

May 11, 2017

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held May 11, 2017  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:**  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administration  
Nancy Oden, Clean Earth Farms  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Diana Harriman, Codyville Plantation  
Evevonne White, Codyville Plantation  
Charles Harriman, Codyville Plantation  
Clyde Brown, Edmunds  
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer  
Mike Hinerman, EMA  
Sheriff Curtis, Sheriff's Office  
Mike Crabtree, Sheriff's Office  
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office  
Rich Rolfe, Sheriff's Office  
Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds

**Commissioner Vinton Cassidy was not present.**

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The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Several citizens were present from the Town of Codyville Plantation to discuss the process of de-organization. Eveonne White, Diana Harriman and Charles Harriman were all present to request beginning the process. There are twelve citizens in the Town of Codyville. The County Manager and the Treasurer have met with the town officials in an attempt to make arrangements for payment of overdue county taxes. During the meetings it was determined that the Town of Codyville did not have assessors. Pursuant to Title 36, MRSA §105, Subchapter 5, §705, County Commissioners may appoint assessors if for three months after any warrant for a state or county tax has been issued and a municipality has neglected to assess and certify such tax. Having been notified,

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**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to appoint Eveonne White, Diane Harriman and Charles Harriman as assessors for the Town of Codyville Plantation. (Crowley / Gardner, 2-0)**

The newly appointed assessors will be sworn in the first of next week by County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald. Commissioner Gardner stated now that the Town of Codyville has officials to represent their town Codyville will be able to officially hold meetings and begin the process of de-organization. The process to become an unorganized territory takes approximately three years. Commissioner Gardner wished them well with their endeavors.

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of April 13, 2017  
(Crowley/Gardner, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

Commissioner Gardner stated that he has been approached about concerns Canadian-owned blueberry factories have on the blueberry industry. Commissioner Gardner compared the problem to the same issue that has happened in the forestry industry. Cherryfield Foods is Canadian-owned. The company is being subsidized; enabling them to sell blueberries at lower-than-market-value prices. The blueberry industry is a huge part of Washington County economy. There is a tremendous amount of blueberry land in the Unorganized Territories of Washington County. Commissioner Gardner requested U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston to research the amount of blueberry acreage in the U.T. and the effect the Canadian-owned blueberry companies will have on the industry. Dean displayed maps the U.T. office has the capability of creating. Dean stated he can map acreage of blueberries for the Commissioners to review. Commissioner Gardner concluded the conversation stating it is time for the county to engage and make some noise about this issue.

Dean reported there was a great turn out for the Annual Shellfish Conservation meeting that was held May 2, 2017. The committee worked through many issues including adding a Junior Commercial License fee to the schedule of fees; discussion on researching an agreement for

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commercial digging within the State Park property and initiating a green crab trap and destroy program for the committees' conservation efforts this year. Commissioner Crowley inquired about the number of traps to be distributed. Dean stated every commercial digger would get a trap and would get conservation credit. Dean is working on an agreement with Coast of Maine Compost Site to take the green crabs that are caught. The number of bushels of green crabs caught and removed from the beaches will be tracked. Dean noted it was a great program. The committee also entered into an agreement with the DMR to provide regular maintenance for a weather rain gauge placed at the Edmunds school. The benefit of this tool will provide the information needed for the opening and closing of flat in a more timely manner.

Dean has developed a hard schedule for the summer highway maintenance and construction. The work should be in full-swing within the next 10 to 15 days.

Dean has developed an early construction list from the winter damage assessments. Snow removal Contract #6 will be out for bid in June. The specs for the contract will incorporate such activities as school bus turnaround and snow removal from boat landings. The purpose of including the price for such services within the contract will move the cost away from paying per incident.

Dean stated he has some very serious concerns about the Marion Transfer Stations fee schedule. Dean stated he has concerns that MTS is charging a tipping fee that more than covers the operating cost of the station. MTS is a quasi-municipal organization. The mission is to provide solid waste services at the lowest cost possible. Dean would like to see that margin of cost for the services and operating cost have a lot closer margin than what the MTS board has in place right now.

Dean reported that he has contacted Linda Belfiore and Paul Williamson of APEX Clean Energy. Dean will be meeting with APEX representatives on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Four Corners for an update on the wind project in Twp. 18.

Dean stated that he attended the final public meeting for the UT Community Guided Planning and Zoning project. He reported there was interesting discussion but very limited participation. Washington County Council of Governments will be giving a presentation to the Commissioners in June.

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Dean recommended the part-time ACO/Shellfish Warden position be eliminated. Dean requested the Commissioners to consider the recommendation because there is a need to restructure the position. Dean stated that the need for this position is that of a program manager. The restructuring of the position will enable the U.T. to reach its long term goal of deciding what services should be provided. Dean will brief the current employee of the recommended restructure; advertise for the new position and have a hiring process to fill that position. Commissioner Gardner stated there has been a struggle to provide the service needed since Lester Seeley retired. The position's service needs has also changed. The Commissioners encouraged Dean to proceed with his plan to restructure the position to adapt to the current needs of the ACO/Shellfish Warden position.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the restructuring of the ACO/Shellfish Warden position as presented. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented an application for a TIF Loan from Clyde Brown, Brown's Tractor Service, to purchase a new EX30 Flail Mower. The loan request is for \$8200.00. The loan term is two years. The loan is collateralized with 1<sup>st</sup> security interest in the EX30 flail mower and 2<sup>nd</sup> security interest in a 2014 GMC truck. Commissioner Gardner stated the loan request is over-collateralized and has no issues with approving the loan.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Gardner moved to approve the TIF loan #CB-TIF-04-10-17 for Clyde Brown, DBA Brown's Tractor Service, in the amount of \$8,200.00 for the purchase of an EX30 flail mower. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

Nancy Oden presented a written request to the Commissioners to address her concerns regarding food insufficiencies in Washington County. Nancy stated she would like the Commissioners to use their prestige to encourage churches, schools and civic groups to build raised-bed

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gardens and grow their own food. Nancy drafted a letter for the Commissioners to sign showing their support for her endeavor. (See attached.) Nancy inquired about the possibility of using TIF funds to help individuals and groups with this effort. Commissioner Gardner reminded Nancy the Commissioners were not in a position to tell citizens to build raised-bed gardens. Commissioner Gardner also reminded Nancy that TIF funds are for the use of Economic Development in the Unorganized Territories only.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:25 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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