

September 10, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held September 10, 2014
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
Ken Daye, SCEC
Dean A. Preston, U.T.
Matt Lewis, MSF
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Judy Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Sharon Strout, Deeds
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Leigh MacKeen**

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

Approval of the August meeting minutes of August 14, 2014

Commissioner Gardner requested an amendment to the August 14, 2014 meeting minutes. During the August meeting, there was a discussion regarding an investigation into illegal political activities by Sheriff Smith. The investigation was not able to be completed. The Commissioners planned to refer the case to the Attorney General's office. The August meeting minutes reflected that the Commissioners decided, after much discussion and by consensus, to table the motion to forward the investigation to the AG's office until an attempt was made to resolve the issue in-house. It was reported that this was agreed to after Commissioner Cassidy stated that he could not support that motion. Commissioner Gardner asked that the record reflect that Commissioner Cassidy stated that he could not support the motion due to the lack of action by the AG's office in another case that is yet to be resolved. Commissioner Cassidy stated that he has no expectation that there would be action on this case. Commissioner Gardner stated that the record should also reflect that the Commissioners' intention to table the motion to forward the investigation was contingent on the cooperation from the Sheriff. The

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Commissioners are still looking for information that would have been acquired during the internal investigation had it been able to be completed. With this amendment,

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve August meeting minutes for August 14, 2014. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

The Commissioners were provided monthly reports in their meeting packets. (See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

By consensus, the Commissioners approved a pay rate increase for Richard Rolfe effective 07/23/14. This rate will pertain only when Rich is working as a part-time deputy and is the set rate for any part-time deputy that has Maine State Academy certification.

By consensus and without prejudice, the following resignations were accepted:

- Heron Weston, effective 08/29/14
- Steven Ramsey, effective 08/31/14
- Bruce Sanford, effective 09/01/14

It was noted that Steven Ramsey has retired after 27 years of service. The Commissioners thanked him and wished him well.

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-month Certificate

The six-month certificate was signed for Amy Prenier.

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement Hearing

The tax abatement hearing for James vs. Greenlaw Chopping has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Propane and Oil Bids

Only one bid was received for the propane and oil heating needs of the courthouse for the winter season 2014/15. With the recommendation of County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald,

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to reject the bid. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which unanimously.**

The Commissioners requested that an RFP be sent to all local propane and oil dealers in hopes of a larger pool of bids.

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on CLEOS Agreement

All Commissioners signed the Aroostook and Washington Workforce Investment Area Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOS) Agreement.

AGENDA ITEM: Courthouse Project Update

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported on the progress of the Courthouse project. She stated that the foundation is complete along with back-filling and footings. The steel framing is scheduled to arrive on Monday, September 22, 2014. The steel columns and beams are scheduled to begin being put in place on the same day. New drainage has been run and all is proceeding as planned.

Commissioner Gardner stated that the Board of Commissioners yield greatly to the architect and Building Committee, but he would like to request that the U.S. and Maine State Constitution be displayed as part of the artwork. He stated that it seemed only appropriate.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to display the U.S. and Maine Constitution in the Courthouse. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

Commissioner Gardner tasked County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to work with the Department Heads to decide on a good place to display both the U.S. and Maine Constitutions in the newly renovated space of the Courthouse.

Registrar of Deeds Sharon Strout reported that her staff is doing well in their temporary space.

ADJOURNMENT

5:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.