Trustees to the Civic Center. The 2008 appointments are Neal Pratt of Scarborough, Mark Maroon of Scarborough and Gary Plummer of Windham.

**Commissioner Shaughnessy:**

Commissioner Shaughnessy commented on 4 items. 1) With regard to the prescription card program, she saw an ad in the newspaper and hopes folks take advantage of this program. 2) She congratulated the Town of Harpswell on their 250th year anniversary and the Commissioners will be presenting them with a proclamation on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Harpswell Meeting House Route 123. 3) Two Maine towns, Sebago and Oakland, have received grants from the Department of Homeland Securities Federal Emergency Management Assistant Program. 4) Windham Fire Chief Charlie Hammond was recently appointed to the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center Advisory Board and appreciation is extended for the time and effort devoted to the Board by all its Trustees, as well as a special appreciation to Debbie Plummer for her years of service.

**Chairperson Clenott:**

Chairperson Clenott reported at 10:00 AM on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> the Criminal Justice Committee and the Public Safety Committee will be listening to three plans: Governor Baldacci's Plan, the plan by the Department of Corrections and the plan being put forward by the Maine County Commissioners and Sheriff's Departments. We are very concerned and it is important the citizens and media understands. If we were just talking about finances, the Governors plan and the DOC plan would cost us millions of dollars, it would increase property tax. The fact is that the Sheriff's and County Commissioners feel that the jail should be run by county officials. We are the ones who have inmates who when sentenced sometimes are only in jail for 9 months, they belong in their own facility where we can give them the services they need. At the present time, we are working to unify the various county jails so we can offer

services together, as well as coordinate transportation and bed needs. So Monday is an extremely important day.

### **Informational Item**

Chairperson Clenott asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, she proceeded to the Action Items.

Action Items:

**08 – 003      Approval, MCCA Risk Pool 2008 Assessment – Robert Howe,  
Administrator MCCA Risk Pool**

Chairperson Clenott asked the County Manager for comments. The County Manager indicated that Robert Howe was unable to attend the meeting tonight and therefore it should be TABLED.

**Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to TABLE Item 08-003 until the meeting on Monday, January 28, 2008. Commissioner Feeney seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 004      Approval, 2008 Vehicle Bids (Ford Police Interceptor Crown  
Victoria's)**

Chairperson Clenott asked Captain Don Goulet to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Captain Goulet reported they are in the process of buying cars for 2008. An RFP went out on the 2008 Cruisers for both the Law Enforcement Center and the Jail, as well as the 2 contract Towns of Standish and Harpswell for a total of 7 cruisers, which the towns pay for as part of their contract. Three Bids were returned: Quirk Ford @ \$21,128.00/per cruiser; Casco Bay Ford @ \$21,385.00/per cruiser and MHQ Municipal Vehicles @ \$22,094.00/per cruiser. The 2008 budget reflects a cost of \$26,000/per cruiser that includes both the cost of the purchase of the cruiser and the equipment upgrades and needed equipment purchases, along with the set-up costs. The total cost is \$147,896.00 for 7 cruisers (4 LEC, 1 Jail, 1 Standish Contract and 1 Harpswell Contract) to Quirk Ford of Augusta (lowest bid) for the amount of \$21,128.00/per cruiser. A discussion followed.

**Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners approve and authorize the purchase of 7 cruisers (4 LEC, 1 Jail, 1 Standish Contract and 1 Harpswell Contract) to Quirk Ford of Augusta which is the lowest bid in the amount of \$21,128.00/per vehicle for a total of \$147,896.00. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 005 Approval, 2008 Vehicle Bids (Ford Police 4 WD Expedition, 4-Door Special Services Vehicle - SSV)**

Chairperson Clenott asked Captain Goulet to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Captain Goulet reported through the last few budget processes the Sheriff, Chief Deputy and Captain Goulet had brought before the Commissioners a request for 4WD SSVs. Currently, we have 2 on the streets. It is hoped to outfit all 4 of the road supervisors with SSVs. The SSVs has more space and can carry the road supervisors' equipment better than a regular cruiser. An RFP went out for the 2008 Ford Expedition 4-WD, 4-Door SSV. Three Bids were returned: Casco Bay Ford @ \$25,229.00/per SSV, Quirk Ford @ \$25,717.80/per SSV and MHQ Municipal Vehicles @ \$26,617.00/per SSV. The Bids are within what has been budgeted. The 2008 budget reflects a cost of \$29,000/per SSV, that includes both the cost of the purchase of the cruiser, the equipment upgrades and needed equipment purchase, along with the set-up costs. A discussion followed.

**Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion that the Commissioners approve and authorize the purchase of 1 Ford Expedition 4WD SSV at Casco Bay Ford which was the lowest bid and to outfit it and upgrade it for \$25,229.00. Commissioner Feeney seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 006 Approval, 2008 Vehicle Bids (Admin. Vehicle)**

Chairperson Clenott asked Captain Goulet to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Captain Goulet reported this request is for an administrative vehicle which will replace the Sheriff's unmarked car. An RFP went out for the 2008 Chevy Impala 9C3 (Administrative vehicle). Two Bids were returned on time: Quirk Chevy (Ford) @ \$19,864.50/per vehicle and Sebago Lake Chevy @ \$19,999.00/per vehicle. The Bids are within what has been budgeted. A late bid from Walker Chevy of Kezar Falls did not meet the bid requirements. The 2008 budget reflects a cost of \$22,000/per vehicle, that includes both the cost of the purchase of the cruiser, the equipment upgrades and needed equipment purchase, along with the set-up costs. A discussion followed.

**Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners approve and authorize the purchase of 1 Chevy Impala 9C3 to Quirk Chevy of Augusta which is the lowest bid for the amount of \$19,864.50. Seconded by Commissioner Shaughnessy. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 007 Approval, Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office Commissions Who Serve at the University of Maine Campus.**

Chairperson Clenott asked for a Motion.

**Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to accept the commissions for the following officers who serve at the University of Maine Campus: Lisa M. Beecher, Penny A. Belanger, Christine M. Buchanan, Kevin J. Conger, Timothy G. Farr, Timothy A. Farwell, Sandy E. Mailman, Sullivan J. Rizzo, Ronald G. Saindon, Jeffrey M. Soper, William M. Soper, James S. Stanhope, Russell N. Swann, Richard V. Taylor, Rebecca L. Towne and Andrew R. York. Commissioner Feeney seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 008 Approval, Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office Commission Renewals**

Chairperson Clenott asked for a Motion.

**Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to accept the renewal commissions for the following officers: James Ambrose, CCSO; Wayne Coffin, Gorham PD; James Cook, Windham PD, John Cross, CCSO; Wayne R. Drown, Gorham PD; Lawrence Fearon, Gorham PD; Scot Jordan, Corrections; Robert McCormack, Corrections; Robert Merritt, Cape Elizabeth PD; Benjamin Moreland, Gorham PD; Christopher Sanborn, Gorham PD; Scott Secord, Corrections; Ronald Shepard, Gorham PD and Alfred Winslow, CCSO. Commissioner Feeney seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

There being no further business Commissioner Feeney made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

ATTEST:

Barbara M. Buckley  
Deputy Clerk

The next regular Commissioners meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on Monday, January 28, 2008, in the Peter J. Feeney Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Annex, at the Cumberland County Courthouse.