

January 12, 2017

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held January 12, 2017
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Mike Hinerman, EMA Director
Josh Rolfe, RCC Operational Supervisor
Nancy Oden, Clean Earth Farms
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Eileen Simpson, Jail
Chris Simpson, S.O.
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Paul Williamson, Apex Clean Energy
Ian Currier, RCC**

Chairman Commissioner Gardner called the first regular meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**Approval of the December regular meeting minutes of December 8, 2016
(Crowley/Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

The Commissioners were provided reports in their meeting packets.

Commissioner Gardner asked the Sheriff if the cruisers the Sheriff's Office was planning on purchasing from 2016 budget had been purchased yet. Sheriff Curtis responded he is still working on it. Commissioner Gardner reminded Sheriff Curtis to not let the funds lapse. Treasurer Jill Holmes assured Commissioner Gardner she and the Sheriff are working together to make sure the purchase happens in a timely manner to reflect the appropriate year budget.

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Bob Berta of the County Wide asked for copies of the monthly reports submitted by the department heads. He would like the reports provided at no cost.

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-month Certificates

Six-month certificates were signed as presented for Nicole Graves and Michelle Potter.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald requested the Commissioners approve the re-hire of Heron Weston. Heron will be working again with Dean Preston on a part-time basis in the Unorganized Territories department as a GIS Mapping Specialist.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to re-hire Heron Weston as part-time GIS Mapping Specialist effective 12/01/16. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

The Commissioners recognized that Heron has worked with Dean before and filled in for Dean during Dean's absences very effectively.

The Commissioners unanimously approved the Sheriff's recommendation to discharge Timothy Carter as part-time Patrol deputy without prejudice.

Operational Supervisor Josh Rolfe recommended four new applicants for approval for part-time Emergency Communication Specialist. The applicants were selected through a hiring process.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Mariah Mace as part-time ECS effective 01/15/17 not to exceed 30 hours except for training or emergency purposes. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Jared Crowley as part-time ECS effective 01/15/17 not to exceed 30 hours except for training or emergency purposes. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

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MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Dennis Dorsey as part-time ECS effective 01/15/17 not to exceed 30 hours except for training or emergency purposes. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Ian Currier as part-time ECS effective 01/15/17 not to exceed 30 hours except for training or emergency purposes. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

By consensus and without prejudice, the Commissioners discharged both James Robbins and Jeremy Alley as part-time Corrections Officer effective 01/11/17.

AGENDA ITEM: Appointment of Commissioners and/or County Manager to Committees and Boards for 2017

The Commissioners were provided with a list of committees and boards on which the Commissioners and the County Manager sit. Commissioner Gardner listed the 2016 Committee and Board appointments as follows:

- Sunrise County Economic Council Board Member, Betsy Fitzgerald
- Northeast County Workforce Investment Board, Commissioner Cassidy
- Washington County Council of Government Board of Directors, Betsy Fitzgerald
- WCCOG Brownfield Advisory Committee, Betsy Fitzgerald
- Downeast RC&D, Betsy Fitzgerald

Commissioner Crowley made a motion to leave the appointments for each board the same. By consensus, the appointments for each board and committee will remain the same for 2017.

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

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Nancy Oden requested a complete list of Committees and Boards the Commissioners sit on. Commissioner Gardner stated that a list will be generated.

Commissioner Gardner stated that he attended the annual meeting of the Maine County Commissioners' Association. One of the big issues discussed was the jail consolidation. Governor LePage's budget for funding county jails is about \$12.2 million. Last year it cost approximately \$14.4 million to run the county jails. This causes concern for a short fall in the jail funding. Commissioner Gardner stated that Governor LePage has proposed to create a statewide teacher contract. Commissioner Gardner stated the contract will be another key element to the budget and bears watching.

Commissioner Gardner took the opportunity to recognize Patrol Deputy Christopher Simpson. Patrol Deputy Simpson is a recent graduate from the Maine Justice Police Academy. Commissioner Gardner congratulated Patrol Deputy Simpson on his very successful completion from the Academy, graduating valedictorian of his class. Commissioner Gardner thanked Patrol Deputy Simpson for representing Washington County Sheriff's Office and the County so well.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on 28 Center Street roof replacement

Roof replacement bids were accepted in December. Those bids were presented to the Commissioners during the December Commissioners meeting for the purpose of awarding the bid. There was clarification needed on the bid submitted by Indoor Air Technologies, Inc of Victor, New York. The original bid was nearly half of the other two bids submitted. The bid from IAT was then revised to \$15,700.00; the bid from Coastal Construction of Perry was revised to \$24,996 with the understanding to wait for warmer weather; and the bid from G.R Roofing Co., Inc. of Brewer, Maine stood at \$26,980.00. Commissioner Cassidy and Commissioner Crowley both stated they wished to keep the work local. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated that although IAT submitted a bid to do the roof replacement, the company does not have experience in roofing jobs, at least according to their website.

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MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to award the revised bid of \$24,996.00 to Coastal Construction of Perry, Maine to replace the roof on 28 Center Street with the understanding that the job will be delayed until warmer weather. (Crowley/Cassidy, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement hearing

The tax abatement hearing for Donovan vs. State of Maine for Township 25 has been scheduled for Thursday, March 9th at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Set overlay percentage amount

Treasurer Jill Holmes provided a history of the overlay for the previous three years. (See attached) All three years the overlay has been set at .5%. This is the lowest amount possible.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to set the percentage for the overlay for 2017 at .5%. (Cassidy/Crowley, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Set County tax interest rate

Treasurer Jill Holmes recommended setting the interest for delinquent payment of County taxes to be set at 5%. Treasurer Jill Holmes stated the interest rate has historically been set at 5% and has been effective.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to set the interest rate at 5%. (Crowley/Cassidy, 3-0)

Operational Supervisor Josh Rolfe asked the Commissioners to reconsider a request he previously made to reclassify his position as non-union. He contended that his position should rightfully be classified as an exempt position. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald noted the classification of the job is for the position, not the person. It was also noted the NCEU would like to start negotiations in February. The current contract expires on December 31, 2017. Josh stated he has not paid union dues for a year now. He had requested the Treasurer's Office stop the deductions. Chief Crabtree inquired why we would need to negotiate with the Union to reclassify a position. Commissioner Gardner stated the County would not consider

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reclassifying a position without first consulting with the Maine Labor Board. If the Labor Board would consider the position to be exempt, the Commissioners would then initiate negotiating the reclassification of the position with the Union. Commissioner Gardner directed County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to contact the Labor Board and the county attorney for advice. Commissioner Gardner concluded the discussion by stating the Commissioners will not consider reclassifying a position ill-advised.

MOTION **Commissioner Cassidy moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405-A 6 A (3) to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 4:48 p.m.**

MOTION **Commissioner Crowley moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 6:15 p.m.**

A grievance hearing date was tentatively set for Monday, January 30th at 4 p.m. If the union would prefer to have the hearing with the full board of Commissioners, the hearing will be scheduled for Thursday, January 19th at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

6:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.