OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2021

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 20, 2021 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 with the addition of architectural updates under “other items.”

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

June 15               approved with amendments

Public Comment
None

Update from Road Agent Todd Sawyer
The Commissioners authorized a Meadow Brook Bridge project in Mason Township (Unorganized Territory).

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 Chris Wainwright spoke with the Commissioners regarding departmental matters.

The Commissioners authorized the use of Byrne-Jag grant funds for safety equipment in cruisers and safety gear for deputies up to $8,000.

The Commissioners acknowledged the promotion of Deputy Matthew McDonnell to Sergeant effective July 20, 2021 with a wage rate of $25.36/hr (4yr step).

The Commissioners acknowledged the promotion of Deputy Michael Fitzmorris to Corporal effective July 20, 2021 with a wage rate of $24.15/hr (4yr step).

The Commissioners acknowledged the promotion of Deputy Joshua Aylward to Corporal effective July 21, 2021 with a wage rate of $24.15/hr (4yr step).
The Commissioners authorized the hiring of Nickolas Von Husen as a full-time certified Sheriff’s Deputy with the following confirmed:

- Effective Date: August 15, 2021*
- Wage Rate: $23.00/hr (4th year step)
- Special Conditions: none

*It was noted that Nickolas Von Husen is authorized to work in part-time capacity prior to August 15 to onboard and begin field training with a wage rate of $18.50/hr (part-time certified rate).

The Commissioners acknowledged the promotion of Corrections Officer Daniel Landry to Sergeant effective retroactively to July 11, 2021 with a wage rate of $21.16/hr (4yr step).

The Commissioners acknowledged the voluntary demotion of Corrections Sergeant Austin Talgo to Corrections Officer effective July 20, 2021 with a wage rate of $19.04/hr (4yr step). Officer Talgo cited personal family reasons for needing to change ranks in order to change shifts.

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

Treasurer Calhoun reported that the casino revenue is back to pre-pandemic levels which is typically $18,000 - $19,000 per week.

**Matters Pertaining to the Unorganized Territory**
The Commissioners authorized County Administrator Donald Durrah to appoint a sexton for each cemetery in the Unorganized Territory for an annual stipend of $500 per sexton, and per cemetery.

**Lunch Recess**
The Commissioners recessed at 12:00pm for lunch and their annual tour of the jail. They reconvened at 12:50pm.

**Personnel Updates and Actions**
The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss a personnel matter.

The Commissioners returned to open session and appointed Donald Durrah Jr. as County Administrator with the following confirmed:

- Effective Date: July 25, 2021
- Wage Rate: $88,000/yr
- Special Conditions: none

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss details of an applicant. They returned to open session and authorized County Administrator Donald Durrah to extend a formal job offer to the candidate.

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. Adopted final written decision on the Stow Petition Hearing.
3. Authorized County Administrator Donald Durrah to purchase of the Whittemore property on Western Avenue up to its appraised value to expand opportunity for growth of the County Complex.
4. Received updates through County Administrator Donald Durrah from the architects involved with developing a Public Safety Building.
5. Changed the date of the 2022 Budget Committee Caucus to Wednesday, August 18 and the September Commissioners’ Workshop to Thursday, September 9.

Adjournment

The Commissioners adjourned at 2:33pm

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.