

July 9, 2015

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Meeting
held July 9, 2015
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla J.R. Manchester, Administration
Mary Robbins, Trescott Twp.
Howard Robbins, Trescott Twp.
Susan Hatton, SCEC
David Darrow, Sakom Twp.
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Christopher T. Duke, Sakom Twp.
Karen, Sakom Twp.
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Judy East, WCCOG
M.F. Hinerman, EMA
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Sharon D. Strout, Deeds
Bayley C. Grant, Centerville Twp.**

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

**Approval of the June U.T. meeting minutes of June 11, 2015
(Crowley / Gardner, 2-0-1)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Interim Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston reviewed his monthly report. (See attached).

Heron Weston will be filling the position of U.T. Supervisor in the absence of Dean Preston who has been selected to attend War College. Dean will be gone for one year beginning August 1, 2015.

In preparation of winter highway maintenance, the U.T. has submitted their bulk salt purchase form to the Administrative Office.

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U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston reported that the new Marion Transfer solid waste policy transition is going smoothly. He explained that Marion Transfer Station can only charge for no less than 100 pounds. Anything less than 100 pounds brought to the transfer station will be paid for by the individual resident.

All fire protection contracts have been updated. U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston presented three for approval.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the fire protection agreement with the Town of Whiting Fire Department to provide coverage for Trescott Twp. and Southern Edmunds Twp. for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2015 for a cost of \$2000.00 per year. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the fire protection agreement with the Indian Twp. Fire Department to provide coverage for Big Lake Twp., and southern Greenlaw chopping Twp. for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2015 for a cost of \$1000.00 per year. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the fire protection agreement with the Denny's River Fire Department to provide coverage for Edmunds Twp., Marion Twp. and Cathance Twp. for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2015 for a cost of \$13,500.00 per year. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

A solid waste agreement for coverage in Kossuth Twp. was presented. It was noticed that there was an error in the wording. By consensus, this was tabled with the anticipation that it would be presented at the next meeting for signing.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

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

Ms. Robbins of Trescott Twp. was present to make a second request for a TIF loan of \$20,000.00 to purchase additional gear for her fishing vessel, *F/V Lois Marie*. During the June meeting Ms. Robbins' request for a TIF loan was denied due to collateral and credit history concerns. Ms. Robbins is offering an increased amount of collateral

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for her current request. Ms. Robbins gave a brief summary of the current status of work being done with the boat and what it would take to continue working the boat and keep the crew employed. The Loan Committee recommends a denial of this loan until adequate and real cash flow numbers can be provided. Commissioner Crowley commented that the intent of the TIF is to help establish businesses in the U.T. Commissioner Gardner stated the appropriate action would be to align their decision with the recommendation of the Loan Committee who has been tasked with guidelines. With the desire to see this business become successful, it was recommended that Ms. Robbins' request be tabled. It was recommended that the request be reviewed after Ms. Robbins is able to provide sixty days of cash flow numbers.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to table the TIF loan request, #LR-TIF-05-29-15, for Lorraine Robbins in the amount of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

Ms. Hatton gave a brief overview of the Olde Mill Storage LLC business. Bayley and Rebecca Grant of Centerville are requesting a \$15,000.00 TIF grant and \$15,000.00 TIF loan. The funds will be used for necessary repairs to one of their storage buildings. There is adequate collateral to cover the funds being requested. The Loan and Grant Committee unanimously recommended approval of both requests.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Loan request, #OMS-TIF-06-30-15, for Olde Mill Storage LLC in the amount of \$15,000.00. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Grant request, #1506-07-CP, for Olde Mill Storage LLC in the amount of \$15,000.00. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

Ms. Hatton introduced David Darrow, owner of The Birches. Mr. Darrow is requesting a nature-based tourism TIF Grant and Loan. The Birches is a 9.5 acre island on the west end of West Grand Lake in Sakom Twp. consisting of buildings, camps and lean-tos. This remote island and campground provides a unique camping experience. Mr. Darrow is requesting a \$25,000.00 TIF Loan and a \$15,000.00 TIF Grant for the purpose of reconditioning existing structures, purchasing material and supplies and to purchase a wood splitter. The funds request is more

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than adequately secured with collateral. The Loan Committee and Grant Committee unanimously recommended the approval of both funds request. Commissioner Gardner asked what the term of the loan would be. Ms. Hatton responded that it would be a 20 year term. Commissioner Gardner confirmed that it would be a nature-based tourism grant and that it was more than properly collateralized.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Loan request, #DD-TIF-05-06-15, for The Birches in the amount of \$25,000.00. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Grant request, #1506-06-NBT, for The Birches in the amount of \$15,000.00. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

Ms. Hatton requested that the Commissioners' approve a transfer of \$40,000.00 from the Economic Development Implementation line to the Revolving Loan line.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve a transfer of \$40,000.00 from the Economic Development Implementation line to the Revolving loan fund. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

Commissioner Gardner acknowledged the receipt of a letter from Alan Furth giving an update on Cobscook Bay Company's intellectual and material property sale. (See attached)

Washington County Council of Governments Executive Director Judy East presented a proposal for the Washington County Community-Guided Planning Process. This required document must be approved by the Washington County Commissioners before being forwarded to the LUPC for approval. (The proposal document is attached.) The WCCOG staff recruited interested participants to set up a structure for the planning effort. The objective is to have a diverse representation of all that have an interest in the region. Commissioner Gardner commented that those who live and work in the U.T. areas are the ones who should be deciding what happens.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the proposed Process Document for the Washington County Community-Guided Plan. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

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Commissioner Gardner thanked Judy East and the WCCOG for assisting the County with this effort. He stated that he was in hopes that U.T. landowners will take an interest in this process. By consensus, the Commissioners endorsed the press release presented by Judy East.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

For the purpose of reporting on the courthouse project Bob Berta of the County Wide Newspaper requested a list of all vendors. Mr. Berta also requested that the Commissioners consider providing a "press package". Commissioner Gardner stated the Commissioners' would coordinate this request with County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald.

ADJOURNMENT

4:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.