

Kennebec County, Maine
 Special County Commissioner’s Meeting
 Minutes June 26th, 2023



Present:

Patsy Crockett, Commissioner, Chair
 Joe Pietroski, Commissioner
 George Jabar, Commissioner

Cindi Ferguson, Finance Director
 Chris Brawn, HR Director
 Maeghan Maloney, District Attorney

Shira Burns, MPA Executive Director
 Scott Ferguson, County Administrator
 Stephanie Schredder, Executive Assistant

	Discussion	Action
Call to order	12:30pm	
Subject	STOP Violence Against Women Grant Application Process	
District Attorney	<p>➤ Maeghan Maloney, District Attorney: “(I) sent an email to Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, and Cindi Ferguson, Finance Director, before applying for the grant. After the grant was awarded, Administrator Ferguson sent an email to the state saying, among other things, "This grant is for state employees and has no bearing on County Government" jeopardizing the grant. DA Maloney explained that prosecutors in the DA's Office serve the county function of prosecuting the crimes committed in the county. Who pays their salaries has no bearing on the character of the work.”</p>	
Finance	<p>➤ Cindi Ferguson, Finance Director: “The Maine Prosecutors Association (MPA) applied for a STOP Violence Against Women Grant. This grant was awarded by the State to the MPA and the contract is between the State and the MPA. There was a miscommunication be DA Maloney and myself. I sent a “Grant Summary Form” requesting necessary information for the county to make an informed decision and next time more lead time would be appreciated. DA Maloney interpreted this as not utilizing the form now, but next time.”</p> <p>Meaghan Maloney, District Attorney, stated that the grant award needs to be through a governmental agency. The MPA is a non-profit. She is requesting that Kennebec County be the pass-through agency for this grant.</p>	

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	Discussion	Action
	<p>Cynthia Ferguson, Kennebec County Finance Director, explained that if Kennebec County is the responsible party, Kennebec County officials should be notified of the application prior to submitting it. Cynthia Ferguson, Finance Director, also explained the responsibilities related to administering a grant. Details will have to be worked out on how to handle the match that is actually attorney salaries paid by the State. If the remaining match is incurred by any entity other than this Kennebec County entity, MPA is responsible for collecting supporting documentation, including proof of payment and submitting it to the Kennebec County Finance Department for review and submission. MPA should not submit any reports or documents related to this grant. If it is going to be a Kennebec County grant, then Kennebec County officials and employees will be responsible for submitting any required documents.</p> <p>The MPA will ask the State if this is a reimbursement-based grant or if the funds will be available to pay expenditures incurred. Kennebec County has not committed to funding any expenditures other than those related directly to Kennebec County employees as a match and included in the approved Kennebec County budget.</p> <p>Joe Pietroski, Commissioner, made a motion to accept the STOP grant under the above conditions.. Details will have to be worked out on how to handle the match that is actually attorney salaries paid by the State. If the remaining match is incurred by any entity other than this Kennebec County entity, MPA is responsible for collecting supporting documentation, including proof of payment and submitting it to the Kennebec County Finance Department for review and submission. MPA should not submit any reports or documents related to this grant. If it is going to be a Kennebec County grant, then Kennebec County officials and employees will be responsible for submitting any required documents. Kennebec County has not committed to funding any expenditures other than those related directly to Kennebec County employees as a match and included in the approved Kennebec County budget. Patsy Crockett, Commissioner Chair, seconded the motion.”</p> <p>Scott Ferguson, County Administrator, left the meeting prior to the vote.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APPROVED 3-0</p>
<p>Commissioners</p>	<p>➤ Patsy Crockett, Commissioner Chair:</p>	

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	Discussion	Action
	<p>“ DA Maloney sent an e-mail to Administrator Scott Ferguson and cc'd Finance Director Cindi Ferguson, she told them that she had an attorney in her office to work on a STOP grant for training money for attorneys. She also stated that apparently the deadline for the grant request was Monday so she would work over the weekend. DA Maloney stated: "If the grant is awarded then I'll ask the commissioners for permission to accept it".</p> <p>As both Finance Director Cindi Ferguson and DA Maloney have just said the three of us agreed there was a misunderstanding of the e-mail that Cindi sent May 15th at 8:27am, in it she states: “more time would be much appreciated in the future” I take that to mean OK but in the future, she’d appreciate more notice, I thought that was very nice of her.</p> <p>I was very disappointed to learn that Administrator Ferguson sent an e-mail (see attached) to the State listing his concerns with the grant request, in my opinion it would have been much better for him to ask DA Maloney any questions he had concerning the grant. We in Kennebec County are a team and should all be working together.</p> <p>At the end of the meeting a Motion was made by Commissioner Pietroski and seconded by myself, Patsy Crockett, Chair Kennebec County Commissioners- Motion passed 3-0 to accept the Grant.”</p>	
Adjournment	Regular meeting adjourned at: 12:33pm	

Respectfully Submitted: Stephanie Schredder, Executive Assistant