

March 10, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held March 10, 2016
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Bryan J. Albee, Jail
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Matt Foster, DAO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Unidentified Man**

Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy was not present.

The Executive department of the meeting was called to order at 4:19 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the regular Commissioners' meeting held on February 11, 2016 (Crowley / Gardner, 2-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided reports in their meeting packets.

Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Hinerman noted one correction on his submitted report; the Tabletop exercise in Addison for the area fire departments has been postponed until April 28th.

Commissioner Gardner inquired if FEMA has addressed any changes needed to the snow policy. Michael responded that revisions had been suggested at the Federal level. The State Director felt the new plan was worse than the old one so the decision was made to keep the same policy that was in place.

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RCC Supervisor Josh Rolfe reported that he will be conducting interviews to fill full-time ECS vacancies. Once the process is complete, Josh will notify the County Manager of the candidates selected. Josh anticipates the new employees to begin work the first week in April and will plan to present his recommendations for hire at the April Commissioners' meeting.

District Attorney Matthew Foster reported that he received the resignation of full-time Clerk Mariah Garnett in the Machias District Attorney's Office. D.A. Foster stated that he may consider hiring two part-time clerks rather than one full-time clerk to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Gardner reminded D.A. Foster that the Clerk position is a union position. Commissioner Gardner advised D.A. Foster that he would be remiss to not collaborate with the Union before making any changes to a union position. D.A. Foster acknowledged that he had overlooked the fact that it is a union position.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Shane Seeley as part-time Corrections Officer effective 01/29/16. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

Captain Rich Rolfe noted that the resignation should be accepted without prejudice.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Mariah Garnett as full-time Clerk/Secretary for the Machias District Attorney's Office effective 03/18/16 without prejudice. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

With the recommendation of Sheriff Barry Curtis,

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to discharge William Scull as part-time Patrol Deputy effective 02/17/16. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

Sheriff Barry Curtis stated that Patrol Deputy William Scull had failed to complete his training.

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MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Timothy Carter as full-time patrol deputy effective 01/29/16. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

Commissioner Gardner noted that Patrol Deputy Timothy Carter was kept on the roster as a part-time deputy. Commissioner Gardner asked for an explanation since Patrol Deputy Carter has moved out-of-state. Sheriff Curtis explained that Patrol Deputy Timothy Carter has requested to stay on the Sheriff's Office roster as a part-time deputy during his transition; keeping his options open. During this transition period, Tim will also be working on the court case still open prior to his departure. Commissioner Crowley reminded the Sheriff of the extended liability factor. Sheriff Curtis stated that he anticipates a full resignation from Patrol Deputy Carter in the near future. Commissioner Gardner requested an update on Tim's status at next month's meeting.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Daniel Nicol as part-time Corrections Officer effective 02/21/16 not to exceed 30 hours except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Dakota Robinson as part-time Jail Cook effective 02/21/16 not to exceed 30 hours except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Alan Stanwood as part-time Patrol Deputy effective 02/18/16 not to exceed 30 hours except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

Sheriff Curtis noted that Alan also holds a part-time job with the Milbridge PD and he is a fisherman.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Martin Rizzitano as part-time Corrections Officer effective 02/21/16 not to exceed 30 hours except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

With regret, Captain Rolfe reported that Corrections Officer Martin Rizzitano tendered his resignation. Captain Rolfe stated that on

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February 25th, Martin's first day in training, a fellow veteran Corrections Officer was assaulted by an inmate. Martin was not only witness to the brutal attack, but also intervened. Captain Rolfe stated that Martin undoubtedly saved the fellow Corrections Officer's life. Captain Rolfe praised Rizzitano for his quick and instinctive actions, stating that he "did a great job for a young kid". Captain Rolfe said he would consider Martin Rizzitano for rehire without hesitation should he ever decide to come back.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Martin Rizzitano as part-time patrol deputy effective 02/26/16. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

Commissioner Gardner asked that Martin be encouraged to come back should he decide to pursue a career in Corrections again. The Board of Commissioners' would also like the opportunity to publicly recognize him for what he did.

Captain Rolfe reported that the inmate has been transferred to SuperMax.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the reclassification of Bryan Albee as part-time Corrections Officer to full-time Corrections Officer effective 03/13/16. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

AGENDA ITEM: Appoint Tanya Rucosky to Archives Committee

Valdine Atwood was present to ask the Commissioners' approval to add Tanya Rucosky to the Archives Committee. Tanya has been recommended by Jen Peters who will be vacating that position. Valdine reported that Tanya comes very well qualified. Tanya holds a Masters of Information Science and English from the University of Pittsburgh. An Archivist, Tanya will bring great experience. Valdine stated that Tanya will be a fine addition to the Archive Committee and she looks forward to working with her.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to appoint Tanya Rucosky to the Archives Committee. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

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AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement Hearing

The tax abatement hearing for Sarao vs. Town of Whitneyville has been scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Court House restoration progress update

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported that the first steps in the restoration project has gone well. The Probate Courtroom has been refurbished, the Treasurer's Office has been moved upstairs, and the Administrative Office of the Commissioners' and County Manager has moved across the hall. The next move will be the County Manager's office.

The hallway floor just outside the Probate Courtroom has been stripped and waxed. Shelving will be placed in that hall for the Law Library.

The Genealogy and Heritage Museum will be one of the last rooms to be finished.

Many things have been recycled. Furniture to be kept will be refinished by the Down East Correctional Facility.

The restoration is expected to be complete for the open house that is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 5th. A dedication will be at 2:30 p.m. on that day.

The plan to have more furniture refinished at the Down East Correctional Facility sparked dialogue regarding the current plan that has been put before the Legislature to pass a \$160+ million dollar bond to renovate the Windham Correctional Facility in Southern Maine. Commissioner Gardner voiced his concerns of a possible ripple effect of downsizing other facilities in the State of Maine. Noting the value of the Down East Correctional Facility in Washington County, Commissioner Gardner pointed out that having a Correctional Facility in a community is not for every town. The Facility is a good fit for this community. Commissioner Gardner stated that Representative Tuell and Representative Burns both recognize the value of keeping the Down East Correctional Facility open and operational. The Board of the Washington County Commissioners' will take a strong stance for the State to take a wholistic approach in regards to the operations of all

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state facilities. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Board of Commissioners will continue to advocate for keeping the Down East Correctional Facility open. He encouraged the audience to do the same.

ADJOURNMENT

4:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.