

June 11, 2015

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Meeting  
held June 11, 2015  
in the Commissioners' Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

---

**Attending the meeting were:**  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla J.R. Manchester, Administration  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
John Sutherland, Town of Lubec  
Joanne Case, Town of Lubec  
Lorraine Robbins, Trescott  
Howard Robbins, Trescott  
Melissa Lee, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Lubec  
M.F. Hinerman, EMA  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office  
Chris Chu, D.A.'s Office  
Josh Rolfe, RCC  
Dean Preston, U.T.  
Rich Rolfe, Jail  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Jeffrey Davidson, Attorney  
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy was not present.

---

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Approval of the May U.T. meeting minutes of May 14, 2015  
(Crowley / Gardner, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston reviewed his submitted monthly report. (See attached)

Supervisor Preston presented two fire protection agreements for the Commissioners' approval. Agreement #1 is with the Town of Lubec to cover Trescott Twp. for a five-year period beginning 2015 for a cost of \$3000.00 annually.

June 11, 2015

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Lubec to provide coverage for Trescott Twp. for a five-year period beginning 2015 for a cost of \$3000.00 per year. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

Agreement #2 is with the Town of Danforth to cover Brookton, Forest, Forest City, T8 R3 and T8 R4. This coverage would be effective July 1, 2015 through July 2020 for a cost of \$4,000.00 annually. Supervisor Preston noted the slight change in this agreement is due to the coverage of vehicle accidents on Route 9 and money for training purposes.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Danforth to provide coverage for Brookton, Forest, Forest City, T8 R3 and T8 R4 for a five-year period beginning 2015 for a cost of \$4000.00 per year. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

Supervisor Preston reported that the U.T. office and the Treasurer's Office recently met to review reserve accounts. It was a positive meeting with no serious discrepancies.

Commissioner Gardner inquired about a possible leave of absence that Supervisor Preston will be taking. Dean confirmed that he would be taking a leave of absence for a one-year commitment to attend War College in Pennsylvania for the National Guard. His leave will begin on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Heron Weston will be prepared to step into the role of Interim U.T. Supervisor during Dean's absence. Commissioner Gardner pointed out what an honor this opportunity is for Dean. The State of Maine gets one spot every two years.

Commissioner Crowley reported that he has been informed that Centerville is missing some four-wheeler signage. Supervisor Preston stated that he will look into the replacement of the signs.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

Program Manager Susan Hatton submitted a report. (See attached)

June 11, 2015

Ms. Hatton introduced Melissa Lee of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The Maine Coast Heritage Trust has requested a TIF Grant for \$2500.00 to produce and distribute a guide for farmers transitioning from conventional management of wild blueberry fields to organic management. The Grant Committee recommended denial of the grant request. Their decision is based on the previous grant agreement with MCHT which stipulated that MCHT would "publish and distribute written and electronic guide for transitioning to organic production" and "provide six written copies of said guide to TIF Grant Administrator". Melissa acknowledged her appreciation for past grants. She explained that after she developed the guide, biologist Mark Jacoby worked with her to edit the guide. With his knowledge and experience, he was able to help create a more helpful document. MCHT would like to compensate Mr. Jacoby. Commissioner Gardner explained his concern that a grant had already been given for the same purpose. He also stated that the Commissioners show great deference to the Loan Committee for vetting. Commissioner Crowley agreed. Commissioner Crowley stated that he will not over-rule the Grant Committee. Ms. Lee asked if she could request a change in the grant request that would be agreeable to the Commissioners. Commissioner Gardner instructed Ms. Lee that she would need to repackage the request and reapply. With the recommendation of the TIF Grant Committee;

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to deny the TIF Grant request, #1505-05-EDP, for Maine Coast Heritage Trust in the amount of \$2500.00. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

Ms. Hatton introduced Lorraine Robbins. Ms. Robbins has recently purchased a new fishing vessel to start a new business that will create three new full-time jobs. She is requesting TIF Grant of \$15,000.00 and a TIF Loan of \$30,000.00 to purchase equipment for the new vessel. The Grant Committee recommended approval of the grant unanimously.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Grant request, #1505-04-CP, for Lorraine Robbins in the amount of \$15,000.00. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

The Loan Committee recommended denial of the loan request. Ms. Hatton stated that although Ms. Robbins believes she will have the cash flow from the new business to make payments, having no credit history, she

June 11, 2015

is unable to demonstrate a history of paying debt. Another concern the Loan Committee had was that using the fishing vessel for the collateral for the loan was "less than desirable". According to the appraisal, "this type of vessel can devalue rapidly". Commissioner Crowley stated that he would go with the recommendation of the Loan Committee. Commissioner Gardner agreed yet clarified his decision by explaining that the denial of the loan is based on the collateral concerns, not credit history. Ms. Robbins asked if she could come back with a new request once she gets the business going. She emphatically stated that she knew she will make it work. Commissioner Gardner acknowledged that he had no doubt in her perseverance, but the Commissioners had no flexibility in the rules set in place for collateral. Commissioner Gardner encouraged Ms. Robbins to repackage her request and bring it back at another time. Approval of the Grant Committees' recommendation of \$15,000.00 was all that could be done at this time. By consensus, the loan request of \$30,000.00 by Lorraine Robbins was denied.

A previous award from the Town of Lubec could not be considered as matching funds for a new application.

A letter from Alan Furth giving an update on Cobscook Bay Company's intellectual and material property sale was given to the Commissioners. (See attached)

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:23 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**