

March 20, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held March 20, 2014
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:

**Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Ken Daye, SCEC
Heidi Herzberger, Trescott Twp.
Harold L. Cokayne, East Machias
Anisa Beale-Cokayne, East Machias
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Judith A. Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Donnie Smith, Sheriff
Michele L. Johnson, Marshfield**

Commissioner Gardner brought the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. noting that this meeting was a rescheduled meeting from last week.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the February UT regular meeting
Minutes. (February 6, 2014) (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

The monthly report was submitted and is attached.

Interim U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston stated that he attended the U.T. Budget hearing in Augusta with County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald. It was an educational and positive event.

Heron introduced Thomas Fredette who was selected by the hiring committee to fill the part-time Shellfish Warden / ACO position.

The Town of Cooper has contacted the U.T. office asking about Animal Control Services. Before an agreement is made, the U.T. office will

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explore what such an agreement would mean for their office and develop a sample contract.

The fifth and final snow removal contract installments have been paid. There was no need to order more sand and salt, but next years' stockpile may need to be replenished.

Weight limit signs have been posted on most of the County roads. The Town of Princeton has been contacted about a permanent weight restriction on West Street in Big Lake Twp; recent work done to West Street, consisting of paving and ditching, has raised concerns for the truck use. Protecting the investment made to this road is necessary. Commissioner Cassidy inquired as to the reason why trucks would not continue on the Stud Mill Road. It appears to be an issue of saving time. Heron will need to have further discussion with MDOT.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

TIF Administrator Ken Daye reported on a TIF Grant request and a TIF Loan request by Heidi Herzberger, owner of Herbminder of Maine. Herbminder of Maine produces plant-based fertilizer and herbal blends for culinary purposes. Both grant and loan funds requested would be used for production facility construction, marketing materials, web design and operating capital. The Grant Committee recommends approval of the \$12,500 TIF Grant request and the \$12,500 Loan request. Commissioner Gardner stated that he was glad to see a blend of grant and loan use.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Grant #1403-01-CP requested by Heidi Herzberger in the amount of \$12,500.00. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Loan request #H-TIF-03-06-14 in the amount of \$12,500 with an interest rate of 1.5% for five years submitted by Heidi Herzberger. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion passing unanimously.**

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Ken reported that he had a successful meeting with a group of lenders from the regional branches of Bangor Savings Bank. He provide information about the TIF program and discussed collaboration opportunities.

Ken also reported that a TIF program workshop, hosted in partnership with the Women's Business Center at CEI, Inc., was held on March 18th at the Whiting Community Center. There were thirteen participants at the workshop.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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