

June 16, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Meeting  
held June 16, 2016  
in the Commissioners' Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administration  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Susan Corbett, Axiom Education and Training  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Michelle Potter, D.A.'s Office  
Sharon Strout, Deeds  
Toff Toffolon, D.A.'s Office  
Nicole Graves, D.A.'s Office  
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer  
Carlene Holmes, Probate**

**Commissioner John Crowley, Sr. was not present.**

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The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of May 12, 2016  
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Interim Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston submitted a monthly report. (See attached)

The annual Shellfish Conservation event was held on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Edmunds Boat Landing. There were a low number of participants. The Conservation event is a requirement to get a shellfish license. There will be some make-up dates set. The non-resident license lottery was held. The number of licenses awarded is based on last years' licenses sold. There were three licenses awarded.

June 16, 2016

Expanded testing by Department of Marine Resources has resulted in the opening of previously closed shellfish areas in Hobarts Stream and the Dennys River in Edmunds.

Eight cemeteries were mowed, and almost 300 flags were placed in 21 different cemeteries throughout the county in preparation of Memorial Day.

The Dennys River Fire Department performed a test of the Cathance Lake boat landing dry hydrant to insure proper functioning. The Fire Department found the hydrant to be functional and well-designed.

The annual street sign inventory is underway. GPS and maps are used to do a complete inventory. Signs damaged through the winter months will be repaired or replaced, and new signs will be installed for recently added roads.

Dean Preston will be returning to the position as active Unorganized Territories Supervisor. Heron Weston plans to work through June 30<sup>th</sup> for the transition period. Commissioner Gardner thanked Heron for being willing to step in and cover all aspects of the job of U.T. Supervisor during Dean's military leave of absence. Commissioner Gardner gave Heron accolades for a job well done. Heron stated that he appreciated the great opportunity.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

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

Ms. Hatton presented a grant request from Axiom Education and Training Center. The County Match TIF grant request for \$10,000.00 was tabled at the May Commissioners' meeting. The Commissioners needed time to review the guidance memo. Commissioner Gardner stated that he still is conflicted with approving the request. He explained that his issue is not with the project and the purpose of it, but U.T. TIF funds being used for it. Commissioner Gardner expressed his concern that educational funds traditionally come from the federal budget level. He questioned what the plan would be for next year if the grant was approved. Susan Corbett of Axiom Education and Training Center answered to Commissioner Gardner's concern. Susan stated that sustainability is key. AETC is working on a plan. Initial funding obtained through a CDBG grant is now limited. As Axiom expands

June 16, 2016

designated learning area locations in towns throughout Washington County, towns have begun to provide local contributions. In turn, Maine Department of Education provides approximately a 50% match to programs based on local contributions. Commissioner Gardner asked Ms. Corbett to explain how the request for these funds would correlate specifically to a TIF grant fund. Ms. Corbett explained that the \$10,000.00 grant would help fund an eight-hour a week position for the fiscal year. The position would be designated to work to provide adult education to U.T. residents. Susan Hatton expanded on the explanation by stating that the TIF County Match fund is for economic development. Using the funds to enhance workforce development meets the criteria. Susan also pointed out that an adult education program helps with job creation, retention and training. Commissioner Gardner acknowledged his support of the program as an economic development tool. He expanded on his statement by saying he would not support approval of the grant to be used as annual funding.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the grant request by Axiom Education & Training Center, Grant #1604-03-CM for \$10,000.00. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

An update on Cobscook Bay Company was provided and is attached.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**2:30 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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