

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 5:35pm

Present:

Chair Neil Jamieson
Commissioner James Cloutier
Commissioner Susan Witonis
Commissioner Stephen Gorden

Excused:

Commissioner Patricia Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES****Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2023**

A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that the Minutes be adopted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

CCRCC 4th Quarter 2022 Newsletter

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

District Attorney Jacqueline Sartoris. D.A. Sartoris stated that she is honored to meet everyone and plans to work very hard over the next 4 years. She is focusing on addressing mental health issues and increasing efficiencies in the current system by building out a robust diversion program. On top of that she is focusing on reducing the backlog of cases that occurred as a result of the pandemic. The Commissioners welcomed DA Sartoris and congratulated her on new position.

Christopher DeCapua, Vice President of the Local 110, shared some general comments related to the staffing levels of the jail and hiring of corrections officers. The Union leadership would like to work with the Commissioners and come to a solution regarding intake and staffing. He agrees with the DA, the backlog of cases needs to be addressed but the jail needs capacity for when the backlog is addressed.

Recruiting, there is a common feeling that no one wants to be a corrections officer.

The best approach would be to target retired and current certified corrections officers as opposed to targeting new corrections officers. The Maine academy is also a hurdle in hiring. The State either runs the academy or the academy could be run in house and be completed in 3 weeks. The only thing that would be needed is shift coverage. Commissioner Witonis asked if they had enough staff, Mr. DeCapua responded that they did. He thanked the Commissioners' for their time and their attention to the current issues.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 23-006 Approval of the Sheriff's Office Commission's for October 2022 – December 2022.**

- 23-007 Authorization for the County Manager to enter into a contract between the County of Cumberland and the Town of Casco for County Assessing Services from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.**

- 23-008 Confirmation of the appointment of Trustees Frank Clark, Lori Norman and Tom Tyler to the Cross Insurance Arena Board of Trustees.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Witonis, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0.

ARPA BUSINESS

- 23-009 Award second tranche ARPA funds of \$500,000.00 to Preble Street for the Food Security Hub as recommended by the ARPA Advisory Committee and the County Manager.**

Preble Street Executive Director Mark Swann gave an overview of their request and answered questions from the Commissioners. He stated that last year Preble St was doing around 1,000 meals a day and now they're currently doing 2,000 meals a day. Part of that supplementing the boys and girls club, mile stones, YMCA and have reached capacity in their current space. They have list of non-profits who are also waiting to receive meals once the new space opens. Commissioner Jamieson asked what the projected open date would be, Executive Director Swann stated that they would break ground in the Spring 2023 and hopefully open next year. He also wanted to add Preble St is working on freezing meals as a backup. Commissioner Gorden asked about the availability of ARPA funds and the reallocation process. Compliance and Audit

Manager Sandra Warren stated that internal projects will take priority over the construction of newer projects. County Manager Gailey added that for the Jail Medical project is currently over budget because of inflation. Compliance and Audit Manager Warren stated that the Winchester Woods Development project did not go through and funds were available. Commissioner Witonis asked Executive Director Swann how much funding from the Governor and how much from the Legislature? Executive Director Swann stated that they're currently waiting to confirm the amount. Commissioner Witonis stated that she could not support the item because of the funds need for the County Jail project and that the second tranche was supposed to be for other projects, not previously funded ones.

Commissioner Cloutier stated that there are funds available for both projects. He recalled that the original request from Preble St was reduced because the Commissioners had asked Preble St to raise additional funds and it seems that they had. He also stated that the public is gaining a tremendous amount of services by funding the projects. The population that Preble St is serving is growing each day. He stated that he wholly supports the project and it's objective; the results will be immediate.

Commissioner Jamieson stated that he agreed with Commissioner Cloutier and that this project would be the biggest bang for their buck.

Commissioner Witonis asked two questions, about the design plan presented in the agenda packet; was it the most recent scaled down plan that aligned with their revised budget? The second question was how far out does Preble St services extend to in the County. Executive Director Swann confirmed that the plan was the most current as it has one loading dock instead of two. The services offered by Preble St are supported by a pilot by Door Dash to deliver directly to residences. Services are now extended to 26 towns. Good Shepard Food Bank is the biggest funder of the project and they will also be a customer once the project goes live and deliver to the food pantries to throughout the County and the State.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden that additional ARPA funds be awarded to Preble Street for the Food Security Hub as recommended by the ARPA Advisory Committee and the County Manager. The motion passed, 3-1.

Yes: Commissioners' Cloutier, Gorden, Jamieson

No: Commissioner Witonis

NEW BUSINESS**23-010 First Reading and Public Hearing of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan by Community Development. Second Reading on March 13, 2023.**

This Order Requiring a Public Hearing was accepted.

Community Director Kristin Styles spoke about the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan that was developed with the City of Portland and a series of stakeholder meetings. Based on the meetings and data collected, the plan had been developed with funding broken into four categories. \$2 Million is being allocated to the Development of Affordable Rental Housing and most likely will be creating the permanent housing and the Housing first Model. \$763,755 Supportive services to support those to remain successfully housed. \$250,000 is for the Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter. \$539,121 into Administration and Planning, all unused funds will go back into the three previously listed funds. Commissioner Jamieson asked what the time period is to spend down the funds. Director Styles stated that there were 7 years to spend down funds from 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden to support the public hearing. The Vote was called and the motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0

23-011 Authorization for the County Manager to enter into a contract between the County of Cumberland and Developers Collaborative for the design, permitting, construction and lease of an administrative office building at 50 County Way, Portland, Maine.

County Manager Gailey spoke about the space needs study that was conducted in 2018. The approach taken by staff was to locate a designer, to design, construct and lease back to the County.

Public Affairs Director Travis Kennedy stated that the RFQ was drafted in great detail and incorporated a lot of feedback from other Governments who had gone through a similar process. Two bids were received and the RFQ team crafted a list of questions for the submitters. It was very difficult to decide because the respondents did equally well in answering the questions. There was a second round of questions based on written answers. The Developers Collaborative was selected based on a vote of 5-1. County Manager Gailey added that they seemed to be the best fit.

Kevin Bunker from the Developers Collaborative stated that they were very excited to be selected and would like to do well. They want to use this project as part of their portfolio and want to be proud of it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Gorden for the County Manager to enter into a contract between the County of Cumberland and Developers Collaborative for the design, permitting, construction and lease of an administrative office building at 50 County Way, Portland, Maine. The vote was called and the motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0.

23-012 Resolution supporting the City of Portland applying for federal funding to dredge Portland Harbor's piers, docks and wharfs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier supporting the City of Portland applying for federal funding to dredge Portland Harbor's piers, docks and wharfs. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

The County Manager shared that he had received two requests to use the Community Corrections Center. One request was to house pregnant women that was presented at the December 2022 meeting. The other request was to use the center as a mental health treatment center. This would be discussed at the next workshop on March 13, 2023.

He stated that the Maine Mariners were seeing 500 more people each hockey game and some games are being sold out.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Deputy Admin and Finance Director Alex Kimball stated he had received budget books and they were available for anyone who wanted a copy. The tax warrants were sent out and went into more detail than usual. He wanted to give heads up in cases the Commissioners received questions from Towns or Cities. Regarding the tax warrant, the State Valuation jumped up, the smallest was 7% while the largest was 27%. The Town of Sebago received the biggest increase of 27%.

Admin and Special Projects Katharine Cahoon stated that the new Agenda Software is nearing its final implementation and will be tested at the next Commissioner

Meeting in March.

Public Affairs Director Kennedy stated that the EMS Collaboration is moving along and engaging with Communities about spending on EMS services.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gorden stated that the DOC presented their budget and it was flat funded last year and this year in flus. The MCCA is concerned about the State Police and Rural Patrol is still a concern with the costs being passed on to the counties.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

23-013 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 Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Witonis that the Commissioners enter into Executive Session. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0. The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 8:25 PM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Gorden that the Commissioners come out of into Executive Session. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, 4-0. The Commissioners came out of Executive Session at 8:55 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm, the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners' is March 13, 2023.