

February 12, 2015

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Regular Meeting  
held February 12, 2015  
in the Commissioners' Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner  
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administration  
Jeff Herrick, Edmunds Twp.  
Sandy Herrick, Edmunds Twp.  
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides  
Dennis Perry, RCC / WCSO  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Cat Cannon, MVNO  
Bill Kitchen, MVNO  
Carlene Holmes, Probate  
Joshua Rolfe, RCC  
Darlene Wallace, Deeds  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office  
Dean A. Preston, U.T.**

**Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy was not present.**

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The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m.

**Approval of the minutes for the regular Commissioners' meeting held on  
January 8, 2015 (Crowley / Gardner, 2-0)**

**Approval of the minutes for the Executive Session of the Commissioners  
meeting held on January 16, 2015 (Crowley / Gardner, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports**

The Commissioners were provided reports in their meeting packets.

February 12, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices**

Sheriff Curtis recommended the hire of four new part-time patrol deputies effective 02/15/15.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Frank Gardner, Rodney Merritt, Josh Rolfe and William Scull as part-time patrol deputies effective 02/15/15. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

Two resignations were received.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Jennie Stoddard as part-time Jail Cook effective 01/20/15. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

Commissioner Gardner inquired as to whether the part-time Jail Cook position has been filled. There has not been a replacement yet.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of John Watts as part-time Buildings and Grounds Maintenance. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald noted that John has not worked for some time but the resignation was received on 02/12/15. Commissioner Gardner asked that the records reflect that John has not worked since November 17, 2014.

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-Month Certificates**

Six-month certificates were presented and signed for Sean Carrier, Darrell Daniels and Carilla Fritz.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Sheriff's Bond, Chief Deputy's Bond, and Patrol Deputies' Bonds**

As required by the provision of 30-A M.R.S.A. § 372, the verification of the sufficiency of the Sheriff's bonds is a perfunctory act done annually. The Sheriff's bond, Chief Deputy's bond and the Patrol Deputies' bonds were all examined by District Attorney Matthew Foster and found sufficient as of January 8, 2015.

February 12, 2015

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Sheriff's, Chief Deputy's and Patrol Deputies' Bonds.  
(Crowley / Gardner 2-0).

**AGENDA ITEM: Possible new position for Sheriff's Department**

Chief Deputy Crabtree reported that the Sheriff's Office has an anticipated opening for a new position that they expect to fill by March 1, 2015. The position is a two-year Sworn Officer position funded by an MDEA Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant. Stipulations of the agreement are; a) the officer must be hired on or after the award start date and b) the position must be directly related to the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP) project. This is a one-time funding opportunity and there is no local match required. Commissioner Gardner inquired as to whether it was anticipated that the position would continue after the two-year period. Chief Deputy Crabtree responded that it would not. Chief Deputy Crabtree requested that the Commissioners approve the Sheriff's Office to proceed with advertising and interviewing for this position. Commissioner Gardner asked if there would be any effect on the County budget. Chief Deputy Crabtree responded that there would be no impact. He has had a conversation with the Treasurer's Office regarding the grant.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Sheriff's Office to proceed with the process to fill a two-year grant funded position for the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program project. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

In order to move forward with the hiring process,

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to authorize County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to hire the individual recommended by Sheriff Curtis and Chief Deputy Crabtree. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

The hire will then be made official at the next scheduled Commissioners' Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on County Taxes for 2015**

Treasurer Jill Holmes presented the County Taxes for 2015 for the Commissioners' signatures. The 2015 Washington County budget of

February 12, 2015

\$5,351,546.00 was approved at the November 13, 2014 Public Hearing. Adding the overlay amount of \$26,758.00 set by the Commissioners and the mill rate of .001541591 set by the State of Maine, the total valuation for all of Washington County is \$5,378,304.00. As a point of interest, Commissioner Gardner listed the three highest paying municipalities from highest to lowest: 1) Unorganized Territories; 2) Baileyville; and 3) Steuben. He noted that shore frontage, in some cases such as Steuben, is a large factor in the valuations. The county tax list of assessments for the municipalities and unorganized territories of Washington County was signed as presented.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Carry-over funds**

Treasurer Jill Holmes presented total capital outlay and reserve account balances for the Commissioners approval to carry-over. The total capital outlay balance of \$262,594.86 and reserve balance of \$467,366.23 for a total of \$729,961.09 was recommended for carry-over.

**\*MOTION\***                    **Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the amounts presented and recommended by the Treasurer to carry-over from 2014 to 2015. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

Treasurer Jill Holmes requested the Commissioners to set a meeting date for the purpose of awarding the bid for the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). By consensus the meeting date has been set for Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Court House project artist**

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald gave a slide show presentation of the work of the artist selected by the Art Committee for the Court House project. Three artists were chosen to be interviewed from a pool of 22. One of the three artists was from Portland and worked with metal to create his pieces. Another was from Bangor and created wood carvings. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated that all the works of art presented by the three finalists' were impressive but the Art Committee unanimously selected Jude Valentine. Ms. Valentine is a well-known artist from Down East Maine, and the Art Committee was glad to be able to select someone from Washington County. Ms. Valentine proposes a series of 11 paintings done in pastels. Her plan is to do three sets of series; four pictures of the view of Machias from each

February 12, 2015

direction with the Belfry as the center point; four pictures featuring the major industries of Washington County; and the three remaining pictures depicting the Bold Coast looking towards Canada and within to our Native American neighbors. Based on the presentation and art work shown,

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the selection of Artist Jude Valentine for the Court House art as recommended by the Art Committee. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

By consensus, the James vs. Greenlaw Chopping Twp. Tax abatement has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 M RSA § 405 (6) (A) (3) to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0. It was 4:47 p.m.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0. It was 5:25 p.m.

There were no motions or decisions made after Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

5:25 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.