

August 14, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held August 14, 2014
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Michael Hinerman, EMA
Ken Daye, SCEC
Sharon Strout, Deeds
Sheriff Smith, WCSO
Leigh MacKeen, Whitneyville
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Don Brown, Don Brown Law
Dean Preston, UT Supervisor
Heron Weston, UT**

Commissioner Gardner called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Approval of the July U.T. meeting minutes of July 10, 2014
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

The monthly report was submitted and is attached.

Interim U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston reported that recent heavy rains caused a large double culvert on the Wilcox Road to give out. The culvert has been replaced. He noted that the ditching project on the 19 Road is complete and has greatly improved travel. Commissioner Gardner inquired as to whether signs have been installed. U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston responded that signs have not been installed yet. Sign installation is part of the improvement plan.

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Heron reported that the South Edmunds Cemetery has a new cedar fence. The original fence was rotting and falling down.

Heron stated that the Springfield Fire Department responded quickly to the recent scene of a tractor trailer rollover on Route 6. The quick response and cross-county cooperation reaffirmed that they were the right choice for the fire coverage in that area.

Heron completed his goal of reviewing and consolidating all data collected for the U.T. roads database during Dean Preston's deployment. Nearly 30 update forms were sent to the State E-911 for processing.

The U.T. Annual Shellfish report has been submitted to Maine DMR.

Heron closed his report by thanking the Commissioners, the County Manager and all the county staff for their help and support during Dean Preston's deployment. He stated that U.T. business was able to continue with ease due to the ground work laid by Dean before leaving. Heron commented that the smooth operation is a "compliment to Dean". Commissioner Gardner told Heron that he would be missed but it was good to see Dean home. Commissioner Crowley stated that it would be more than proper to present Heron with a letter of appreciation. Commissioner Gardner concurred.

U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston expressed his gratitude for the support he received while he was deployed. He stated that while away he needed to balance family, employer and the safety of the soldiers under his command. Dean pointed out that having the support of an employer is not common for all so he genuinely appreciates that. He thanked everyone for the mail that he received. He presented the Commissioners with a framed shadow box / plaque displaying the 133rd Engineering Task Force Black Bear Emblem. This was presented to the Commissioners as a token of his appreciation. He is ready to be back to work and returns to his full-time position on August 11, 2014. The Commissioners welcomed him back and commended him for his service.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

UT TIF Administrator Ken Daye stated that there were no new proposals to be acted on this month but expects several applications to be presented at next months' meeting.

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Ken stated that he has been in contact with Alan Furth and reported that Cobscook Bay Company leadership is still looking for a way to sustain the company. CBC requested an additional month of grace before providing the Commissioners with their proposed course of action. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to allow the additional month grace period but stated that they must make that the final deadline for CBC.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.