

February 6, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting held  
February 6, 2014  
in the Commissioners' Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:**

**Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner  
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy  
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administration  
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides  
Joshua Rolfe, Regional Communications Center  
Ken Daye, Sunrise County Economic Council  
Mike Hinerman, Emergency Management Agency  
Kelsey Porter, Jonesboro  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Shawn Donahue, Sheriff's Office  
Bill Kitchen, Machias Valley News Observer**

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The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the January Regular Commissioners' Meeting  
Minutes (January 9, 2014)**

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the January  
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cassidy seconded  
the motion which passed 3-0.

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports**

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

**AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Status Change Notices**

By consensus, the Commissioners approved the promotion of Ralph Pineo  
to Sergeant with the recommendation of Sheriff Smith. The promotion is  
effective as of 09/15/13.

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With the recommendation of County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald,

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire John Watts as a part-time Buildings and Grounds Custodian effective 01/23/14 not to exceed 30 hours per week. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

With the recommendation of Sheriff Smith,

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Damon Dore as part-time Corrections Officer effective 02/02/14 not to exceed 32 hours per week except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Christien Hooper as part-time Corrections Officer effective 02/02/14 not to exceed 32 hours per week except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Wayne Robbins as part-time Corrections Officer effective 02/02/14 not to exceed 32 hours per week except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Mary Stubbs as part-time Corrections Officer effective 02/02/14 not to exceed 32 hours per week except for training and emergency purposes. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

By consensus, the Commissioners accepted the resignation of Brian Brodie as part-time U.T. ACO / Shellfish Warden without prejudice. Brian has taken a position with the Marine Patrol.

**AGENDA ITEM: Six-Month Certificate for Martha Getchell.**

The six-month certificate presented was signed.

**AGENDA ITEM: Appointment to Aroostook / Washington County Workforce Investment Board.**

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During the January Commissioners' Meeting, Commissioner Gardner was nominated to be reappointed to sit on the Aroostook / Washington County Workforce Investment Board but the nomination was withdrawn when Commissioner Gardner declined the nomination. Commissioner Gardner has served for multiple years on the Board and requested Commissioner Cassidy to consider sitting on the Board. Commissioner Cassidy stated that he would accept the nomination.

**\*MOTION\***            **Commissioner Crowley moved to appoint Commissioner Cassidy to sit on the Aroostook / Washington County Workforce Investment Board effective 02/07/14. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald will notify Aroostook / Washington County Workforce Investment Board of the appointment.

With the request and recommendation of the Washington Hancock Community Agency Executive Director Mark Green,

**\*MOTION\***            **Commissioner Cassidy moved to reappoint Betsy Fitzgerald to sit on WHCA Board of Directors for a three-year term. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

A complete list of Committee and Board Appointments for 2014 is attached.

**AGENDA ITEM:    Courtroom Designs**

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented the architects' design update for the Superior Courtroom. This design preserves the historical character of the courtroom while providing additional seating, adding two new doorways and addressing state-mandated security issues. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald noted that most of the furniture would remain to keep the integrity of the historical character as well. Commissioner Cassidy pointed out that the safety issues were addressed and Commissioner Gardner stated that there was a balance between the historical correctness and safety issues. Commissioner Crowley stated that should this project take place it will be at the expense of the State, not the people of this County. The designs were accepted by consensus as presented on the premise that the project takes place.

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**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on County Taxes for 2014**

Treasurer Jill Holmes presented the County Taxes for 2014 based on the State valuation received. She noted that the overlay had already been approved last month. The commitment was signed as presented. As a note of interest, Commissioner Gardner listed the top five highest taxes paid by municipalities; the highest valuation being the Unorganized Territories followed in descending order by Baileyville, Steuben, Milbridge and Calais.

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on NCEU Contract**

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reviewed the highlights of the newly negotiated contract between the National Corrections Employee Union and the County of Washington. NCEU represents the Correction Officers, Emergency Communications Specialist and Jail Cooks. The contract requires employees to contribute 20% towards their insurance premium; grants a 3% raise for 2014; and a 2% raise or COLA for 2015. Chief Deputy Shawn Donahue stated on behalf of the Sheriff and Jail Administrator that they were comfortable and in agreement with the contract.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the NCEU contract effective 01/01/2014 through 12/31/2015. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

RCC Operations Supervisor Josh Rolfe asked if there would be retroactive pay for NCEU members based on the 01/01/2014 effective date of the contract. Commissioner Gardner responded that retroactive pay was not part of the proposal and agreement; therefore there would be no retroactive pay.

The union contract was signed as presented.

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald confirmed the date of the next Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Gardner will not be available on March 13<sup>th</sup> but it was decided to leave the scheduled meeting as is.

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald acknowledged that some recent restoration to Courthouse furniture is due to the efforts and work of the Down East Correctional Facility inmates. She pointed out that

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small engraved plates have been placed on the furniture in recognition of the work done. Commissioner Gardner voiced his concern about the the future of the DECF. A plan to expand the Windham facility presented to lawmakers by Governor LePage and Corrections Commissioner Ponte has put DECF back in limbo. While applauding the States effort for efficiency, Commissioner Gardner stated that DECF has a lot of value to Washington County. The facility has a proven record of rehabilitation for prisoners while thriving in the face of adversity. Commissioner Gardner hopes the Governor will be open to discuss the continuance of DECF as a functioning correctional facility as he has in the past.

**Adjournment 4:38 p.m.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**

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