

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

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES

February 22, 2010

The Board of Cumberland County Commissioners, Richard J. Feeney, Malory O. Shaughnessy and James F. Cloutier convened a meeting at the Cumberland County Courthouse in the Peter J. Feeney Conference room.

Chair Feeney called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM and the following business was conducted.

Minutes of the Cumberland County Commissioners Regular Meeting of February 8, 2009 were read and were approved unanimously in favor 3-0.

Comments from the County Manager:

The County Manager deferred his comments to the Assistant County Manager Bill Whitten. Mr. Whitten reported this session is different than the first session with a \$400 million deficit. It seems everyone is trying to get their work done by the end of March. Presently, work is being done on the Register of Deed's bill and the MacImage issue which recently was passed 10 to 1 through the State and Local government. The person who voted against the bill has since changed his mind due to a small amendment that was added to the bill and it should pass this week. He also talked about flood plan mapping which affects insurance not only on the coastal areas but also around lakes and streams. A new typography mapping system has been developed using the Lidar mapping system which is very modern. There is an opportunity for an 80% grant with the State coming up with \$250,000. York County Representative Legg was able to get Nova and some other people to contribute the \$250,000 so this was passed through the Nature Resources Committee. This would have impacted all the property taxes all over the county. Weekly meetings with the delegation and a monthly meeting with York County are still continuing.

Comments from the Commissioners:

Commissioner Shaughnessy:

Commissioner Shaughnessy had no comments.

Commissioner Cloutier:

Commissioner Cloutier had no comments.

Chair Feeney:

Chair Feeney had no comments.

Comments from the Public:

Chair Feeney asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none we moved onto the Actions Items.

Action Items:

10 – 028 Approval, Cumberland County Finance Office – Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)

The Chair asked the County Manager for comments. He indicated the Finance Director Vic Labrecque was not at the meeting, so therefore he would present the report and concurs with the recommendation. Our financial advisor Richard Ranaghan, from Gorham Savings Bank, will present the financial information.

As the County Manager indicated, due to a difference in fiscal years with the municipalities each year the County needs to acquire a Tax Anticipation Note to create a financial bridge until county assessments begin to arrive on September 1st. In March, the County will have a cash deficit. The TAN request is for \$8.7 million dollars. Mr. Ranaghan indicated the County had a teleconference with Standard & Poor's to get the note rate which is now common practice because of what has happened with the national economy in 2008. He is pleased to report the County received the highest rating from Standard & Poor's with an SP1+ rating, which says to the marketplace that we have strong financial management with very strong ability to repay the notes when they come due in the fall. The County received eight bids today. The lowest bidder was Piper Jaffray and Company at .325 NIC (net interest cost) rate and shall bear interest at a rate of 1.50% per annum. The other bidders were .351, .352, .446, .486, .493, .563 and .573 NIC. It is recommended that the award be given to Piper Jaffray & Company at .325 NIC and 1.50% per annum. Paul Frinsko of Bernstein Shur provided the motion language as bond counsel to the County. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to adopt the resolution as stated in Exhibit A as follows:

EXHIBIT A

VOTED: (1) That under and pursuant to Title 30-A, Section 932 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended and supplemented, there be and hereby is authorized the issuance of up to \$8,700,000 principal amount of 2010 Tax Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the County of Cumberland, Maine in anticipation of the receipt of taxes for the current fiscal year of the county which commenced January 1, 2010 and ends December 31, 2010.

Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to accept the MHQ bid for \$2,730. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All Commissioners voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

10 – 030 Approval, Cumberland County Registry of Deeds – Lease 1 Ricoh MP4000B Digital Copier

Chair Feeney asked Assistant Register of Deeds Nancy Lane to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Ms. Lane reported the Registry of Deeds is in need for 1 copier. IKON is the current vendor for Cumberland County and the State of Maine. The pricing being offered is a 48 month lease at \$106.02. Service and supplies are billed at .00469 per copy. This requested copier would replace the current copy machine. A discussion followed whereby Commissioner Shaughnessy requested that the County Manager draft policy language that the Commissioners will review and vote on that would permit the county manager to approve any renewal lease, within certain financial parameters.

Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to pass the acceptance of the Lease for 1 Ricoh MP4000B digital copier. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All Commissioners voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

10 – 031 Approval, Cumberland County Finance Office – Interest on Delinquent County Taxes for 2010

Chair Feeney asked the County Manager to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

The County Manager reported as per Title 36 Section 892-A: “Interest shall accrue on all unpaid balances of the county tax that are then due, beginning on the 60th day after the date for payment set by the county commissioners under Title 30-A, Section 706. County taxes not paid prior to the 60th day after the date of payment, are delinquent”. “The rate of interest shall be specified by vote of the county commissioners and a notification of this rate shall be included in the warrant to assessors required under Title 30-A Section 706. The rate of interest may not exceed the rate of interest established by the State Tax Assessor under Section 186.” The Maine Revenue Service advised the County that the 2010 rate set by the tax assessor is 7%. For the record, Commissioner Shaughnessy clarified that the municipalities are assessed by the County each year for the services we deliver to the homeowners in their individual municipality. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to pass the item. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All the Commissioners voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

10 – 032 Approval, Tax Abatement Hearing for Richard E. duBois, Town of Harrison

Chair Feeney asked for a Motion for the tax abatement hearing for Richard E. duBois.

Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to accept the appeal of Richard E. duBois, place it on file, and direct the Deputy Clerk to send out all the appropriate paperwork for a hearing at a later date. Commissioner Shaughnessy seconded the Motion. All the Commissioners voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

There being no further business Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 PM. Seconded by Commissioner Shaughnessy. All voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

ATTEST:

**Barbara M. Buckley
Deputy Clerk**

The next regular Commissioners meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 8, 2010 in the Peter J. Feeney Conference Room, Cumberland County Courthouse Annex 1.