

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

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES

September 22, 2008

The Board of Cumberland County Commissioners, Esther B. Clenott and Richard J. Feeney, convened a meeting at the Cumberland County Courthouse in the Peter J. Feeney Conference Room. Commissioner Shaughnessy was on a business trip.

Chairperson Clenott called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and the following business was conducted.

Minutes of the Cumberland County Commissioners Regular Meeting of September 8, 2008 were read and were approved unanimously.

Comments from the County Manager:

The County Manager reported he would defer his time to the Assistant County Manager Bill Whitten for updates.

Mr. Whitten reported on the following updates:

1. The Radio Microwave System that has been discussed for the past two years will finally come to fruition. There will be a special meeting next week to get approval for the winning bidder on the project. He stated the completion date will be January of next year.
2. We are looking at new portable and mobile radios for the Sheriff Department.
3. We have also received some grant funding through the Emergency Management Agency to help communities hook into the microwave system. We may be able to save money if we do it in conjunction with the building of the system and use the grant money to build it by utilizing the same people to install two microwaves instead of just one microwave and consolidate the construction project.
4. The Civic Center Task Force is in the process of discussing future renovations and expansion plans.
5. Assessing Project is moving forward. There has been interest from town managers that they want the County not only to do assessing but have the County do the billing and tax collections in the future.

6. The County Partners are planning on having a legislative breakfast on December 1st. There will be a meeting at Pineland in Gray on October 15 at 8:00 AM with municipal officials to discuss their needs and we will take that information and present it before the legislators.
7. The 1000 Congress Street property is on hold because there are some environmental items that need to be addressed which the owner will need to take care of before we proceed further.

Comments from the Commissioners:

Commissioner Feeney:

Commissioner Feeney read a letter addressed to Sheriff Dion from the Town of Chebeague Island acknowledging the outstanding service provided to them by Deputy Scott Secord. Deputy Secord and his family live on the island during the summer months which enables him to better respond to the needs of the community. The Commissioners expressed their recognition of Deputy Secord's service.

With regard to the renovations to the Civic Center at a cost of \$41 million and the increase to seating capacity of 684, it was his hope that the seating capacity would be more like 2,000 additional seats. As stated at the last meeting two of the big acts that are not coming back which the Civic Center relies on for revenue are the Trans Siberian Orchestra and American Idol. The acts are playing to capacities of 12,000 or better and the Civic Center only holds 6,000 people. The Task Force will meet again to discuss the project.

Chairperson Clenott:

Chairperson Clenott expressed her point of view with regard to the Civic Center. She thinks the additional 684 seats and changing the Civic Center amenities to make it more attractive and palatable to customers would keep the attendance up. She feels the Civic Center should stay in Portland and they should move ahead with the renovations.

Commissioner Shaughnessy

Commissioner Shaughnessy was on a business trip.

Comments from the Public:

Chairperson Clenott asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, we moved onto the Action Items.

Chairperson Clenott asked that the Action Items be presented.

Action Items:

08 – 105 Approval, Registry of Deeds – Charging Copy Fee for Printing Indexes

Chairperson Clenott asked Pam Lovley, Register of Deeds, to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Ms. Lovley reported before 2002 the Registry of Deeds charged \$1.50 per page for printing the indexes. In 2002, ACS installed new computers and at that time (and no one knows exactly why) charging for the index copies ceased. The definition of an index page is when an abstractor is conducting a title search and they need to print a copy of a list of the documents of the record owner. With the rising cost of supplies, the public should be charged \$1.50 per page the same as they do for copies for documents. There are other Registry of Deeds that charge similar fees in the State of Maine. There is no fiscal impact to the County. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners approve the recommendation that the Registry of Deeds charge \$1.50 per page for the printing cost for the indexes commencing October 1, 2008. Chairperson Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

08 – 106 Approval, District Attorney's Office – Copier Lease Agreement

Chairperson Clenott asked Tamara Getchell, Business and Communications Coordinator, for the District Attorney's Office to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Ms. Getchell reported there are two main office copiers were leased in 12/04 for a period of 48 months. The lease period is scheduled to expire on February 4, 2009. Currently, there are two copiers which are over 10 years old. During FY '07, the two machines made over 650,000 copies. Because of the large demand on these copiers, any repairs cause a decrease in stall productivity, a backlog of work, wasted paper and high frustration levels. Seacoast Business Machines no longer holds the state contract and they still provide the maintenance, they do not hold the lease on the equipment. A separate corporation Citicorp Vendor Finance, Inc. holds our equipment leases. Because of this, we incur a property tax on these copiers even though we are a tax exempt entity. We have an opportunity to replace all four copiers for less than we are currently expending for the two main office copiers. Additionally, IKON Office Solutions, Inc. as part of their proposals will deliver the four copiers by the end of September and will defer billing on the new lease for a period of two months. IKON Office Solutions, Inc. proposes multiple areas of cost savings thus creating a positive fiscal impact. The current lease payment for the two main office copiers is \$901.76/mo plus \$.009¢ per page, \$274.92/yr for insurance and property tax of \$167.70/yr. Under the contract with IKON the two larger copier machine replacements will cost \$527.88/mo plus \$.00449¢ per page, one of the other copiers will cost \$127.56/mo plus \$.0059¢ per page and the final copier will cost \$31.16/mo plus \$.0065¢ per page. Under the new contract, we will not incur insurance or property tax charges. This results in a minimal savings of \$215/mo savings in budget. A discussion followed.

Commissioners Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners direct the County Purchasing Agent to proceed with finalizing the new lease and the lease be signed by the Chairperson. Chairperson Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

08 – 107 Approval, Cumberland County EMA – Public Safety Interoperability Communications (PSIC) Grant Awards

Chairperson Clenott asked Jim Budway, Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency Director, to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Director Budway report the PSIC Grant Applications were previously briefed to the Commissioners on 14 July, 2008 when you approved the Cumberland County submission of four grant applications to the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Sponsors of the grant applications included the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center (CCRCC), the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA), the Cities of Portland and South Portland in a combined submission, and the University of Southern Maine (USM). After working their way through a County and State vetting process, grant applications sponsored by the CCRCC and Portland/South Portland were fully funded, the CCEMA sponsored grant application was partially funded and the USM sponsored grant application was not funded. This will address the enhancement of communications interoperability (the ability to talk between jurisdictions and agencies) for public safety agencies throughout the County. The Award to Cumberland County is \$655,315.50. Of that, the CCRCC will receive \$359,310.00, Portland/South Portland will receive \$236,250.00 and CEMA will receive \$59,755.50. There is no cost to the County. Direction Budway is recommending the Commissioners accept the PSIC award and allow the grant sponsors to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with MEMA to execute the award according to their grant applications. He will sign for the EMA grant, Director Bill Holmes will sign for the Communications grant and Fred LaMontagne from the City of Portland will sign for the Portland/South Portland grant award. The County Manager thanked Director Budway and his staff for their hard work and efforts to help make it possible to receive theses grants. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners accept the Public Safety Interoperability Communications Grant Awards and allow the grant sponsors to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maine Emergency Management Agency to execute the awards according to the grant applications. Chairperson Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

08 – 108 Approval, Cumberland County EMA – Community Animal Response Team (CART) Award.

Chairperson Clenott asked Jim Budway, Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency Director, to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Director Budway reported the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) is poised to stand up a CART comprised of approximately 25 volunteers. The CART's mission is to develop animal disaster plans, provide training, provide public information and identify animal shelters. During a disaster, the CART establishes emergency pet sheltering for the welfare of animals. Most pet owners will not evacuate, regardless of

consequence, unless they can guarantee the safety and security of their pets. The activation and employment of a CART to address animal needs will save lives during a disaster. There is no cost to the County. CCEMA applied for a grant to stand up a CART through the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and was awarded \$5,500.00. It is required by law to have a plan to take care of animals during a disaster and most shelters do not take pets. Two out of three homes have animals. There are over 30 volunteers made up of vets, vet techs and animal control officers who are trained in rescuing animals.

It is recommended that the Commissioners accept the grant for the CART and allow CCEMA to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with MEMA to execute the funding. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners accept the grant for the CART and allow the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Maine Emergency Management Agency to execute the funding. Chairperson Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

08 – 109 Approval, Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office – Commissioners

Chairperson Clenott asked Commissioner Feeney to make a Motion.

Commissioner Feeney made a Motion that the Commissioners approve the new commissioners and renewals as submitted by Sheriff Mark Dion in his letters dated September 11th and 17th, 2008. Chairperson Clenott seconded the Motion. All voted unanimously.

There being no further business Commissioner Feeney made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. Chairperson Clenott 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, September 22, 2008 in the Peter J. Feeney Conference Room, Cumberland County Courthouse Annex 1.