

February 11, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held February 11, 2016
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 Anderson, Jail
Rich Rolfe, Jail
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Sheriff Curtis, Sheriff's Office
Chief Deputy Crabtree, Sheriff's Office
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Mike Hinerman, EMA
David Thomas, Machiasport
Sharon D. Strout, Deeds
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Jill C. Holmes, Finance**

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

**Approval of the January U.T. meeting minutes of January 14, 2016
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston provided his monthly written report. (See attached)

Heron Weston reported that the contract for the Cathance Dry Hydrant project has been signed by both parties. The project is expected to take five days to complete. The deadline for completion is no later than April 1st to insure the project will be done before open water fishing season begins.

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Heron Weston stated that he attended a Dennysville Selectmen meeting to discuss a joint effort to fund the restoration of the Dennysville tennis courts. Although the Selectmen were very supportive of having the tennis courts repaired, they reported that the town would not be able to contribute any funds for the effort.

Heron Weston stated that due to the discovery of a previous U.T. Harbor Ordinance that was put in place in 1999, the recent Mooring Moratorium has been nullified. All violators of the moratorium have been contacted and informed that all charges have been dropped. A local fisherman in the audience asked what this now meant for them. Commissioner Gardner stated that being unaware of an existing Harbor Ordinance; the Mooring Moratorium was set to protect the harbor from overcrowding. Commissioner Gardner explained that now that an ordinance has been found and is in effect, it will be implemented. The fisherman then asked if he can now set a mooring with no issues. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Harbor Ordinance will need to be checked for the specifics on setting moorings, but it should be fine. Commissioner Gardner did note that a harbor committee must be established then action can be taken as issues arise. One of the fishermen inquired about the cost incurred by those that paid a retainer fee to hire a lawyer due to the summons' that were issued before the discovery of the Harbor Ordinance. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Board of Commissioners was not in a position to give legal advice. Heron Weston stated that he has a list of the fishermen that were affected by the moratorium and will continue to notify them of any updates. On a final note, a mooring must be registered with the U.T. office before it is set.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

TIF Administrator Susan Hatton stated that there were no action items for the Commissioners' to consider. Grant updates were submitted for review.

After reviewing the update from Alan Furth, Board Chair of Cobscook Bay Company, LLC, Commissioner Gardner asked Susan Hatton if Cobscook Bay Company's intent of restructuring was to satisfy debt obligations or remain open. Susan Hatton responded that the Company's intent was to both satisfy debt obligations and remain open.

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AGENDA ITEM: Agreement for Overlimit Permit for a "construction area" in T26 ED BPP and Town of Crawford

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald provided information received from State of Maine, Department of Transportation. A "construction area" has been established by Maine D.O.T. and an agreement is required. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald read the description of the "construction area" from the Special Provision 105. *"The section of highway under construction in Washington County, Project No.022580.00 is located on Route 9, beginning 0.45 mi. east of the Wesley/T26 ED BPP town line and extending easterly 6.22 miles to 0.49 mi. west of the intersection of Airline Road and Crawford Lake Road."* The specific roads involved are not presently known. The Commissioners' had a brief discussion concerning access roads and if a bond would be required. Commissioner Gardner stated that the agreement is forward leaning and the agreement should be signed.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved issue an overlimit permit to the Maine Department of Transportation for the construction area in T26 ED BPP and Town of Crawford. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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