

August 8, 2013

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held August 8, 2013
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Ken Daye, SCEC
Phil Duggan, DECP
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Sharon Strout, Deeds
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Heron Weston, U.T.
Sandra Jones, Trescott Twp.
Wayne Jones, Trescott Twp.
Carlene Holmes
Christopher Polk, Calais
Val Atwood, Machias
Tim Cox, Bangor Daily News**

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Approval of the July U.T. meeting minutes
(July 11, 2013) (Cassidy / Gardner, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Interim U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston stated that the transition for him to take over his role as the U.T. Supervisor has been completed. All contact information will remain the same.

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The Marion Transfer Station board will be exploring recycling options while being mindful of costs. The demolition debris site has been closed.

Heron also stated that the U.T. has been mapping cemeteries with GPS points for each individual gravestone and they are looking for volunteers to work on this project.

AGENDA ITEM: Certification of LRAP funds

Certification for the Local Road Assistance Program for the fiscal year 2014 was presented to the Commissioners for approval. This is an annual documentation that guarantees funds will only be used for public roads.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the LRAP Certification. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

TIF Administrator Ken Daye presented two requests on behalf of WS Transport for the purpose of expanding their current trucking operation. One request is for a TIF grant in the amount of \$37,000 that was presented last month and had been tabled due to concerns with needing a policy in place for TIF grant terms and grantee obligations for capital purchases. The second request is for a TIF loan of \$31,500 to obtain the remaining balance of the project budget. Commissioner Gardner commended the Jones' success and stated that this is how this program should work. He also stated that he was in favor of both grant and loan requests but would propose that the amount granted be \$31,500 and the loan amount be \$37,000 to allow for the Jones' to have more invested. Before the motion was made, Commissioner Cassidy asked the Jones' if they would be agreeable with this. The Jones' felt that this was a fair proposal.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the loan request of \$37,000 by WS Transport. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the grant request #1307-05-CP of \$31,500 by WS Transport. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Addressing the concerns that the Commissioners expressed with the granting of TIF money, Ken Daye reported that the Grant Committee has been continuing to define guidelines for a policy relating to terms and grantee obligations and have them clearly presented in application materials.

Regarding the TIF Program, it was acknowledged that SCEC has a good track record for the screening process. The testimony is seen by the people participating. With that said, Commissioner Gardner stated that accountability falls to the Commissioners. It is important to continue to explore and develop ways to foster wide-spread opportunities that the TIF funds can offer while understanding that there is a limit to this fund. Commissioner Gardner stated that it may be wise to expand on TIF loaning options.

AGENDA ITEM: Nomination process for LUPC

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported that Washington County is next in line to be able to nominate someone to the LUPC Board of Commissioners. In order for a county to be eligible to nominate a member to the board, the county must be one of the top eight counties with the most acreage within the Commission's jurisdiction. The person nominated must have lived or worked in the Commissioner's jurisdiction and be familiar with the needs and issues in the jurisdiction or have expertise in the industry in that jurisdiction. The deadline for the nomination is October 19, 2013.

AGENDA ITEM: Comprehensive Planning process for the U.T. - next steps

There was a discussion on what might be the next steps for a community-guided planning and zoning effort for Washington County's Unorganized Territories. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported that Judy East would be very interested in being involved but would not be available until early next year. In response to Commissioner Crowley's inquiry as to whether TIF funds would be permissible to use, Commissioner Gardner said they would.

By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to commence with the community-guided planning and zoning effort in the new year.

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AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of ATV access in the U.T.

With the establishment of many ATV trails, consideration of ATV access was discussed. The Commissioners were in agreement that they are open to the concept of the use of public roads for ATV's to reach the trails but must be cautious. Commissioner Crowley stated that liability to accidents and injury as well as which roads would qualify as permitted for use was a concern.

By consensus, the Commissioners delegated County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to examine the liability for the County.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

Wayne and Sandra Jones thanked the Commissioners and the County for their support in their utilization of TIF funds.

ADJOURNMENT

4:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.