

January 8, 2015

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held January 8, 2015
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Cat Cannon, Machias
Brent Griffin, Edmunds Twp.
Sara Griffin, Edmunds Twp.
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides, Eastport
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Dennis Perry, RCC/WCSO
Charles Rudelitch, SCEC, Harrington
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Crystal Hitchings, WCCOG
Sharon D. Strout, Deeds
Judy East, WCCOG
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Tora Johnson, University of Maine, Machias**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Approval of the Executive Session of the Commissioners meeting minutes held on December 11, 2014 (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0-1)

Approval of the regular Commissioners' meeting minutes held on December 11, 2014 (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0-1)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided reports in their meeting packets.

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There were not questions or concerns.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

A payroll change notice was presented to the Commissioners for the promotion of Christopher Donahue to Patrol Sergeant effective 12/28/14.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to table the payroll change request to promote Chris Donahue to rank of Sergeant for further discussion. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement hearing

The tax abatement hearing for James vs. Greenlaw Chopping has been scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Appointment of Commissioners and/or County Manager to Committees and Boards for 2015

The Commissioners were provided with a list of committees and boards on which the Commissioners and the County Manager sit.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to reappoint Commissioner Gardner to sit on the Sunrise County Economic Council Board. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 2-0-1.

MOTION Commissioner Gardner moved to reappoint Commissioner Cassidy to sit on the Aroostook/Washington County Workforce Investment Board. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 2-0-1.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to reappoint Betsy Fitzgerald to sit on the Washington County Council of Government (WCCOG) Board of Directors. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to reappoint Betsy Fitzgerald to sit on the WCCOG Brownfield Advisory Committee. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to reappoint Betsy Fitzgerald to sit on the DERC&D Board. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

It was noted that Commissioner Gardner was reappointed to the Maine County Commissioners Association Board during the November 2014 Commissioners' meeting.

By consensus, County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald will serve as a proxy in the absence of any other Commissioners.

AGENDA ITEM: Set overlay percentage amount

Treasurer Jill Holmes requested that the Commissioners set the overlay percentage amount. She explained that the overlay is a percentage added to the municipal taxes to compensate for potential unpaid taxes. She provided the following figures that each percentage amount would provide for an overlay; .25% - \$13,378.87; .5% - \$26,757.73; .75% - \$40,136.60; 1% - \$53,145.50. Her recommendation was to set the overlay percentage at .5%.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to set the overlay percentage amount at .5%. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

AGENDA ITEM: Set County tax interest rate

Treasurer Jill Holmes stated that the county tax interest rate is charged to any taxes that are paid after the due date of November 1st. She stated that the rate has been set at 5% for 2012, 2013 and 2014, and 2010 and 2011 was set at 6%. With 5% interest seeming amble for what is needed, Commissioner Crowley recommended continuing with 5% for 2015.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to set the County tax interest rate at 5%. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Court House Project

The County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported that the Court House project work plan is on schedule. The elevator shafts are being bricked up. There have been some heating issues causing problems for

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the masonry work. There are now eight large propane tanks for heat. The wording for the plaque for the front of the building was presented. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald asked if the Commissioners recommended any changes. There were none.

MOTION **Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the wording for the plaque for the front of the building. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

There will also be new signs to direct the public. On Thursday, January 22nd, the Art Committee will be interviewing three artists. The selected artist will have their art work displayed throughout the Court House. It was agreed by all three Commissioners that the art work should have a traditional feel and display Washington County's roots and heritage.

Sheriff Barry Curtis and Chief Deputy Michael Crabtree were both officially introduced and welcomed to the County. The Commissioners offered their full support in all endeavors of the Sheriff's office. Commissioner Gardner asked for a motion to sanctify, recognize and accept the newly elected Sheriff and his appointed Chief Deputy.

MOTION **Commissioner Crowley moved to acknowledge and sanctify Sheriff Barry Curtis to his newly elected position of Sheriff and the appointment of Michael Crabtree as his Chief Deputy. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

MOTION **Commissioner Cassidy moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405 6 (A) (3) to discuss legal and personnel issues. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 5:15 p.m.**

MOTION **Commissioner Crowley moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 6:05 p.m.**

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MOTION

Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Sheriff's Office use of 2014 funds up to, but not to exceed, \$10,000.00 to aid in the recovery of lost electronic information and documents. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 6:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

6:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.