

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

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES

February 8, 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 5:30 PM and the following business was conducted.

Minutes of the Cumberland County Commissioners Regular Meeting of January 25, 2009 were read and were approved unanimously in favor 3-0.

Comments from the County Manager:

The County Manager reported on the following: 1) On February 2nd there was a Cumberland County Advisory Council meeting. They discussed what priorities to focus on in 2010. Valerie Landry is providing assistance to the Advisory Council, chaired by Dana Connors of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and Pam Plumb past President of the National League of Cities, as the vice-chair. Two of the ideas mentioned that could help provide more efficient, quality public services were the back office operations for schools and assessing. He felt it was a worthwhile and productive meeting. 2) There will be a Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrators and Managers meeting next week. This group is trying to work more closely with the Maine Town & City Managers Association with a meeting at the end of the month to discuss how to work together more effectively.

Comments from the Commissioners:

Commissioner Shaughnessy:

Commissioner Shaughnessy reported she recently attended a retreat with the National Association of Counties Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee, for which she is a vice-chair. They brainstormed and discussed in length new initiatives in pretrial and re-entry problems that exist throughout the country. She would like to get assistance from grants that are available for Maine to help reduce our recidivism rate, save money and increase public safety at the same time. Another issue that will be discussed is bail reform for the State of Maine.

Commissioner Cloutier:

Commissioner Cloutier noted that in regard to the Cumberland County Advisory Council meeting which he attended, we have seen a little bit of a slow down in our financial troubles. Hopefully we will restart our momentum this year and will find there are some things that we can constructively do that will get people to think the County is a reliable and consistent resource for economical and high quality services.

Chair Feeney:

Chair Feeney reported that the Cumberland County Civic Center's Operations crew has done a great job in getting the ice and the arena ready for the AHL All Star games. This event has given a boost for the local hospitality industry and made a positive economic impact in our area. Recent and future events for 2010 are Larry the Cable Guy, the pageantry of the Irish Guards and the Pipes and Drums of the Scottish Highlanders along with concerts such as Carrie Underwood and Breaking Benjamin. Other events scheduled are Disney on Ice, Harlem Globetrotters, Disney Playhouse, Shrine Circus and Curious George. The trade shows for Home and Remodeling and the Boat Show are also great events. The high school basketball tourney is also scheduled for February and this year they will host the Class "A" State Championship games. The attendance has been up for the Pirates games and there are still Pirate hockey games to be played.

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 – 024 Approval, Cumberland County District Attorney Office – West Bath Office Copier Lease Agreement

Chair Feeney asked Tamara Getchell, Business and Communications Coordinator to present the item. The County Manager concurs with the recommendation.

Ms. Getchell reported that the copier machine at their West Bath satellite office is very old and not reliable. The maintenance agreement on the copier presently in the office is \$375/year and expired on 1/4/2010 and is due for renewal. It was recommended that IKON Office Solutions, Inc. be approved as providing a small desktop copier unit. The cost of the copier would be \$22.41/month or \$268.92/year plus copies at .0065 cents. In 2009, the staff in West Bath made approximately 2,000 copies. Assuming that we make the same number of copies in 2010, the overall yearly expense for the new copier would be \$281.92 resulting in an overall savings of about \$93.00. The County has several copier contracts with IKON Office Solutions, Inc. A discussion followed.

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

10 – 025 Approval, Cumberland County and Cumberland District Public Health Council

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

Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to remove this previously Tabled item from the Table. Chair Feeney seconded the Motion. All Commissioners voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

Commissioner Shaughnessy reported she is on the Board of the Cumberland District Public Health Council to the Maine Legislature and there is no better time to begin to address the lack of local public health infrastructure. There has been no better time to bring the many organizations and individuals addressing the public's health together to create regional approaches. We were organized and prepared to respond to the recent H1N1 outbreak and to take advantage of the new collaborations we had established.

The Cumberland District Public Health Council was created by a series of events starting in 2005 with the Local Public Health System Performance Assessment convened by the City of Portland's Public Health Division. This assessment measured how well the local public health system performed according to a set of national standards, and was followed by the County's strategic planning efforts in 2006. The Public Health & Human Services subcommittee identified regional public health as one of its top priorities. At the same time, the statewide Public Health Work Group developed recommendations to the Maine Legislature to begin to address the lack of local public health infrastructure, which included dividing the state into eight public health districts, based on county and multi-county lines. The Cumberland District includes all of Cumberland County.

The Cumberland District Public Health Council was officially convened in December 2006, following the Public Health Work Group's decision to require district-wide coordinating councils. The council was initially known as the Cumberland County Coordinating Council for Public Health (C4PH), but was later renamed the Cumberland District Public Health Council. The founding members of the council include the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency, the City of Portland, Mercy Health Systems of Maine, Maine Medical Center & Maine Health, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and Healthy Cumberland County. The Council also consists of a wide variety of members from across the county. Members represent towns, local health officers, K-12 schools, health care providers, home health providers, higher education, health institutions, mental health services, substance abuse services, community organizations, and a range of other non-profit organizations.

The purpose of the district council is to provide a place where towns, private businesses, and non-profit organizations can collectively prioritize public health issues in the region, plan appropriate responses, and organize partnerships that can address public health issues, assure access to preventive health and link with primary care, and plan for public health emergencies more efficiently than a single community could alone. In addition, the Cumberland District

Public Health Council's mission is to promote the health of all the communities in the district by providing information, coordination, collaboration, and advocacy.

To date, the Council has made several presentations to the Greater Portland Council of Governments, held individual meetings with most towns in the district, created town and multi-town level health status reports, reviewed local and state laws dealing with public health, provided health information brochures on a variety of topics to each town, and worked with a small number of towns to determine feasibility of contracting for certain public health services. For more information people may contact Becca Matusovich, MCDC Cumberland District Public Health Liaison at becca.matusovich@maine.gov, Commissioner Shaughnessy at the Cumberland county website www.cumberlandcounty.org or Julie Sullivan, Public Health Director at JAS@portlandmaine.gov. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding and the Chairman is authorized to sign the MOU. Commissioner Cloutier seconded the Motion. All Commissioners voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

10 – 026 Approval, Cumberland County and US Marshall Rate Review and Contract

Chair Feeney asked Peter Crichton, County Manager, to present the item. He concurs with the recommendation.

The County Manager reported the US Marshall Service boards inmates at the county. The last negotiated rate increase was in 2003 at \$103.97 per day. New procedures have recently been approved whereby new rate agreements can be submitted reflecting both current and future projected jail operating expenses. All submissions are now created and submitted electronically and last for the next 36 months. The Sheriff has been approached by an organization that specializes in rate submissions and increases. The organization is Greenberg Traurig from Washington, D.C. The Sheriff, Finance Director, and the County Manager have been developing an agreement with Joe Summerhill, who is a Shareholder in Greenberg Traurig and was the chief contracts attorney for the US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. Mr. Summerill is intimate with the allowable cost allocations and the many idiosyncrasies of cost submissions and negotiations, which would result in a higher per diem rate. We are confident with the expertise and knowledge of Mr. Summerill that we can succeed in raising the rates.

The Finance Director reported the county currently boards an average of 50 US Marshall inmates per month, which at \$103.97 yields \$1.9 million dollars per year to the BOC. The cost of the consultant is \$75,000 and the consultant only gets paid if we are successful in increasing the U.S. Marshall's rate. The fees will be paid based on the Delta of the rate negotiated on a month to month basis until paid in full. The Finance Director is optimistic and if we are successful this will help with our jail revenue shortfall. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to accept the Agreement with Greenberg Traurig. Commissioner Cloutier seconded the Motion. All Commissioners voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

10 -027 Approval, Cumberland County Resolution in Support of Single Web Portal For all Registries of Deeds

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

The County Manager reported with today's technology there is an opportunity to have one portal for people to go to for Registry of Deeds information. This is a resolution from Cumberland County which supports a single web portal. Commissioner Shaughnessy, who chairs the Maine County Commissioners Association, will be discussing and voting on this resolution next week. Commissioner Shaughnessy indicated the Registry of Deeds has been expecting this resolution for quite awhile.

Chair Feeney asked Commissioner Shaughnessy to read the resolution into the Minutes as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
A SINGLE WEB PORTAL FOR ALL REGISTRIES OF DEEDS**

WHEREAS, the Registries of Deeds of the several counties of Maine are the official repositories of deeds and other land-related documents, and

WHEREAS, prompt public access to these documents is critical to conducting commerce involving real estate, finance and other business activities, and

WHEREAS, the technology exists to make these documents available to the public in digital form on the Internet through a single web portal, and

WHEREAS, there are multiple vendors ready and willing to assist the counties in achieving the goal of providing access through a single web portal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The Board of Directors of the Maine County Commissioners Association, whose members represent all 16 Maine counties as well as the Maine Registers of Deeds Association, hereby commit to developing a single web portal for public access to documents at the Registries of Deeds, and furthermore commit to taking the necessary steps required to achieve this goal in an expeditious manner.

**Richard J. Feeney, Chair
County Commissioner**

**Malory O. Shaughnessy
County Commissioner**

**James F. Cloutier
County Commissioner**

Dated: February 8, 2010

A discussion followed.

Commissioner Shaughnessy made a Motion to sign and adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Cloutier seconded the Motion. All Commissioners voted in favor 3-0.

There being no further business Commissioner Cloutier made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. Seconded my Chair Feeney. All voted unanimously.

ATTEST:

**Barbara M. Buckley
Deputy Clerk**

The next regular Commissioners meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on Monday, February 22, 2010 in the Peter J. Feeney Conference Room, Cumberland County Courthouse Annex 1.