

January 12, 2017

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held January 12, 2017  
in the Commissioners' Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administration  
Mike Hinerman, EMA Director  
Josh Rolfe, RCC Operational Supervisor  
Nancy Oden, Clean Earth Farms  
Cat Cannon, MVNO  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Jared Crowley, Harrington/RCC  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Eileen Simpson, Jail  
Chris Simpson, S.O.  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Paul Williamson, Apex Clean Energy  
Erin Crowley, Harrington  
Ian Currier, RCC**

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County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and requested that the Commissioners elect a Chairman for 2017.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to elect Christopher Gardner as the chair for 2017. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0-1.**

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**Approval of the Public hearing minutes for the FY 2017-2018 UT Budget of December 8, 2016 (Cassidy/Gardner, 2-0-1)**

**Approval of the December U.T. meeting minutes of December 8, 2016 (Cassidy/Gardner, 2-0-1)**

January 12, 2017

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

On Dean's behalf, County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reviewed the highlights of Dean's report.

- Dean plans to attend the annual Legislative hearing on the State UT budget.
- Dean is working on the annual shellfish conservation report for 2016 that will be submitted no later than March 2017.
- Dean is preparing estimates for summer maintenance projects for the 2017 construction season. He will identify the projects as maintenance or capital projects.
- The necessary paperwork to apply for a license renewal for the septic site in Marion Twp. has been prepared and will be submitted on January 12, 2017. The renewal process is done every five years.

Research has been completed for the property in Centerville to be deeded over to Bayley Grant. A description of this property has been inserted into the Quit Claim Deed to be signed by the County Commissioners. Commissioner Gardner summarized the purpose of the Quit Claim deed. Commissioner Gardner explained that when Centerville de-organized the property the Town Hall was located on was put out to bid. Bayley Grant won the bid but the deed was not written properly to include the land. In order to complete the original agreement, a Quit Claim deed will release any interest in the real property held by Washington County in trust for the Unorganized Territory (formally the Town of Centerville).

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Cassidy moved to sign the Quit Claim deed recorded in the Washington County Registry of Deeds in Book 139, Page 10 as presented. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

January 12, 2017

TIF Administrator, Susan Hatton provided updates on three grants.  
(The updates are attached.)

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

Nancy Oden of Clean Earth Farms questioned where the septage dump site was that was referenced in the monthly report provided by Unorganized Territories Dean Preston. The septage dump site is at the Marion Transfer Station.

Nancy stated she had questions and concerns to share with the Commissioners regarding TIF funds. She asked what would happen if a TIF loan recipient defaults. Commissioner Gardner explained that the TIF loans are collateralized. Nancy inquired if any TIF loan money has been written off. Commissioner Gardner responded that no loans have been written off as of yet. Nancy stated she had concerns about some of the TIF funds being "given" for the purchase of trail groomers for two separate snowmobile clubs. Commissioner Gardner stated the funds are not "given" but have been reviewed and approved to be granted or loaned by the TIF Grant and Loan Committees as well as by the Commissioners. The TIF funds are approved and issued in accordance to the TIF Program. Nancy also had concerns with the application form being intrusive. Nancy went on to state that she has concerns about Sunrise Economic Council being the administrator of the TIF funds and suggested all TIF funds be managed in-house by the Treasurer's Office. Nancy wanted the Commissioners to approach Department of Economic and Community Development requesting the TIF funds be used for all of Washington County. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Commissioners have requested that but the TIF funds are generated in the Unorganized Territories and belong to the U.T. taxpayers. The Unorganized Territories are their own municipality and the business of the U.T. only comes to the Commissioners as municipal agents of the U.T. Nancy stated that she would like permission to contact the Attorney General's office as a concerned citizen. Commissioner Gardner stated the Nancy does not need his permission. She may make her concerns known but not on behalf of the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gardner thanked Nancy for her interest and input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:15 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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

January 12, 2017

**3**