

October 8, 2015

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held October 08, 2015
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Johanna Billings, Bangor Daily News
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Sharon Strout, Deeds
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Heron Weston, U.T.**

Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner was not present.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Approval of the Public Hearing meeting minutes for F/Y 2016 County Budget held on September 3, 2015 (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

Approval of the regular Commissioners' meeting minutes held on September 3, 2015 (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

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

Register of Deeds Sharon Strout presented a proposal to the Commissioners that the Deeds Office stop the printing of books. She explained that there are scanned images available in the Deeds office and on-line dating back to 1945. Printing books is a duplication of information. Sharon Strout noted that there are eleven counties out

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Of the sixteen that are no longer printing books. The counties she has checked with have had no issues. Commissioner Cassidy asked if this would save Washington County money. Sharon Strout responded that it may eventually. Commissioner Cassidy asked if there would be help for those not familiar with using the computer. Sharon Strout responded that there would.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to allow the Register of Deeds to pursue the non-printing of books beginning January 1, 2016. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Melanie Small as full-time Buildings and Grounds Custodian effective 09/18/15 without prejudice. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Joel Holmes as full-time Corrections Officer effective 10/08/15 without prejudice. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Caleb Ross as full-time Computer Support Specialist effective 09/18/15 without prejudice. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

The resignation of Neal Sawick as Corporal Corrections Officer was accepted effective 10/11/15. It was noted that it was a resignation of rank only by the authority of Sheriff Curtis.

With the recommendation of Sheriff Curtis,

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire John Preston as part-time Patrol Deputy effective 10/11/15. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire John Francis as part-time Patrol Deputy effective 10/11/15. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

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Chief Deputy Crabtree recommended hiring Ryan Murry as a temporary full-time Patrol Deputy. He stated that an in-house hiring process was conducted to fill the position that will be funded by a grant that was received. There was also a vacant position created when Brandon Parker resigned. The position may become permanent depending on the continuation of the grant.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the hire of Ryan Murry as a temporary f/t Patrol Deputy effective 10/1/15.
Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

AGENDA ITEM: Courthouse Project Update

Nine of the eleven pieces of artwork done by Jude Valentine have been completed and hung in the lobby areas in the new addition. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated she was pleased with the artwork now on display.

The cutting of the wall in the basement for the doorway to the Treasurer and Building and Grounds offices has begun. The granite is approximately 18" thick in the upper part of the wall and as thick as 30" on the bottom. The cutting should be finished by Monday.

Construction is within a week of being on schedule.

Commissioner Cassidy inquired what the expected completion date is. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald replied that completion date is set for December 31, 2015. A grand opening is planned for the spring.

ADJOURNMENT

4:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.