

~ Meeting Minutes~
Androscoggin County Budget Committee
October 11, 2023
Budget Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Chair Lisa Cesare at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Budget Committee members present:

District 1. Larry Pease, Lewiston Councilor, Ward 5
District 1. Robert Reed, Lewiston Resident
District 3. Lee Clement, Lewiston Councilor, Ward 6
District 3. Paula Masselli, Lewiston Resident, Ward 6
District 5. Phil Crowell, Auburn City Manager
District 6. Jane Pentheny, Poland Selectperson
District 6. Larry Pelletier, Auburn Resident
District 7. Vice-Chair Kevin Nichols, Turner Selectperson
District 7. Chair Lisa Cesare, Minot Selectperson

Budget Committee members absent:

District 2. Linda Scott
District 2. Vacant (Resident)
District 4. Noel Hinkley, Sabattus Selectperson
District 4. Angela Mitchell, Sabattus Resident
District 5. Gordon Bell, Auburn Resident

Other:

County Administrator Clarice Proctor, Tom Reynolds, Angela Molino, Eric Samson, William Gagne, Martin Fournier, Jeff Chute, Steve Sherlock, Sandy Berube, Commissioner Roland Poirier, Mark Cornelio, Michael Perry, Mike Mejia, Nathan McNally, Maurice Drouin.

IV. CONSIDERATION & CONFIRMATION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS– N/A

V. CONSIDERATION OF OCTOBER 4, 2023 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

On motion of Jane Pentheny, seconded by Larry Pease, it was

VOTED:

(032-2023) to approve the October 4, 2023 Budget Committee minutes as presented.

VOTE: 8-0-1

Abstained: Phil Crowell

VI. REVIEW BUDGETS

Registry of Probate-18070 (Presented by Register of Probate Thomas Reynolds)

On motion of Larry Pease, seconded by Jane Pentheny, it was

VOTED:

(033-2023) to approve *Registry of Probate-18070* expenditures as presented at \$243,321, and revenues as presented at \$190,000.

VOTE: 9-0

EMA-11100 (Presented by EMA Director Angela Molino)

On motion of Robert Reed, seconded by Larry Pease, it was

VOTED:

(034-2023) to approve *EMA-11100* expenditures as presented at \$247,020 (With the recommended action that the electricity usage be accurately assessed-the *Electricity line 64040* at \$6,800 is stated as 25% of fire station electricity expense), and to approve revenues as presented at \$152,495.

VOTE: 9-0

Sheriff Eric Samson & Chief Deputy William Gagne presented the following budgets:

774 Center Street-17074

On motion of Robert Reed, seconded by Larry Pease, it was

VOTED:

(035-2023) to approve *Center Street-17074* expenditures as presented at \$133,700 and revenues as presented at \$48,000.

VOTE: 9-0

Sheriff's Department/Public Safety-17075

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Larry Pease, it was

VOTED:

(036-2023) to approve *Sheriff's Department/Public Safety-17075* expenditures as presented at \$2,655,500 and to approve revenues as presented at \$23,500 (With the recommended action that the Patrol position that is currently being funded by ARPA continue to be funded for the full year and that Commissioners explore cost reimbursement/a contract from the Town of Turner).

VOTE: 8-1

Opposed: Kevin Nichols

Note: It was noted that Chair Christner spoke with Senator Timberlake regarding looking into having the State of Maine pay for/provide coverage for Route 4.

Civil-17076

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Kevin Nichols, it was

VOTED:

(037-2023) to approve *Civil-17076* expenditures as presented at \$302,600 and revenues as presented at \$245,700.

VOTE: 9-0

Sheriff's Department Death Benefits-17077

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Kevin Nichols, it was

VOTED:

(038-2023) to approve *Sheriff's Department Death Benefits-17077* expenditures as presented at \$22,163.

VOTE: 9-0

Communications-17078 (Presented with Communications Director Martin Fournier)

On motion of Kevin Nichols, seconded by Robert Reed, it was

VOTED:

(039-2023) to approve *Communications-17078* expenditures as presented at \$999,511 and revenues as presented at \$433,648.

VOTE: 9-0

Jail/Support of Prisoners-15050 (Presented with Jail Administrator Jeff Chute)

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Kevin Nichols, it was

VOTED:

(040-2023) to approve *Jail/Support of Prisoners-15050* expenditures as presented at \$7,923,248 and revenues as presented at \$7,923,248.

VOTE: 9-0

County Building/Facilities -14040

On motion of Jane Pentheny, seconded by Larry Pease, it was

VOTED:

(041-2023) to increase department *Building/Facilities-14040, line Building & Building Improvements-70100* (by + \$120,500) from \$8,000 to \$128,500.

VOTE: (no vote)

Friendly amendment

County Building/Facilities-14040

On motion of Robert Reed, seconded by Kevin Nichols, it was

VOTED:

(041-2023) to increase department *County Building/Facilities-14040, line Building & Building Improvements-70100* (by + \$120,500-Using ARPA money only) from \$8,000 to \$128,500.

VOTE: (no vote)

*Budget Committee members noted the need for Commissioners to make a decision whether or not to move out of the Androscoggin County Building.

*Clarice Proctor stated that the Commissioners have formed a Building Committee.

County Building-14040

On motion of Kevin Nichols, seconded by Lee Clement, it was

VOTED:

(041-2023) to approve *County Building-14040* expenditures as presented at \$440,993.

VOTE: 8-1

Opposed: Phil Crowell

IT Department-13060

On motion of Kevin Nichols, seconded by Robert Reed, it was

VOTED:

(042-2023) to reduce *IT Department, Service Contracts Line 64135 (by- \$5,000)*, which would lower total expenditures from \$189,531 to \$184,531.

VOTE: 9-0

Insurances-12060

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Lee Clement, it was

VOTED:

(043-2023) to approve *Insurances-12060* expenditures as presented at \$120,000.

VOTE: 9-0

AVCOG-19202

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Jane Pentheny, it was

VOTED:

(044-2023) to reinstate *AVCOG-19202* expenditures to \$8,197.29.

VOTE: (no vote)

Motion rescinded

AVCOG-19202

On motion of Robert Reed, seconded by Lee Clement, it was

VOTED:

(044-2023) to reinstate *AVCOG-19202* expenditures to \$8,197.29.

VOTE: 8-1

Opposed: Kevin Nichols

Employee Benefits-12050

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Larry Pease, it was

VOTED:

(045-2023) to approve *Employee Benefits-12050* expenditures as presented at \$3,106,339.

VOTE: 9-0

County Admin/Commissioners-12020

On motion of Lisa Cesare, seconded by Jane Pentheny, it was

VOTED:

(046-2023) to reduce *County Admin/Commissioners-12020, Professional fees line 60010* (by -20,000) from \$50,000 to \$30,000, bringing total expenses from \$255,400 to \$235,400.

VOTE: 9-0

County Admin/Commissioners-12020

On motion of Lee Clement, seconded by Larry Pelletier, it was

VOTED:

(047-2023) to raise Commissioners salaries to \$6,500 and \$7,000 for the Chair (With the suggestion to change the charter to reduce the count of Commissioners from seven to five, and to also revise the charter to lower the 11 affirmative budget committee votes required to reject or modify any line item).

VOTE: 8-1

Opposed: Jane Pentheny

Historical Society

On motion of Phil Crowell, seconded by Robert Reed, it was

VOTED:

(048-2023) to approve \$15,000 for the Historical Society.

VOTE: 7-2

Opposed: Lisa Cesare, Kevin Nichols

VII. ADJOURN

On motion of Kevin Nichols, seconded by Lee Clement, it was

VOTED:

(049-2023) to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

VOTE: 9-0

Sandra Berube