

February 12, 2015

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held February 12, 2015
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Jeff Herrick, Edmunds Twp.
Sandy Herrick, Edmunds Twp.
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides
Dennis Perry, RCC / WCSO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Bill Kitchen, MVNO
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Dean A. Preston, U.T.

Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy was not present.

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of the January U.T. meeting minutes of January 8, 2015
(Crowley / Gardner, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston provided his monthly written report. (See attached)

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Dean reported that several ROW cutting and clearing projects throughout the UT have been suspended due to the heavy snow fall.

At this point, the winter highway maintenance budget has not been impacted by the excessive amounts of snow fall.

The annual shellfish program report will be submitted to the DMR no later than February 15, 2015.

The permit packet for the dry hydrant in Cathance Twp. is scheduled to be reviewed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on February 17, 2015. A draft agreement between the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Washington County UT will be prepared, then reviewed by the relevant attorneys. The agreement will then be forwarded to LUPC for review and issuance of the permit. Anticipating that there will be no issues with this application, Dean expects a ten-day turn around. Commissioner Gardner again expressed his frustration, stating that this is an unacceptable amount of time to merely put a pipe into a lake for the purpose of fire protection. Dean stated that construction should begin in April or May.

Dean had two maps to show that he created with the new plotter/printer purchased by the UT. One of the maps highlighted current Fire Protection and the other map highlighted EMS coverage. Dean plans to develop a map per month that will show information in a graphical format for quick and easy understanding of the U.T.'s needs and services. The maps will be available on the Washington County website for the public use. Commissioner Gardner expressed an interest in seeing the county services be plotted in this way as well. Commissioner Gardner asked if the remaining municipalities could also be put on the maps Dean is creating. Dean replied that maps could be built for the other municipalities as he has done for the Unorganized Territories. Commissioner Gardner specifically asked if maps could be developed to show ambulance and EMS services and winter road maintenance for Washington County municipalities. Dean confirmed that this could be done. Commissioner Gardner stated that this is a great way to deliver information.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

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Program Manager Susan Hatton gave the Commissioners a brief update on many of the grant recipients and the progress their businesses have made in the past year.

Jeffrey and Sandy Herrick were present to request a TIF grant and loan for the purpose of purchasing a 2015 Kenworth truck with the intention of re-establishing his trucking business. Program Manager Susan Hatton noted that Mr. Herrick has a well-established and excellent reputation in the trucking business. He has been working in the fishing industry while working to restart his trucking business. Mr. Herrick will be financing 78% of the project budget with Paccar Financial. Commissioner Gardner asked if the County would hold any position on the truck. Ms. Hatton responded that the County would not. The county would hold 2nd position interest on property located in Edmunds. The property is adequate collateral. The grant request is for \$15,000.00. The loan request for \$20,000.00 will be used for the down payment. Commissioner Gardner stated that the grant and loan requests appear to be well covered. The Grant and Loan Committee recommended approval of both requests.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the grant request of \$15,000.00, Grant # 1501-02-CP for Jeffrey Herrick of Herrick Trucking. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the loan request of \$20,000.00, Loan # JH-TIF-01-16-15, for Jeffrey Herrick of Herrick Trucking. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

The Commissioners wished the Herricks the best of luck.

Program Manager Susan Hatton requested that the Commissioners approve a line item transfer from Capital Project Economic Development to Capital Projects Loan account in the amount of \$20,000. The purpose of the transfer is to cover the loan amount for Herrick's Trucking.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF line item transfer of \$20,000.00 from the Capital Project Economic Development line to the Capital Project Loan Account line. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

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An update on the sale of the Cobscook Bay Company's material and intellectual assets was presented in the form of a letter addressed to the Commissioners from CBC Board Chair Alan Furth. Commissioner Gardner read the letter aloud for the purpose of transparency. The submitted letter is attached.

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Community Guided Planning and Zoning Proposal

The Agreement between the Unorganized Territories of Washington County and the Washington County Council of Governments to coordinate a Community Guided Planning and Zoning process for the U.T. was signed as presented. WCCOG Executive Director Judy East had given a presentation at the two prior Commissioners' Meetings and the proposal was approved at the January 8th Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Gardner acknowledged that the Community Guided Planning and Zoning Agreement encompassed a lot of information that will be on-going. U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston stated that Judy East will be traveling to Augusta on February 24th to meet with the LUPC.

Commissioner Gardner noted that he recently had a conversation with Bill Varney of Varney Insurance. Mr. Varney's company is interested in delivering broadband service to the U.T. areas. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Community Guided Planning and Zoning groundwork may be a way to help accomplish this. Commissioner Gardner tasked U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston and SCEC to follow-up with Mr. Varney regarding this endeavor.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

**_____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**