

December 8, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Meeting
held December 8, 2016
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, WCSO
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Mike Hinerman, WNEMA
Sharon W. Strout, Register of Deeds
Marga James, Machias Monitor
Carly Delsignore, Edmunds
Laura Baker, Pembroke
Aaron Bell, Edmunds
Carlene Holmes, Register of Probate
Jill Holmes, Treasurer**

Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of November 10, 2016
(Gardner / Cassidy, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

On Dean's behalf, County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented a Solid Waste agreement for the Commissioners' approval. The Solid Waste agreement with the Town of Danforth provides a place to accept household waste from Brookton Twp., Forest City Twp., Forest Twp. and

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Kossuth Twp. Any other bulky waste will be paid at the time of drop-off by the citizen. The term of the agreement is for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 for an annual amount of \$18,282.00 to be paid in 12 monthly payments.

***MOTION* Commissioner Gardner moved to sign the Solid Waste Agreement with the Town of Danforth as presented. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported that the Bayley Grant land project is being reviewed by the County Attorney John Hammer. Dean is anticipating a Quit Claim Deed will be ready to present to the Commissioners for signatures at the January Commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Crowley joined the board.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

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

Susan presented a TIF loan request from Aaron Bell and Carly Delsignore. The loan request of \$72,900.00 for a ten-year term is for the purchase of Tide Mill Creamery. Rachel Bell created Tide Mill Creamery six years ago. Tide Mill Creamery has established a successful business with growth potential and a large customer base. Tide Mill Creamery's assets are currently for sale. Aaron Bell and Carly Delsignore, owners of Tide Mill Organics, stated they have a vested interest in the continued operation of Tide Mill Creamery. Tide Mill Organics has experienced a decreased demand for organic milk. The continued market for the Tide Mill Creamery products would give TMO an alternative milk market. The Tide Mill Creamery has one year left on a grant agreement and \$10,000.00 obligation to pay off existing debts. Commissioner Gardner inquired if the proceeds of the loan would pay off the obligation of TMC. Susan confirmed the obligation would be paid off through the sale of TMC. The County would hold first security interest in the creamery equipment and intellectual property for collateral. The Loan Committee recommended approval of this loan request by a vote of 5-0-0. The request stays within the maximum loan limit of \$250,000.00 outstanding at any one time by an applicant. Commissioner Gardner stated the Commissioners rely heavily on the recommendation of the Loan Committee.

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MOTION Commissioner Gardner moved to approve the loan request, Ln# AB-TIF-11-21-16, in the amount of \$72,900.00 for the purchase of Tide Mill Creamery by Aaron Bell and Carly Delsignore. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0-1.

Susan submitted the Grant Committees' recommendation for the allocation of 2016 funds recently received for the UT TIF Program. (See attached Historical View of Fund Allocation and Awards) With the recommendation of the Grant Committee;

MOTION Commissioner Gardner moved to accept allocation amounts of all 2016 TIF Program funds as presented. (Gardner / Cassidy 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT
4:22 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.