

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

## **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**June 23, 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.

Chairperson Clenott called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the following business was conducted.

Minutes of the Cumberland County Commissioners Regular Meeting of June 9, 2008 were read and were approved unanimously.

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

Peter Crichton, County Manager, commented on the issue of energy. We are looking internally and externally at what county government can do. He has had conversations with Sheriff Dion and other individuals who represent the Extension Service and the Threshold to Maine, which are organizations concerned about the communities. We are working on this issue and want to try and help bring some people together to have a dialogue about what we can do to help the citizens of Cumberland County.

He asked Major Francine Breton to address the amendment to the contract for Special Services between the State of Maine, Department of Corrections and the County of Cumberland. Major Breton indicated that she has had meetings with Ralph Nichols of the Department of Corrections discussing last year's contract agreeing to take State prisoners in at the County Jail. They have asked for an amendment to extend the contract to June 30, 2009 with a few minor changes; the timing of transportation of the prisoners, taking 20 prisoners including females and holding two (2) female beds in the Cumberland County Pre-Release Center. The DOC agrees to pay the Sheriff \$20 per bed. The Commissioners agreed to the amended contract which was signed by Board Chair Esther Clenott.

#### **Comments from the Commissioners:**

Commissioner Shaughnessy reported the Commissioners had a very informative discussion earlier at the Commissioners' workshop regarding medical management of addictions,

current best practices and legal ramifications of various policies at the County Jail with Major Fran Breton, Sheriff Dion, Mark Publicker, Mercy Recovery and Zach Heiden, Maine Civic Liberties Union. It was a great discussion and we will be exploring various options to move forward.

**Commissioner Feeney:**

Commissioner Feeney reported that on June 16<sup>th</sup> the County held its annual Peter Feeney Golf Tournament at Sable Oaks Golf Course. The charity this year that will receive the proceeds is Gary's House, which is located on State Street. He expressed gratitude to all the people who helped organize the event and to the 130 golfers who raised approximately \$4,500. Each year the golf tournament raises funds for a charity in memory of Commissioner Feeney's son, Peter, who was a County Commissioner.

**Chairperson Clenott:**

Chairperson Clenott commented she had attended several meetings this past week. One of the meetings was with Community Partners which is a small group of people who have been recipients of County funding from the County Human Services. They have banded together to assist county government. They are a fantastic group, who has planned a legislative breakfast and meetings with municipal leaders. Another meeting was with the Greater Portland Council of Governments, where the County received two awards; one for the Forensic Lab and the other for the Municipal Oversight Committee, which is a portion of the Community Development Block Grant Program for the work in Freeport.

**Comments from the Public:**

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

**Informational Item**

Chairperson Clenott asked former County Commissioner Gary Plummer to come forth and receive his plaque from the Maine County Commissioners Association for his years of dedicated service from January 1983 to December 2004. He is presently a State Legislator. Representative Plummer expressed his gratitude for serving the citizens of Cumberland County and will remain friends with County Government.

Chairperson Clenott asked that the Action Items be presented.

**Action Items:**

**08 – 079      Approval, Maine Pretrial Service Contract, General Case Management and Specialized Mental Health Case Management**

Chairperson Clenott asked that the item be presented by Genie Beaulieu, Fiscal Officer of the Sheriff's Office and Elizabeth Simoni, Executive Director of Maine Pretrial Services. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

The County Manager indicated we had hoped to have enough time do something collaboratively with the counties involved and bring a unified contract before the Commissioners' meeting tonight. It is a lot to organize and hopefully over the next few months as we talk with the counties we will work on this unified jail system and we will be able to find an opportunity to do more things collaboratively with Maine Pretrial Services.

Ms. Beaulieu reported since 2001, the Sheriff's Office has had a contract with Maine Pretrial Service to provide a pretrial diversion program for inmates at the Cumberland County Jail. Effective with the 2006-07 agreement pretrial services a mental health case management component was added. The contract with Maine Pretrial Services has 2 FTE case managers, forty hours of supervision, and 1 FTE mental health case manager. The agreement budget is \$234,857 which represents a 3% increase over 2007-2008 and is from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. None of this money comes from funds, it is paid 100% through adult diversion funds which the County receives from the Maine Department of Corrections.

Ms. Simoni thanked the Commissioners and the County Manager for the privilege of coming before them and having the County work collaboratively with Maine Pretrial Services. Ms. Simoni gave a brief report and indicated that compared to last year they have screened, bailed, and supervised more people. Of the 301 people that came out of jail, only 2 people failed to appear for court, which exceeds the national average. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Simoni for her dedication and for her working with us up in Augusta when we were going before the Department of Corrections and the Criminal Justice Committee. A discussion followed.

**Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners approve the 2008-09 option extension with Maine Pretrial Services to provide pretrial services and mental health case management. Further, that the Agreement period run from July 1, 2008 through JA. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 080      Approval, Letter of Intent to Purchase Property at 1000  
Congress Street**

Chairperson Clenott asked Assistant Manager Bill Whitten to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

The Assistant Manager reported in both 2001 and 2006 strategic plans space needs for the County was recognized as a major priority. Over the past several years all sorts of methods have been implemented to accommodate continued growth, including the attempt to build a large commercial property in conjunction with the Boulos Company adjacent to the Courthouse. This project would have included about 10,000 sq feet for County use at a cost in excess of \$1.5 million. Most means of growth have been exercised and the Boulos project did not work out due to tenant rentals. In view of this background, the building at 1000 Congress Street, adjacent to County property at the site of the County jail, has become available. Purchasing the piece of property, which is approximately 9,500 sq ft of warehouse and office space could provide us the opportunity for anticipated growth for many years, at a cost of \$440,000, plus additional "fit up" costs, depending on usage. The approval and signing of this Letter of Intent has minimal fiscal impact, other than the cost of "due diligence" by staff and attorneys to research uses, restrictions

and lease agreement negotiations. A full lease and purchase and sale agreement will be presented within 60 days. A discussion followed.

**Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion that the Commissioners approve the signature of the Letter of Intent to lease with the option to purchase the property located at 1000 Congress Street with the understanding that it is not a purchase and sale agreement but the agreement to continue the pursuit of an agreement for the lease/purchase of the property. Commissioner Feeney seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 081 Approval, County Wide Portable/Mobile Radio Bid**

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

The Assistant Manager reported as a part of the County’s endeavor for radio interoperability and the major County bid process for a new radio system, a separate portion of the bid was offered to enable all County municipalities access to a special purchase price for mobile and portable radios. Most municipalities purchase radios on an annual basis, generally at prices based on their own purchasing power and numbers purchased. Because we are out to bid for the major “system overhaul”, it was decided we could leverage that with radio purchases, and by combining resources, could acquire a better price based on volume. To that end, we received five vendor bids. Our consultant, Kimball & Associates reviewed the bids and determined the best price and quality radio. This was also approved by the County radio technical committee and the CCRCC Board of Directors.

At this time there is no fiscal impact to the County. This request is for approval of a three year bid price which is available to the County and all municipalities within the County. It is recommended that the commissioners accept the recommendation of J. Robert Kimball & Associates. The best value offered is the Kenwood from the local dealer (RCM). They are P-25 ready, meet the specifications, have local support, and have been used and accepted by your local Public Safety agencies. A discussion followed.

**Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion that the Commissioners accept the recommendation of Robert Kimball & Associates, being that they are recommending this best value we can get, and the Commissioners then directed the Assistant Manager to acquire the document that the Commissioners will sign locking these prices into place with Kenwood (RCM). Commissioner Feeney seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**08 – 082 Approval, Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office Commissioners – New, Renewals and Revocations**

Chairperson Clenott asked Commissioner Feeney for a Motion.

**Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners accept the names for new commissions, renewal commissions and revocation of commissions as submitted by Sheriff Dion dated June 5, 2008. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.**

**There being no further business Commissioner Feeney made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the MOTION. All voted unanimously.**

ATTEST:

Barbara M. Buckley  
Deputy Clerk

**The next regular Commissioners meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 28, 2008 in the Town of Gray at the Stimson Hall, 4 Shaker Road**