COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

MEETING STARTS AT 3:00 PM

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Present: Commissioners: John Alsop, Joel Stetkis, Cyprien Johnson, Scott Seekins, Robert Sezak
Staff: Leanne Dickey, Patrick Dolan, David Spencer, Sheriff Dale Lancaster, Michael Pike, Pawel Bialczak, Laura Price, ADA Griffin, Phil Curtis,
Other: Peter Marchesi, Esq., Elisa Sousa, Gerald Bouressa

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Open Bids for Long Falls Damn Road Paving Project:

1. Pike's Bid was: $ 444,351.00
2. Hopkins Bid was: $597,445.00

C. WORKSHOP:

1) Discussion with Rockwood Fire Chief regarding snowmobile replacement: The Fire Chief was unable to make it to the meeting due to the weather but will be down for the next meeting. David Spencer went over the information regarding the snowmobile that went through the ice that the Fire Department had used to rescue someone. This had been a private citizen's machine. There is no insurance to cover it but it is the County's responsibility to buy the snowmobile. He has since found out that the snowmobile cannot be fixed as first thought due to the time it sat at the bottom of the lake. He is looking to take the $8,000 from the Community Benefit account which has a balance in it of $432,000. There was also discussion that a policy be made that the Fire Department only use its equipment on personal property so that the County is not in this situation again. Dave also felt that maybe there needs to be more oversight on the Department. The Fire Chief is definitely a mover and a shaker and has done well up there but on-site representation would be good. Dave said he could do that or one of the Commissioners. He was tasked to bring back a policy as he mentioned and there would be a resolution on the next meeting to purchase the machine.

2) Finalize Preliminary Budget: There was no discussion.

D. New Agenda Items (Commissioners Only)

Resolution 23 – 073 To approve the Pike Industry bid in the amount of $444,351.00 to pave the Long Falls Dam Road
Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to accept the above referenced motion.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

E. MINUTES:

Resolution 23 – 063 To Accept the Minutes of March 15, 2023
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to Accept the Minutes of March 15, 2023
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

Resolution 23 – 064 To Accept the Minutes of March 27,2023
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to Accept the Minutes of March 27, 2023
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

Resolution 23 – 065 To Accept the Minutes of March 29, 2023
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to Accept the Minutes of March 29, 2023
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

F. FINANCE REPORTING: Patrick said the month of March is not closed yet but he will have those numbers for the April 19th meeting.

G. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Nothing to Report

H. DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Sheriff: Patrol had 382 calls for service last week and 2 calls involved using Narcan. All the Sergeants attended training last week on the Yellow Flag Law. On March 29th the department had their MLEAP Assessment and the post meeting with those that did the assessments shows that the department achieved the accreditation. If the department is successful in obtaining that, Dirigo will do a presentation at a Commissioner's meeting. This department will be the only law enforcement in Somerset County to have achieved the accreditation. The Sheriff is still working at the State on several bills. A big one is trying to allow the incarcerated to not lose their Maine Care which would help keep cost down on the medical side.

Pawel: Cyber Security is high priority and he'll apply for grants in the next two weeks. Also, with the Sheriff's Office working on the citation project, where instead of handwritten tickets they will be able to put those in the computer and print the tickets. He also reports that the IT department did an interview for the position

that was open and just waiting for the background check and fingerprints and then the candidate will be starting in the next couple of weeks.

Mike Smith: The Communication Center is two weeks ahead from last year's calls. Seeing an uptick on call volumes. Did finish business practice review a couple of weeks ago with Central Square. Getting ready to start conversations about conversion of data. The two new employees are doing great. They just started their first days of the four weeks training at the academy to get their State mandated certifications that they need. He wanted to acknowledge the other employees who have been doing a great job stepping up filling in shifts and getting the job done. On the **EMA** side of the house he stated that he usually can tell the Commissioners what he has gotten for Homeland Security Grants for the year. The notice of funding has been released, however they are running the grants differently this year as they are going to be openly competitive. They are only going to be considering those requests that fit the direct criteria of the Homeland Security Grant. That means what the National and State priorities are. He can submit 15 to 20 applications for the departments and they will filter out to what fits. He will then hear back as to what is approved. Regarding the **PPE Building** he stated he just got the Granger account set up with the Tax-Exempt status so he is ready to go to start ordering.

ADA Griffin: Report that Sheena Boone's last day was April 4th as the Witness Advocate. There are interviews on April 6th and really hoping in that batch of resumes that a good candidate will be found to replace Sheena.

Tracey Rotondi: All set.

Laura: Training is moving along for the newer people in the office. The workload is starting to pick back up.

Phil Curtis: All set.

Mike Pike: The Jail is one-month mark back in to four shifts. There have been no additional resignations since this has happened. The number of call outs have decreased dramatically and I am hearing feedback from the staff that morale is good. Regarding staffing we have four officers in training and expect to have them on the floor by May 1st. One additional hire on the agenda for your consideration today and assuming that hiring is approved that will leave 4 openings which is the lowest it has been in about 3 years.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

J. NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 23 – 066 To ratify the hire of Elijah Baldelli as Dispatcher for the Somerset County Reginal Communications Center.
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to ratify the hire of Elijah Baldelli as Dispatcher for the Somerset County Regional Communications Center.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: 5-0

Resolution 23 – 067 To approve the termination of Corrections Officer Joshua Bowden for the Somerset County Jail.

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve the termination of Corrections Officer Joshua Bowden for the Somerset County Jail.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: 5-0

Resolution 23 – 068 To approve the FY24 draft Budget to go to the Budget Committee
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve the FY24 draft Budget to go to the Budget Committee
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: 5-0

Resolution 23 – 069 To approve the hire of Jeannie Waugh as Full time Corrections Officer for the Somerset County Jail
Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the hire of Jeannie Waugh as Full time Corrections Officer for the Somerset County Jail.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

K. CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENDITURES:

Resolution 23 – 070 To approve the Request for Expenditure to Upgrade Deeds software and utilize the on-line Deed process.
Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the Request for Expenditure to Upgrade Deeds software and utilize the on-line Deed Process
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

Resolution 23 – 071 To approve the the Transfer of Funds for the IT Email Exchange Server, IT County Telephone System and IT Software projects
Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the Transfer of Funds for the IT Email Exchange Server, IT County Telephone System and IT Software projects
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

L. UNORGANIZED TERRITORY:

Resolution 23 – 073 To approve the Pike Industry bid in the amount of $444,351.00 to pave the Long Falls Dam Road.
Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the Pike Industry bid in the amount of $444,351.00 to pave the Long Falls Dam Road.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

M. WARRANTS:

Resolution 23 – 072 To approve the Treasurer's Warrants for the General Fund, SCJ and UT in the amounts of $102,287.73 for General Fund; $598,465.74 for SCJ; $163,185.54 for UT; and $5250.00 for TIF Tax Revenue for a Total of $869,189.01.
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrants for the General Fund, SCJ and UT in the amounts of $102,287.73 for General Fund; $598,465.74 for SCJ; $163,185.54 for UT; and $5,250.00 for TIF Tax Revenue for a Total of $869,189.01.
Second: Commissioner Johnson
Vote: 5-0

N. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION ITEMS (Commissioners Only):

Commissioner Sezak: He stated that he had made sure all the Commissioners were given a Surrender Application for the Gilman Stream Hydro Dam as the owner wants to give up the license. This will be discussed at the next meeting under the workshop.

O. PUBLIC HEARING:

P. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1) **Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 (6) (E) Attorney: Note This executive session may be periodically recessed and reconvened, as necessary, during this meeting.**

Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to go into executive session under Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 (6) (E) Attorney. Note: This executive session may be periodically recessed and reconvened, as necessary, during this meeting.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: 5-0

No action taken

2) **Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 (6) (A) Personnel.**

Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to go into executive session under Title 1 M.R.S. A. Section 405 (6) (A) Personnel.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: 5-0

No action taken

R. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Sezak motioned to adjourn at 4:35 PM