

**CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE/NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

March 25, 2016 Meeting started at 8:05 a.m.

Portland City Hall, 389 Congress Street, Room 209, Portland, Maine

A. Attendance/Introductions:

Councilor Justin Costa, Chair, Councilor David Brenerman, Councilor Spencer Thibodeau, Mayor Ethan Strimling, City Manager Jon Jennings, Corporation Counsel Danielle West-Chuhta, Sen. Justin Alford, Sen. Anne Haskell, Rep. Ben Chipman, Rep. Richard Farnsworth, Portland Press Herald Reporter Randy Billings, Chris Hall from the Chamber of Commerce.

B. Discussion Items:

1. Legalities of Cutting the Title I Funding

2. LD ____: Polar/Landline Bill

- a. First waive June/July (notice provisions) (Portland) does not impact the landline service; grandfather the service for one year; allows Fairpoint to waive their rate by 5%.

3. Political Signs Bill: Can't have signs right next to each other; 30 feet apart on public right-of-ways; enforcement through MDOT. Result of case of of Arizona in S. Court

4. Bonding: Review the list and let them know which bonds are important to Portland. Sen. Anne Haskell has sponsored a Waterfront Bond and has a lot of partisan support. What does it say? Also a transportation bond from MDOT. Work with the Commissioner; some bonds can reinformace City priorities; this discussion is three weeks away, however.

5. Political Campaign/ Primary Bill: LD1673, sponsored by Sen. Alford, has a lot of bipartisan support. Allows a presidential primary election beginning 2020 after state party committee certification; date to be chosen by Dec. 1 not earlier than Jan. of following year; enrolled party voters only; Secretary of State role includes preparing ballot; allocates delegates to any vote-getter receiving 10% or more of vote; state pays cost of primary in towns and cities.

6. Healthy Maine Partnership Grants: Four statewide grants; we will not receive local funding. Hospitals are interested in this proposal. Extend funding through Sept. 30th, 2016

7. DHHS Rulemaking re: General Assistance: No update yet, very quiet. Lookman's bill – tabling... it was unassigned.

- a. 90/100 people in the gap...City feels it can fill this gap.
 - b. Have we billed for asylum seekers yet?
 - c. Attorney General's Office has not weighed in on the rules yet. Advocates argue that they will sue over the rules as proposed by DHHS.
- 8. **Legislature is done April 20, 2016.**
- 9. **Planning future meetings:**
 - a. Delegation meets five days a week till session is adjourned.
 - b. Mayor will take lead on scheduling future meetings
 - c. Future meetings will take place on Friday afternoons in Augusta.
- 10. **Final Review of bills to see if there is anything to discuss:** May be follow-up meeting with Rep. Mark Dion re: substance abuse and Polar Bills, etc.

The Legislative Committee meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

In addition, municipal officials were asked, in an email from Garrett Corbin, Maine Municipal Association, March 28, 2016, to oppose LD 1637, An Act To Assist Maine Citizens Residing Along Public Easements, requires roads upon which a city or town holds a right-of-way to be maintained according to the United States Postal Service requirements if there is a mail route on them (see attached).