



COUNTY OF HANCOCK

Commissioners' Office
50 State Street, Suite 7
Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Learn more about *HANCOCK COUNTY* by visiting
www.co.hancock.me.us

Commissioners:
William Clark, District I
Percy L. Brown Jr., District II / Chair
Antonio Blasi, District III

Scott A. Adkins
County Administrator

Administrator's Report – 2017 A Year in Review

Hancock County has experienced tremendous growth & productivity since we last appeared in the newsletter about a year ago. I would be remiss if I didn't give credit to the great staff here on campus and the cooperative efforts between the Commission, elected officials & administration. It's been a pleasure to serve as your County Administrator during this time.

The Commission of Hancock County went through some changes in 2017. As a result of the 16 elections, Steven Joy / District I was replaced by the incoming William Clark who is the former Sheriff in Hancock County. Now serving in his second term as Commissioner, Antonio Blasi was elected by the board as Chair. The third Commissioner from District II is Percy Brown, Jr. who is in his 4th term. The Administrator is thankful for their service and cooperation over the past year as we make great strides. In addition, the Commission fulfilled its goal of having a Deputy Administrator with the promotion of Rebekah Knowlton to that position.

I can't decide who should go first so I will just go by department number!! EMA (Emergency Management Agency), Andrew Sankey / Director, has had a very busy and productive year. There were a couple of good storms during the year including a dangerous one around the Halloween holiday. Along with his capable staff of Brad Nuding, Deputy Director, and Helen; Andy keeps the citizens of Hancock County well informed and organized.

The District Attorney's Office, DA Matthew Foster at the helm, still continues to operate efficiently and effectively despite the volume of cases. Here in Hancock County, we are not much different than most of the state, where we continue to battle the opioid drug problem from all directions. Recently, the Attorney General's office provided grant funding to supply additional help with regards to impaired driving. Considering new legislation in place & coming regarding marijuana, this is much welcomed assistance.

In the 911 Regional Communications Center, we unfortunately lost the services of Director Renee Wellman as she chose to pursue other endeavors. Hancock County is currently in the process of finding a replacement, but the very highly qualified staff of dispatchers continues on to provide top notch emergency dispatch services to its citizens. Speaking of the staff, the two new hires from a few months ago are now up and running their own "chairs / seats" in the dispatch center which brings us to full staffing for the first time in a long while. We look to continue to strengthen this department over the next year!!

Registry of Deeds, Registrar Julie Curtis, and Registry of Probate, Registrar Gale Coughlin, both continue to handle a high volume of cases and corresponding paperwork. As most in County government know, we rely on those revenues to assist in the running of these departments. We have also invested in new / updated technology & equipment to assist in efficient delivery of services.

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Under the direction of Sheriff Scott Kane, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office and Hancock County Jail continue to proudly supply law enforcement services to its citizens. The SO received donations for a K9 unit several months ago and recently has put the K9 into use with expected future training for enhancement of services. Despite the continued funding constraints, the Jail tirelessly operates effectively as we persistently battle for appropriate monies to sustain a proper budget. As well, the Civil division continues to serve the citizens productively with the delivery of legal documents.

The Treasurer's Office oversees the County's monetary accounts under the direction of Treasurer Janice Eldridge. Also, CA Adkins serves as the Finance Director for the County and has provided training for the staff. Recent audits have shown the improvement in how the County is recording their financial transactions; reconciling accounts monthly; using separation of duties and cross checking methods for both accuracy & security.

The County Commissioners took advantage of TIF funds and Community Benefit monies associated with the two wind farm projects, Bull Hill & Hancock Wind, to supplement other programs / services of benefit to the people of Hancock County. One of the uses was to establish a single year property tax reimbursement for Veteran's in all of the communities for around \$ 100k; each year the Commission has attempted to make financial awards to deserving local agencies / groups at \$ 50 – 75k and the 2017 completion of the Mt. Waldo communications tower install which significantly enhanced emergency communications to a much needed area of Hancock County. As the funds continue to grow, the Commissioners are making effort at developing a game plan for the best most productive use of these monies.

So, as you see, it has been a very busy year here in the Acadia area. The results give credence to the statement "hard work pays off". We look forward to an even more successful 2018 and wish the same for the rest of our County brethren!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Scott

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