

November 10, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Meeting
held November 10, 2016
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Rick Heller, Quoddy Tide
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Mike Hinerman, EMA Director
Joshua Rolfe, RCC Supervisor
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Dean A. Preston, U.T. Supervisor
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Sharon D. Strout, Registrar of Deeds
Marga James, Machias**

Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:01 p.m. The Public Hearing for the Washington County Budget was on the agenda for 4:00 p.m. Budget Advisory Committee Chair Lewis Pinkham wanted to be present at the hearing but was delayed by another meeting. Commissioner Gardner noted that Mr. Pinkham's presence was not required. The Commissioners agreed to postpone the Public Hearing to give Lewis Pinkham time to make it to the hearing.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of October 12, 2016
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston submitted a monthly report. (See attached)

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U.T. Supervisor Preston stated that a Public Hearing for the U.T. Budget for FY 2017-2018 will be scheduled on December 8, 2016. After the Commissioners' approval, the final budget will be submitted to Augusta no later than December 22, 2016. The 2017-2018 budget has an increase of 4.9%. Commissioner Gardner inquired about the factors that caused the increase. Dean explained that every line of the budget decreased except for the summer maintenance line. There is much needed road maintenance to keep roads passable.

Dean updated the Commissioners on the summer highway maintenance projects in progress. Dean anticipates the completion of the snow plow turn-around construction on the East Ridge Road in Cathance Twp. He also expects the beaver blockage on Shadagee Road in Twp. 24 MD to be relocated within the next month.

Dean reported the election drove an increase in address requests. The U.T. Office was able to provide the support requested.

Dean stated the Marion Twp. Septage Utilization and Storage Site license expires on January 18th, 2017. Dean has begun the license renewal process for this facility and plans to have the application completed and prepared for Commissioners' signatures at the January meeting.

Dean stated that he has attended the ACO training and is now certified by the State of Maine.

Dean reported that he has completed the research on the Bailey Grant land project. He stated he has captured the proper dimensions of the land with 80% confidence. A deed will release the county interest in this piece of land.

Dean presented two snow removal contracts for the Commissioners' approval.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to ratify the snow plow contract #7 with Dan Bailey to cover the area of Greenlaw Chopping Twp. in the amount of \$13,000.00 for the period 2016-2020. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to ratify the snow plow contract #8 with Penny Day to cover the area of Lambert Lake Twp. in the amount of \$7,345.00 for the period 2016-2020. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

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Dean presented an Animal Control Agreement for approval. The agreement between the Town of Cooper and Washington County UT agrees to provide Animal Control Officer Services as outlined in 7 MRSA § 3947. The terms of the agreement are for July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2018. Compensation amount is \$200.00 annually for a training stipend, \$20.50 per hour for a call rate and mileage reimbursement of \$.44 per mile.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to enter into the agreement with the Town of Cooper as so presented. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

Dean noted the agreement was for a previous term with an effective start date of July 1, 2015. By consensus, the Commissioners acknowledged the approval of the agreement covered the previous effective date of July 1, 2015.

Dean presented an Ambulance Service Agreement. The agreement is with the Indian Township Tribal Government to provide ambulance services to Greenlaw Chopping. The term of the agreement is for November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017 for an annual payment of \$1000.00.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Ambulance Service Agreement as presented. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

The final action item Dean presented for the Commissioners' approval was a Fire Protection Agreement with Epping Volunteer Fire District to provide fire protection for Centerville Twp, T18 MD, T19 MD and T24 MD. The agreement term began on July 1, 2015 and is effective through June 30, 2018 for annual compensation of \$1400.00.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve three-year contract with the Epping Volunteer Fire District as presented. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

By consensus, the Commissioners acknowledged the term of the Fire Protection Agreement had already become effective July 1, 2015.

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AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

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

Susan reported the Cobscook Bay Company loan has been paid in full relieving the Cobscook Community Learning Center from their guarantee obligations with CBS.

Susan requested to review the TIF grant request from Axiom Technologies for the initial phase of fiber-build to the rural area of Edmunds. Commissioner Gardner stated that, after much discussion, the Commissioners agreed by consensus the request and amount of the request from a for-profit business for \$100,000.00 was not a fit for the TIF program. Commissioner Gardner did reiterate the option of considering a much lesser TIF grant request of \$10,000.00 contingent on the presentation of a project plan.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT

4:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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