OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

October 20, 2020

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, October 20, 2020 being a regular session, there were present:

Timothy Turner   Chairman
Steven Merrill    Commissioner
David Duguay      Commissioner

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:

October 1 approved with amendments

Public Comment
Waterford Selectman Todd Sawyer and Interim Public Works Director Jim Kidder proposed entering a joint contract with DA Wilson for plowing to share costs. It was noted that Mr. Sawyer would submit a formal draft contract for a 12-month period via email for further consideration.

Reading of Spirit of America Recipient Names
The Commissioners read the names of the 2020 Spirit of America recipients and noted that they would be invited to the 2021 ceremony. The Commissioners did not hold a public ceremony this year as they usually do due to COVID-19. Certificates will be mailed to the winners.

The 2020 recipients are as follows:

Everett W. Benson Knights of Columbus Council #5515
Norway Grange #45
Jim and Mary Hannaford of Hiram
Hugh “Cubby” Swan of Greenwood
Ed* and Diane Jones of Fryeburg
Roger and Sharon Benson of Brownfield
Roxbury Swift River Valley Extension
Mark Irish of Peru
Bruce Pierce of Newry
Raymond Broomhall of Mexico
Dorothy Adams of Hanover
Scott Dennett of Dixfield
Canton Cemetery Ladies (Carole Robbins, Prudy Adams, Anne Chamberlain, and Robyn McClintock)
Donald and Cheryl Bennett of Bethel
Freeman Farrington of Andover
Sterling and Irene Mills of Woodstock
Ben Conant of South Paris
Oxford County Regional Communications Center

*In memoriam

**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.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) with the Department Heads to discuss a personnel matter. No action was needed upon returning to open session.

District Attorney’s Office Administrator Mariah Castonguay spoke on behalf of the Department Heads and addressed parking issues and a proposed plan to follow the State’s closing schedule for inclement weather. She noted that there were concerns for safety and liability since there is no court security when the State is closed.

It was noted that the Commissioners would tour the parking lot on November 5 to get a visual of possible solutions.

**Treasurer’s Report**
Treasurer Beth Calhoun spoke with the Commissioners and distributed written reports.

It was also noted that Attorney Pross would give an update on the potential bond process at the November 5 workshop.

The Treasurer also noted that the FAA is unhappy with the lack of revenue being generated by the airport and emphasized that a lease needs to be signed with Mosher Aviation as soon as possible to help with that.

**Sheriff’s Report**
Sheriff Chris Wainwright spoke with the Commissioners regarding departmental matters.

The hiring of two deputies was tabled to October 28 as more time was needed to complete pre-employment testing.

Jail Administrator Dana Dillingham commended his employees for working for several months while being down 5 corrections officer positions.

Sheriff Wainwright asked that a recent posting for a Detective position be reposted for either a Detective or Lieutenant. Commissioner Duguay reminded the Sheriff that their original agreed upon plan was to eliminate the second Lieutenant position through attrition and was against the proposal, citing that it will complicate the reporting chain in CID. The Sheriff argued that
reporting structure falls within the Sheriff’s responsibility. Commissioner Turner agreed with both points but reminded the Sheriff of the balance of power which is that the Commissioners hold the authority to approve or deny hires. Commissioner Merrill and Commissioner Turner voted in favor of reposting the position. Commissioner Duguay opposed.

**Lunch**
The Commissioners recessed at 12:00pm for lunch in RCC to congratulate them on being a Spirit of America award recipient. The group is the first to be nominated by the Board of Commissioners and were chosen due to their annual Christmas donation boxes to local elderly folks in need.

**Personnel Updates and Actions**
The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) with RCC Director Donald Durrah to discuss an applicant for the position of Systems Administrator. They returned to open session and authorized Director Durrah to extend an offer of employment to Quentin Tardiff.

The Commissioners confirmed a meeting on October 28 to discuss the relocation of RCC, EMA, and the Sheriff’s Office.

The Commissioners approved an updated job description with amendments for the position of UT/Airport Manager.

The Commissioners approved an updated job description with amendments for the position of County Administrator.

It was noted that the executive session to discuss a grievance was no longer needed.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 D) to discuss union contract negotiations. No action was needed 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. **Reviewed** correspondence from Attorney James Pross of Skelton Taintor and Abbott regarding the petition process for alleged dangerous roads in Stow. The Commissioners instructed Executive Assistant Abby Shanor to work with Attorney Pross and Treasurer Beth Calhoun to submit a letter to the petitioners securing a surety or bond before scheduling a public hearing.
3. **Appointed** administration staff Abby Shanor and Nichole Cargnino to be the initial contact for the Magalloway Plantation deorganization process. Commissioner Duguay noted that he will also be available to help whenever backup is needed.
4. **Denied** request to extend plowing in Picnic Hill Road in Albany Township citing that it is very costly and would set a precedence for future requests.
Adjournment
The Commissioners adjourned at 3:59pm.

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

The public hearing on the 2021 budget as proposed by the Department Heads and the FY22 unorganized territory budget commenced at 6:00pm upstairs in Courtroom #3

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.