

Commissioners Minutes

September 18, 2018

Present: Chairman Nancy Rines, Patsy Crockett, Commissioner, George Jabar, Commissioner, Robert Devlin County Administrator, Terry York, Assistant County Administrator, Richard Davies, Treasurer, Peter Dunn, Finance Director, Tracie Lesperance, Finance/HR Assistant, Maeghan Maloney, District Attorney, Art Churchill, EMA, Sheriff Ken Mason, Kathy Ayers, Register of Probate, Richard Wurpel, Jail Captain, Staff Sergeant Corey Goodchild, Beverly Bustin-Hatheway, Register of Deeds, James Saucier, Facilities Manager, Dave Hawke, IT

Absent: Sean Goodwin, EMA Director

	Discussion	Action
Call to order	12:05 pm	
Minutes	Motion and second to accept the minutes of September 4, 2018 and August 21, 2018..	3 in favor 0 opposed
County Administrator	<p>Robert Devlin County Administrator: We received the report from the Health Trust on our January 2018, the first quarter; and our loss ratio is 64 percent, which is very good. We have zero claims over fifty thousand.</p> <p>A suit has been brought before us regarding a death in the jail; that has been sent to the risk pool and assigned to our attorney.</p> <p>I met with other county administrators during the convention; we're moving forward to start our fiscal survey on the cost of operating jails to prepare for the next session. Last week we put in our justification for funding for the county jails statewide; we are requesting the same thing we received this year which was \$18.3 million. That's above the base of \$15 million; the additional \$3 million is due to unanticipated overruns in counties primarily due to boarding. Chairman Nancy Rines: How is that \$3 million divided? Robert Devlin County Administrator: That was divided based upon the counties that had need. We did not participate in that need. Chairman Nancy Rines: Kennebec County has received a Spirit of America's Gold Distinction Award, signed by Senator Angus King.</p>	<p>Update</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Update</p>
Human Resources	Terry York, Human Resources Manager: Penny Bernier has been a part time employee at Deeds for 11 years, and she was	

	Discussion	Action
	<p>recently hired to fill the vacant full time clerk's position.</p> <p>We are down 12 at the jail. Several of our interns have gone fulltime; we've had several people go part time, or left for other jobs.</p> <p>We did get our preliminary Worker's Compensation experience mod. Last year it was .67; anything less than 1 is good. 14-15 losses dropped off, and that was \$12,000. But then 17-18 losses were \$99,000. We had some serious incidences; a couple at the Sheriff's Office and one at the jail. I should be getting a form from them to fill out regarding wage increases, as that affects this as well.</p>	<p>Update</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Update</p>
<p>Treasurer</p>	<p>Richard Davies, Treasurer: We continue to be in a strong financial position; the cash holdings of the county are \$5.5 million, plus the investment pool of \$1.5 million. We have two warrants today, neither of which is particularly large. We are 19 percent through the fiscal year. We have received at least 45 percent of the taxes.</p> <p>Chairman Nancy Rines: Tell me about your workshop.</p> <p>Richard Davies, Treasurer: It was on investments. It came to us at the request of the folks who were setting up the conference through Bob; they wanted someone to talk about investments. It was done with the folks through Kennebec Savings; my presentation was focused specifically on the various, specific types of investments that are permitted for municipalities and counties. I mostly spent my time cautioning them on unless they had someone on their staff that was quite knowledgeable in any of these particular areas that these are the sort of investments that if you don't know what you're doing, you can get yourself in some very deep trouble. There was a tremendous amount of interest in the investment pool that we have been working with Kennebec Savings. Towards the end of the presentation, we had at least two county representatives ask how they could make the transition from a calendar year to a fiscal year budget. I've already got Bob to dig in his files, and Peter has promised to</p>	<p>Update</p>

	Discussion	Action
	<p>provide even more, in case they do want to pursue something like that. I was surprised to learn that only four counties that have made that transition, including Kennebec, and I'm surprised that more hadn't pursued that. Now that they are seeing some ways that they could take advantage of the investment pool that Kennebec Savings has available and would offer to any county that was interested, they may be thinking they could find a way of earning substantially more on the monies that they have in hand, not only by having a place to make those investments, but also to on a fiscal year basis, rather than a calendar year. Patsy Crockett, Commissioner: I think it's important that the other counties appreciate the example that Kennebec County set. I just hope that all of the citizens of Kennebec County can become aware of what has taken place here with the county administrator and finance director. We really set an example for all the other counties; it's great work and I'm proud of them.</p>	Update
Deeds	<p>Beverly Bustin-Hatheway, Register: We are \$1613 ahead of last year.</p> <p>Jim tells me that I will be able to determine when we have our open house, because he will have the last thin coat on the table tomorrow.</p> <p>The registry association is looking to eliminate the polyester maps, and use paper instead. This would reduce the file space I currently use</p>	<p>Update</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Update</p>
District Attorney	<p>Maeghan Maloney, District Attorney: I just came from the District Court chief's meeting that went well. I do have some bad news to report; we did not receive the STOP grant. The STOP grant is what funds our domestic violence investigator; one of the two positions. One is paid for through the county and one is funded through the STOP grant. They've made the decision that they are no longer going to use these funds for personnel. They want projects that can be completed in three years; that's what they want the money to be used for. As a result, Sarosh Sher who is the investigator on that grant will be moving over to Maine Pretrial as a case manager for the Veteran's court, as they had an</p>	<p>Update</p> <p>Update</p>

	Discussion	Action
	<p>opening. Of course, now I'm scrambling to figure out what we are going to do for all of these cases he was working on.</p> <p>We do have a very important trial going on right now; the attempted murder on a Kennebec County Sheriff deputy. That trial started on Monday, last week. There are two prosecutors and defense attorneys on that case.</p> <p>Chairman Nancy Rines: Are there any other grant funding opportunities? Maeghan Maloney, District Attorney: There's another grant, but it's completely different. We did get the grant to change our computer system from Justware to Odyssey. Odyssey is what the court system will be using; that's a \$1.4 million grant statewide for the DA's to switch over their computer system. What that means for the county, is once that switch is made, it will enable me to ask for less funding for our computer system, because Odyssey is significantly less money than Justware; it's about one third of the cost. It will take about 18 months to make that transition; the court will transition first, then we will begin the transition. As far as grants for domestic violence investigators, we had a DA meeting last Friday, and I'm not the only one hurting; there are other counties that have also lost funding. We don't know of anything that is available for a personnel position that can be renewed year after year. I talked to Tracy Poulin who administers the STOP grant, and she stated that the justice assistance council does not feel that it is an appropriate use of the funds to pay for personnel; that should be paid for out of the regular budget.</p>	<p>Update</p> <p>Update</p>
EMA	<p>Art Churchill, EMA: We have been working with the towns regarding the October windstorm we had. We have three towns left that have to finish signing paperwork for FEMA.</p>	Update
Facilities	<p>James Saucier, Facilities: I power washed almost half the building, and repaired the parking lot.</p> <p>I will be replacing the old wooden door in the back of the court house with a metal door; it has a metal frame and one deadlight in it, so people can see going out. In the front of the building,</p>	Update

	Discussion	Action
	there is a glass door that separates the public from walking into Probate; there will be a push button lock on that door so that we have a lot more control instead of just pressing a button.	
Information Technology	<p>Dave Hawke, IT: We received some new servers as we are swapping out stuff that is about 12 years old. The guys have been on vacation, so I've been busy covering for them.</p> <p>We had some lightning come by two weeks ago, and I was downstairs and all the lights went out. With the new generator and all the upgrades we have made, nothing missed a beat; everything stayed running. It's just good to know that what we've done has been worth it.</p> <p>Robert Devlin County Administrator: Dave and I discussed the distress alarm over at the courthouse; we got a quote of around \$5300, which sounds reasonable. However, there's an annual fee to buy the software. I think it's a reasonable cost because it does everything we want it to do. First it sends the alarm to the control room in the main courthouse; they will respond and call 911. It also sends an alarm to designated cell phones and computers; there will be four locations for this alarm.</p>	<p>Update</p> <p>Update</p>
Probate	<p>Kathy Ayers, Register of Probate: I attended a seminar on supported decision making; when the new probate code comes in, it's going to be difficult because we don't have a lot of those out there right now. There are some; but guardianships unless they have tried and failed at supported decision making agreements, so it's important that the judges know what they are and they may have a new supported decision making agreement, and they fail, then a new guardianship will automatically kick in at some life event. Chairman Nancy Rines: What is supported decision making? Kathy Ayers, Register of Probate: It's an alternative to guardianship; it is a model for supporting people with disabilities to make significant decisions and exercise their legal capacities. The person with the disability typically gets support from a network of people, or an individual. The decision making agreements are great, however, they don't fit every situation.</p>	Update
Sheriff/Corrections:	Sheriff Ken Mason: Corrections: We currently have 173	

	Discussion	Action
	<p>inmates, Maine Pre Trial has 73.</p> <p>Staff Sergeant Corey Goodchild: We had a full facility evacuation on August 30th; we have to conduct one every year to meet our compliance standards, as well as to ensure our staff knows what to do in the event of an emergency. We started at 8:56 AM; we were able to evacuate the entire facility and cleared at 9:07 AM. It took 11 minutes, which was really good time. At 9:11, we had Augusta fire go in with a couple of KSO deputies and conducted a drill where they rescued a downed officer. We got everyone back in the jail and cleared at 9:36 AM; forty minutes total for the entire evacuation. Forty three staff members to include officers, vendors, civilian staff, and 166 inmates were all cleared out of the building, with no incidents. Sheriff Ken Mason: this year was seamless; a job well done to all the staff.</p> <p>Sheriff Ken Mason: We still have 11 CARA participants; they are doing amazing and are a good group.</p> <p>Our Securus video visitation is up and running. There is a phone that is a video screen in their block. The inmate has to set the video visitation up with us, but if they want to call someone one, they can actually see the person and talk to them.</p> <p>Sheriff Ken Mason Law Enforcement: We are going to hire Devon Polizzotti, who is Deputy Moody's replacement; he has taken his polygraph and passed with flying colors. We are just waiting on the psychological evaluation. He is coming to us from Boothbay Harbor. I'm hoping to have him on board in three weeks.</p> <p>Nancy and Patsy will be joining me Saturday night at the Civic Center for sexual assault fundraiser</p>	<p>Update</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Update</p>
Project Updates	None at this time	
Old Business/ Follow Up Items	None at this time	
Warrants	September 18, 2018	Signed

	Discussion	Action
Change of Status	New hire, termination, step increases	Signed
New Business	19-06) Motion to move money from undesignated fund balance to the law enforcement buyout line	3 in favor 0 opposed
Executive Session	None at this time	
Miscellaneous	None at this time	
Adjournment	Adjourned at 1:02 pm	3 in favor 0 opposed

Terry York, Assistant Administrator