

November 14, 2013

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held November 14, 2013
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge, BAC Chair
Matthew Carter, WCRCC
Will Tuell, Downeast Coastal Press
Ken Day, Sunrise County Economic Council
Eleody Libby, WC:OC
Judy Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Shawn Donahue, Sheriff's Office
Sharon D. Strout, Deeds
Donnie Smith, Sheriff's Office
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Joshua Rolfe, WCRCC
Rosemary Kulow, MCCA
Larry Post, City of Eastport

Prior to the Unorganized Territories business, Washington County: One Community's Executive Director Eleody Libby gave a presentation to explain the establishment of WC:OC, list its current staff, and highlight WC:OC's initiatives. She explained that it was over six years ago that the leaders within Washington County began looking for ways to collaborate county-wide to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Washington County. Since Washington County has many risk factors concerning health and well-being such as obesity, sedentary life style, hypertension, tobacco use and poor nutrition, the initiative was to create a public health infrastructure. With the passing of LD 1228 directing action on reducing health disparities within Washington County and the Passamaquoddy Tribe, assistance was sought from Healthy Maine Partnership to form a unique entity. What began as a pilot program and a "Quality of Life Committee" in 2006 with Barbara Drisko, then transitioning to WC:OC with two full-time staff, evolved in 2009 into a program with a ten member Board of

November 14, 2013

Directors and nine staff. Eleody Libby is the Executive Director and the rest of the staff members are:

- Sarah McConnell, Community Health Specialist;
- Janet Robertson, Community Outreach Coordinator;
- Joe Ferrier, SNAP Education (Food & Nutrition Ed.);
- Angela Fochesato, Program Coordinator;
- Dustin Foss, Youth and Community Outreach Coordinator;
- Regina Grabrovac, Farm to School Coordinator;
- Taylor Weiss, Washington County FoodCorps Service Member; and
- Terri Woodruff, School Health Coordinator.

Commissioner Gardner inquired as to how stable WC:OC is from a funding standpoint. Eleody replied that it was fairly stable. Commissioner Gardner thanked Eleody for the presentation.

With no further questions, Commissioner Gardner called to order the Unorganized Territories business at 4:27 p.m.

**Approval of the October U.T. meeting minutes
(October 10, 2013) (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

A monthly report was submitted and is attached.

UT Interim Supervisor Heron Weston asked the Commissioners to approve a third party request from the Lubec Memorial Library for \$400.00. These funds would also lend assistance to the Dennysville Library and other organizations within the U.T. Commissioner Gardner directed Heron to handle it as a budget item. It will be built within the budget and discussed at the December Commissioners' meeting.

Heron presented a Bangor Hydro Utility pole Location permit for approval. The permit is for the placement of four poles on Moose Cove Road. When asked if the UT owns the right of way, Heron stated he was unsure. By consensus, the Commissioners requested Heron to look into the matter and report back next month.

The Solid Waste Disposal agreement between the Town of Machias and Townships 24, 29, 30 and Day Block was presented for approval. The contract amount of \$1450.00 has not increased from last year.

November 14, 2013

MOTION **Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the solid waste contract between Town of Machias and Townships 24, 29, 30 and Day Block in the amount of \$1450. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The Unorganized Territories Budget f/y 2014/2015 was offered to the Commissioners for review. The budget as presented reflects a 7.5% increase. Heron explained that there are several factors that affect the increase. With the plan to open an animal shelter in the UT, the ACO/Shellfish Warden position will become full-time and will be responsible for managing the shelter. Another factor causing the increase is for highway and road maintenance. Commissioner Gardner stated that this is the highest increase in recent years but he is in full support of the increase and the proposed full-time position. Heron also pointed out that the budget shows an increase in expense but the revenue that will come from the Animal Shelter is unknown at this time. The budget was prepared by Dean Preston before his military leave began and has been reviewed by County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald and Heron.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

UT TIF Administrator Ken Daye reported that the TIF committee has recommended approval of a TIF grant request in the amount of \$42,904.00 by Rachel Bell of Tide Mill Creamery. The grant is for the purpose of constructing a new creamery building and to diversify their existing product line. The Commissioners will be asked for a decision at the December Commissioners' Meeting. Ken pointed out that this is one of the last grant requests that had been in the process before it was decided to redefine the grant request guidelines.

Ken distributed TIF program guidelines that have been reviewed and clarified by the TIF Grant Committee as recommended by the Commissioners. Language has been added to the existing application packet. The Commissioners were asked that the updated guidelines and application be approved at the December Meeting.

November 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

Will Tuell of the Downeast Coastal Press was told that the ACO position for U.T. included work as Shellfish Warden as a response to his request for clarification of that position.

ADJOURNMENT

4:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

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