

November 13, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held November 13, 2014
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Barry Curtis, Sheriff Elect, Cherryfield
Matt Foster, D.A. Elect / Ellsworth
Jen Peters, SCEC
Dean Preston, U.T.
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Kelsey Porter, Jonesboro
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Judy East, WCCOG**

Commissioner Christopher Gardner was not present.

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

**Approval of the October U.T. meeting minutes of October 8, 2014
(Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported that the U.T has been very busy in the area of highway maintenance completing summer projects and preparing for the winter. All salt/sand stockpiles have been completed.

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Election services went smoothly with no issues being reported by any of the polling places. The U.T. office will be analyzing voting turnout at the polling locations to be sure that polling places are being properly compensated for services.

The 911 addressing project in Berry Twp. has been bumped up in priority due to the necessity of mailing addresses being needed for several residents.

In review of the dry hydrant installation in Cathance Twp, Dean reported that the permit application has been submitted to LUPC. The application was submitted by the Inland Fisheries on the U.T.'s behalf. Dean is hopeful to have construction complete by year's end.

Dean stated that the UT budget for F/Y 2015/16 has been developed and sent to the State for review. He anticipates that it will be available for review by the Commissioners and the public at the December Commissioners' meeting.

Dean stated that he is preparing for the implementation of the comprehensive plan that has been presented by Judy East.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Jen Peters of Sunrise County Economic Council was present. She reported that the UT TIF Program Manager Ken Daye resigned from his position. The position has been advertised and it is anticipated that the position will be filled by the beginning of the new year.

There were two applications for TIF funds for consideration.

Alan Curtis of A. Curtis Trucking requested a TIF Grant for \$15,000.00 and a TIF Loan for \$35,000.00. The funds are needed for the purchase of snow removal equipment to service a recently acquired contract with the Town of Pembroke. The contract creates three seasonal positions. The TIF Grant and Loan Committee recommended approval of both requests. Commissioner Crowley, noting the small percentage of personal cash investment, inquired as to whether the company had enough cash reserve. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald confirmed that there was enough. With the recommendation of the TIF committee,

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MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the grant request of \$15,000.00, Grant # 1410-14-CP, for A. Curtis Trucking. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the loan request of \$35,000.00, Loan # AC-TIF-10-04-14, for A. Curtis Trucking. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

The second TIF fund request from Merrill Hallowell of Hallowell Construction is for funds needed to buy out the existing partner. It will also be used to purchase and repair construction equipment. The request for a TIF Grant of \$15,000.00 and a TIF Loan of \$25,000.00 is recommended for approval by the TIF Grant and Loan Committee. U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston noted that Merrill Hallowell is a life-long resident of the U.T. Mr. Hallowell has built his business from the ground up and does great work.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the grant request of \$15,000.00, Grant # 1410-13-CP, for Hallowell Construction. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the loan request of \$25,000.00, Loan # MH-TIF-10-03-14, for Hallowell Construction. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

An update on the current status of Cobscook Bay Company was provided by Jen Peters. Cobscook Bay Company has seized operations and closed the business permanently. The Sunrise County Economic Council will be working with CBC to develop a loss mitigation plan.

On a final note, Jen Peters stated that the Grant Committee will be making allocation recommendations for F/Y 2015 at the December Commissioners' meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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