

Sagadahoc County Board of Commissioners
Minutes
March 17, 2015

A special meeting of the Sagadahoc County Commissioners was held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 752 High Street, Bath, Maine 04530.

Present: Commissioners Charles Crosby, III, Carol Grose and Max Dawson; County Administrator Pamela Hile; Attorney Richard Hornbeck; Probate Judge John Voorhees; Probate Registrar Carolyn Bird.

Chair Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and established the presence of a quorum.

Judge Voorhees introduced Ms. Carolyn Bird, who was appointed by the Governor to serve out the remaining term of the Register of Probate. Commissioner Dawson welcomed her on behalf of the entire Board.

Upon **motion** by Commissioner Dawson and second by Commissioner Grose, the Board voted unanimously to **enter into an executive session at 5:07 p.m. pursuant to Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405, 6. D. of the M.R.S.A. for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations.**

The Board left the Executive Session at 6:19 p.m.

Business Items

1. Salary for New Probate Registrar

The Administrator provided a salary survey for all County Probate Registrars, noting that the average for the state is \$39,479.

After discussion, Commissioner Grose made a **motion to set the new Registrar's salary at \$39,479.** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dawson and **approved unanimously.**

2. National Telecommunicator Week

The Administrator advised that National Telecommunicators' Week was coming up in April. Communications Director Brodie Hinckley requested authorization to purchase small gift certificates for each dispatchers at a total cost not to exceed \$200. Money has been included in his budget for this item.

Upon **motion** by Commissioner Dawson and second by Commissioner Grose, the Board **voted unanimously to approve the request to purchase gift cards for the dispatchers.**

3. Discussion of FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget

The Administrator advised that the budget had been changed to reflect corrections noted by the DA and Sheriff at the recent budget work session. These reductions, however, did not result in any decrease in the percentage of the proposed increase for FY 2015-16. The Board then identified two items needing further discussion:

a. Salaries for the Sheriff and Chief Deputy – The Sheriff requested an increase in the Chief Deputy’s salary that would bring his salary to .40/hr. above that of the newly hired Lieutenant. This increase would be offset somewhat by giving the Sheriff a zero percent increase in the coming year. The Board carefully examined all aspects of the request, including the fact that the Chief Deputy’s insurance premium is paid in full by the County, for a total additional benefit of approximately \$2,173. When this is added to his base salary, he will actually be making approximately \$685 more than the Lieutenant in FY 2015-16 (assuming a 2% COLA for both). The Commissioners also felt that waiving an increase for the Sheriff’s position could set an undesirable precedent in the future and determined that the Sheriff, Chief Deputy and Lieutenant positions should each be budgeted for the proposed 2% COLA increase.

b. Salary Increases for Part-Time Elected Officials

The Commissioners considered a request from Probate Judge Voorhees that his eligibility for COLA and other salary increases be reconsidered. Currently, part-time elected officials do not receive a COLA. The Board felt that all part-time elected officials should be treated the same, without distinction by position. It was also felt that a study should be done to determine the policies of other Counties in regard to this issue. In addition, the Board requested that the Administrator ask the Budget Advisory Committee for its recommendation on this matter.

4. Other

Citing the importance of encouraging a healthy workforce, the Commissioners requested that the Administrator prepare an amendment to the Employee Manual that would allow both full and part-time staff to utilize the County’s YMCA passes. This will be presented at the next Commissioners’ Meeting.

Upon **motion** by Commissioner Dawson and second by Commissioner Grose, **the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. by unanimous acclamation.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Hile
County Administrator

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