OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2022

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, July 19, 2022 being a regular session, there were present:

Timothy Turner  Chairman
Steven Merrill    Commissioner
David Duguay     Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

June 21 approved with amendments

Agenda Adopted
The agenda was adopted with addition of “Bethel contract update” to the Sheriff’s report.

Public Comment
James Heath, Roger Leidel, Ken Wille, and Gary Hill, all residents of Albany Township, expressed their concerns that the Commissioners had recently designated certain public roads in Albany as access roads to extend the current ATV trails. They were concerned that the ATV trail extension would cause road erosion, safety hazards, attract more people to the area, and increase noise, defeating their choice to live in a quiet, rural area.

Chairman Turner thanked the gentleman for their concerns and assured them that the item was listed on the public agenda before action was taken. He also stated that the ATV club had promised to make contact with landowners before utilizing the roads.

Unorganized Territory Supervisor Tony Carter assured the residents that he would speak to the ATV club to get more information and that this item would be continued.

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 Christopher Wainwright updated the Commissioners on departmental matters.

The Commissioners briefly discussed relocation of CID but noted it would be discussed further at the August 4 workshop.

The Commissioners authorized the submission of an Inland Fisheries and Wildlife grant application.
The Commissioners authorized the submission of an Edward Byrne Memorial grant application.

The Commissioners accepted the resignation of Corrections Officer Brianna Johnson effective July 10.

The Commissioners authorized the hiring of Jerrad Coffin as a part-time Corrections Officer with the following confirmed:

- Effective Date: July 19, 2022
- Wage Rate: $16.32/hr (certified part-time rate)
- Special Conditions: none

The Sheriff updated the Commissioners on the Bethel contract for law enforcement, citing a 3% increase.

**Treasurer’s Report**
Treasurer Beth Calhoun provided written reports and updated Commissioners on the County’s financial status.

**Matters Pertaining to the Unorganized Territory**
The Commissioners reviewed bids for winter road maintenance in Magalloway Township and awarded the bid to JML in Errol, NH for $34,000/year.

The Commissioners reviewed a request for payment from DA Wilson for stump dump usage and denied payment, citing that there is no contract for this service and that no advanced notice was given.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the ATV trail access item again with representatives of the Pulpit Rock Trail Blazahs and Ken Wille of Albany Township. The ATV club stated that they made contact with as many landowners as possible. They were surprised to hear that there were complaints about the access trails, citing that they thought it would bring business to a business at the end of the road.

The Commissioners encouraged the two parties to communicate with each other and Unorganized Territory Supervisor Tony Carter again assured everyone that he would get more information and hopefully find a solution that works for everyone.

The Commissioners approved a liquor license submission from Bosebuck Mountain Camps.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the FY23 Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) submission.

**Matters Pertaining to the Airport**
Airport Supervisor Tony Carter updated the Commissioners on the recent Fly-In, calling it a big success.
**Personnel Updates and Actions**

The Commissioners authorized the hiring of Mikayla Dow as a full-time Dispatcher with the following confirmed:

- **Effective Date:** July 10, 2022
- **Wage Rate:** $16.56/hr (entry)
- **Special Conditions:** none

The Commissioners authorized the hiring of Tine Suttles as a full-time Dispatcher with the following confirmed:

- **Effective Date:** July 11, 2022
- **Wage Rate:** $16.56/hr (entry)
- **Special Conditions:** none

The Commissioners reviewed a draft update of the nepotism policy but tabled approval pending some clarification from Attorney Dieterich of Skelton Taintor & Abbott.

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.

**Adjournment**
The Commissioners adjourned at 1:57pm

Timothy G. Turner, Chairman

Steven M. Merrill Commissioner

David A. Duguay 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.