OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2019

Meeting Convened
At the Court of Oxford County Commissioners begun and held at Paris, Maine within and for the County of Oxford at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 being a regular session, there were present:

David Duguay         Chairman
Timothy Turner       Commissioner
Steven Merrill        Commissioner
Tom Winsor           County Administrator

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda Adopted
The agenda was adopted as written.

Minutes Approval
The following action occurred regarding sets of minutes of previous meetings:

August 20   tabled
September 5   tabled

Public Comment
Hartford resident Joan Kelly asked the Commissioners for clarification on some items from previous meeting minutes. She also questioned why the 2017 audit has taken so long to complete. County Administrator Tom Winsor said that losing the Treasurer’s Office in December of 2018 due to an illness and resignation set everything back a few months. She also asked the Commissioners to set up an online archive of minutes and agendas for the public to access and that they be more specific about executive sessions in their motions and records. The Commissioners agreed to be more mindful and specific regarding the exact purpose of executive sessions unless sharing of that information is prohibited by law.

Department Heads
Department heads met with the Commissioners to discuss a variety of topics, some being unique to specific departments and other topics being of concern to several or all departments.

Sheriff’s Report
Sheriff Chris Wainwright and Chief Deputy Jim Urquhart spoke with the commissioners regarding departmental matters.

The Sheriff shared news that law enforcement officers who have previously declined to participate in the retired law enforcement health insurance subsidy program will soon be able to enroll and buy back their time. Information about the buyback program will be sent to law enforcement employees in their 2019 open enrollment packet (mid-November).
Review of School Resource Officer contracts was tabled.

The Sheriff confirmed that the daily works hours for deputies attending the academy is 12 hours.

The Commissioners entered an executive session to (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) discuss the progress of a recent internal affairs investigation. No action was taken upon returning to open session.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to review a resignation letter as it contained confidential information. They returned to open session and accepted the resignation of Correction Sergeant Todd Bisbee effective September 21.

The Commissioners then acknowledged the promotion of Corrections Officer Ryan Robitaille to Corporal effective September 20 with a wage rate of $17.25/hr and a probationary period per contract.

Treasurer’s Report
Treasurer Beth Calhoun updated the Commissioners on current financial operations and distributed written reports.

She also happily reported that Marc Roy and his team at Berry Talbot Royer have been received very well by employees and that they have been extremely beneficial to the County.

Lunch Recess
The Commissioners recessed for lunch at 11:55am and reconvened at 12:40pm.

Personnel Updates and Actions
The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss an update of an employee on medical leave. They took no action upon returning to open session. It was noted that this item will be discussed further on October 3.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to review and discuss a grievance regarding severance pay. They took no action upon returning to open session and provided Labor Consultant Annalee Rosenblatt with a list of possible dates for a hearing.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 D) to discuss union contract negotiations. They took no action upon returning to open session.

Items for Discussion and Action – Considered as Time Permits Throughout Meeting
The Commissioners discussed the following and acted only as underlined.
1. Received Update from Maine County Commissioners Association
2. Received Update from the Town of Peru noting that they will use a tax anticipation note (TAN) to pay their 2019 county taxes to avoid paying interest
3. Received Update on Legislative Matters
4. Received Administrator’s Report

The Commissioners also authorized the posting of a full-time Corrections Officer position.
Adjournment
The Commissioners adjourned at 2:44pm.

David A. Duguay, Chairman
Timothy G. Turner, Commissioner
Steven M. Merrill, Commissioner

Notes:
1) These minutes are intended to be a brief description of meeting actions to provide, in a general sense only, an account of what was discussed.

2) Unless otherwise noted, all votes taken by the Commissioners were unanimous.