

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at the Cumberland County Courthouse in the Peter Feeney Conference Room, the meeting was called to Order by Chair Neil Jamison at 5:33 pm.

ATTENDANCE**Present:**

Commissioner Susan Witonis, Chair
Commissioner James Cloutier
Commissioner Neil Jamieson
Commissioner Patricia Smith
Commissioner Stephen Gorden

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes from December 12, 2022 were read and approved unanimously in favor, 5-0.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

23-001 Transferring 2022 Commissioner Contingency year-end fund balance to the Regional Aid Reserve Account.

A motion was made by Commissioner CLOUTIER and seconded by Commissioner WITONIS to approve the consent agenda.

A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0

ARPA BUSINESS

23-002 Appropriation of ARPA funding to support the contract between the Violence Intervention Program and Through These Doors "Survivor Fund".

County Manager Gailey stated that the Violence Against Women grant that is awarded to the County was \$100,000 less than anticipated. Given increased costs and increased demand for services of Through

These Doors the ARPA funding can cover the costs in services. Cumberland County Project Manager for the Violence Intervention Partnership Jennifer Annis requested ARPA funds for the Survivor Fund. She stated that as a result of the pandemic, nationally there is an increased need for domestic violence services particularly in Maine. Over the past 12 months there was a 10% increase in services and 41% increase in shelter services over 2 years. The ARPA funds will support a 20 months grant until the County applies for the next grant. She stated that 100% of the funds will go to the victims and not toward administering the funds.

Commissioner Gorden thanked Project Manager Annis for her presentation and asked if there were additional funding sources that could be utilized. Project Manager Annis confirmed that there are other funds from the Goram foundation but there are not enough funds to cover the need of services. Commissioner Cloutier asked how the funds would be administered. Project Manager Annis stated that it depends on the individual's circumstance, for example, it might be relocation assistance or rental assistance.

A motion was made by Commissioner GORDEN and seconded by Commissioner CLOUTIER to authorize the appropriation of ARPA funding to support the contract between the Violence Intervention Program and Through These Doors "Survivor Fund".

A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

23-003 Cross Insurance Arena Trustees By-Laws Amendments.

County Manager Gailey presented the proposed amendment to the Cross Insurance Arena Trustee which would reduce the current six districts to five districts to mirror the County Commissioner Districts. Additionally, the amendment would reduce the At-Large positions.

A motion was made by Commissioner CLOUTIER and seconded by Commissioner WITONIS to approve the amendments to the Cross Insurance Arena Trustees By-Laws. Commissioner Gorden commented that with the change, the Board of Trustees would not accurately represent the county districts. County Manager Gailey referred to the role of Trustees from their Bylaws, that as an appointed trustee by the County Commissioners they direct civic and recreational activity. There is always opportunity for other recreational initiatives outside of the Cross Insurance Arena. Commissioner Cloutier added

that he had heard of possible endeavors but nothing had materialized. Commissioner Witonis commented that the Board of Trustees supports county endeavors. Commissioner Cloutier suggested setting aside some money to do a study for potential developments.

A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0. A motion was made by Commissioner GORDEN and seconded by Commissioner CLOUTIER to authorize the appropriation of ARPA funding to support the contract between the Violence Intervention Program and Through These Doors “Survivor Fund”.

A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0

23-004 Commissioner Board/Committee Assignments 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner CLOUTIER and seconded by Commissioner SMITH to approve the Commissioner Board Assignments for 2023.

A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

There were no comments from the County Manager.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Deputy Manager of Admin and Finance Alex Kimball stated that he is continuing to work on the budget and oversee the budget transition to a fiscal year from a calendar year.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Smith thanked the Board for the warm welcome and stated that she was excited to learn about her new role.

Commissioner Witonis welcomed Commissioner Smith and stated that she was eager to work with her.

Commissioner Cloutier also welcomed Commissioner Smith and congratulated Chair Jamieson on his new position.

Commissioner Gorden thanked Commissioner Witonis for her previous role as Chair of the Board for 2022. He congratulated Chair Jamieson and wished him well for 2023. He noticed that State Jail funding was of concern and the Maine County Commissioners Association would be assisting with securing funding for jails and supporting rural patrol efforts.

Chair Jamieson thanked everyone for their hard work and welcomed Commissioner Smith. He stated that he was pleased to work with such a talented group of Civil Servants for almost a decade. He noted that many of the successes of the County were the result of staff's hard work. He encouraged the public to participate in winter events and support school teams and events.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

23-005 The County Commissioners will enter into Executive Session in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(D) for the opportunity to discuss negotiations between the County and Law Enforcement Unit, Local 340.

A motion was made by Commissioner CLOUTIER and seconded by Commissioner SMITH to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(D) for the opportunity to discuss negotiations between the County and Law Enforcement Unit, Local 340.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

The Commissioners went into executive session at 6:10 pm.

At 7:58 pm Commissioner WITONIS made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner CLOUTIER to come out of Executive Session.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner GORDEN made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner CLOUTIER to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 PM. The Commissioners voted unanimously in favor, 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 13, 2023 at 5:30pm.