



**CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 24, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER 6:19 pm

The Board of Commissioners for Cumberland County, Maine, held a special meeting via Zoom and streamed live on YouTube. The meeting was called to Order by Chair Susan Witonis.

ATTENDANCE:

Cumberland County Commissioners:

Commissioner Susan Witonis, Chair
Commissioner James Cloutier
Commissioner Thomas Coward
Commissioner Stephen Gorden
Commissioner Neil Jamieson

County Staff:

Jim Gailey, County Manager
Alex Kimball, Deputy Manager of Finance and Administration
Travis Kennedy, Director of Public Affairs & Outreach
Aaron Gilpatric, Director of Information Technology
Katharine Cahoon, Admin & Special Projects
Liz Blackwell-Moore, Public Health Director
Kevin Joyce, Sheriff
Don Goulet, Captain

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Witonis requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2022. Commissioner Jamieson so moved, and Commissioner Cloutier seconded. A Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

2021 4th Quarter Newsletter – Regional Communications Department

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A comment from the public was received from a group of land surveyors regarding plans in the attic that are currently unavailable to the public and can be accessed at the Registry of Deeds. County Manager Gailey stated that staff were in the process of exploring software that could digitize the plans and make them available to the public.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVALS

Chair Witonis stated that **Item 22-010** for the Award of bid to Dell Technologies would be moved from Consent Agenda Approvals to New Business for further discussion given the cost of the award.

ARPA BUSINESS

22-011 Award a bid to ZMStrategies, of Portland, Maine for the Community Health Improvement Plan funded by first tranche ARPA funds for the amount of \$32,250.00 requested by the Public Health Department.

County Manager Gailey stated that this item was competitively bid and items came in under bid. Public Health Manager Elizabeth Blackwell-Moore stated that the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is required to assess what the County is doing well and where gaps exist the basis for the bid is to create a community outreach plan enabling the County to identify gaps in public health. ZMStrategies was selected as their proposal laid out a very detailed plan to approach community outreach, thus enabling the County's CHIP to lay the foundation for the County's Public Health program.

Commissioner Gorden encourage Public Health Manager Blackwell-Moore to collaborate with Faye Luppi on existing public health ventures.

Commissioner Gorden so moved, and Commissioner Jamieson seconded the motion to award the bid to ZMStrategies for the amount of \$32,250.00 to be funded by first tranche ARPA funds.

A Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

Yes – Commissioners': Cloutier, Coward, Gorden, Jamieson, and Chair Witonis.

NEW BUSINESS

22-010 Award of bid to Dell Technologies for the amount of \$142,223 to replace and consolidate existing County servers, requested by the Information Technology Department.

IT Director Aaron Gilpatric gave some insight into the reason for replacing the current servers, the new servers will be hyper converged. The twelve existing servers will be replaced with 4 and housed in one location. Commissioner Jamieson asked if IT Director Gilpatric could elaborate on the capacity of the servers. IT Director Gilpatric stated that a hyper converged model would take 3 different layers, networking, data, and data storage, compressing it into one process, the result is a more efficient and faster server with less hardware/network failures and less stress on staff.

Commissioner Coward so moved, and Commissioner Cloutier seconded the motion to award the bid to Dell Technologies for the amount of \$142,223 to replace and consolidate existing County servers.

A Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

Yes – Commissioners’: Cloutier, Coward, Gorden, Jamieson, and Chair Witonis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

22-005 Approve the new “COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Face Covering Policy.” Request to table indefinitely.

County Manager Gailey explained the Biden Administration’s Mask Mandate has been stalled at the Federal level by the Supreme Court. Commissioner Coward so moved, and Commissioner Cloutier seconded the motion to table the “COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Face Covering Policy.”

A Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

Yes – Commissioners’: Cloutier, Coward, Gorden, Jamieson, and Chair Witonis.

22-008 Amending Order 19-039 Amending the Bid Award to Autotronics, LLC.

Chair Witonis made two motions based on the workshop that took place prior to the evening’s meeting. The following motions were made by Chair Witonis and seconded by Commissioner Gorden to authorize \$12,129 of funds from the Sheriff’s LEC Fund Balance for payment, and amend item 19-039 increasing the amount to \$120,459.50 of which \$79,959.50 are from various grants including JAG, Homeland Security, Asset Forfeiture, 2020 Non debt Capital and 2021 LEC Fund Balance.

A Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

Yes – Commissioners': Cloutier, Coward, Gorden, Jamieson, and Chair Witonis.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Sheriff Joyce shared that the jail had a partial shutdown in December 14 to give staff a break before the holiday and they are currently still in partial shutdown to the sudden Omicron spread, the highest number of staff out at one time was 14, however this number has stabilized. The current count of jail inmates testing Positive for COVID is 23, intake is limited to those with serious crimes and every third inmate through intake is positive.

Commissioner Gorden asked if the State was taking inmates, Sheriff Joyce confirmed that they were but limited to those needing mental health treatment. Deputy patrol staff currently has 8 vacancies but they are having trouble filling contracts with other towns and the pool is very limited. Chair Witonis asked if the some of the Deputies had COVID, Sheriff Joyce stated that it varies, but right now there are 3. He added that there is an increase in the mental health related calls, he is encouraged by the pilot program that is set to open in Portland.

Deputy Manager of Finance and Administration Alex Kimball shared that employees received their W-2s and staff are working on 1099s and 1095-Cs.

Human Resources Director Don Brewer provided an update regarding County vacancies, there are an estimated 80 vacancies, and there are 60 Correctional Officers vacancies, Personnel Recruiter Mary Payson has been doing a lot of research and target marketing and has recommended that the County be more agile during the onboarding process. She has partnered with Correctional Officer Tom Witham to recruit Correctional Officers. Sheriff Joyce also shared that the requirement to pass the State's Alert Test has been suspended indefinitely which should reduce hiring constraints for Corrections employees.

Captain Goulet shared that he met with Liz and Amy (Jennings) and are hosting a vaccine clinic for Jail Employees in partnership with Northern Light that will be on February 1, 2022.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gorden shared that there is a jail funding bill that has come to fruition as result with MMA and other state partnerships. The bill will address a lot of the current concerns that are driving up costs for the County.

Commissioner Cloutier shared that homelessness demands in Portland have

doubled and spilled over to South Portland and Freeport.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

22-002 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 CCCA.

Commissioner Gorden so moved and Commissioner Cloutier seconded the motion to 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 CCCA.

A Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

Yes: Commissioners, Cloutier, Coward, Jamieson, Gorden, Witonis.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 7:08pm.

At 7:37pm, Chair Witonis requested a motion to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Coward so moved and Commissioner Cloutier seconded.

A Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously in favor, 5-0.

Yes: Commissioners, Coward, Cloutier, Jamieson, Gorden and Witonis.

ADJOURNMENT 7:38pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 5:30pm