

May 13, 2013

Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners  
Emergency Meeting on the  
Court House Expansion / Renovation Project  
held May 13, 2013  
in the Commissioners Conference Room  
Machias, Maine

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Attending the meeting were:

Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.  
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant  
Jeff Henthorn, Judicial Branch  
James T. Glessner, Judicial Branch  
Donald Smith, Sheriff  
Shawn Donahue, Chief Deputy  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator  
Jeff Davidson, Attorney  
Dee Bassano, District Attorney

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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405-A6E to discuss a legal issue. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 10:05 a.m.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 11:32 a.m.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the land lease agreement as amended. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes are attached.

Adjournment 12:30 p.m.

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

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

Following the Executive Session, the Commissioners heard from a number of attendees concerning the project. The Sheriff is concerned that he will need more deputies to manage court security. Commissioner Gardner explained that signing the lease does no more than keep the County in the discussion at this time. This is a decision for the next 100 years, he added.

The Sheriff also expressed his concerns yet again that the expansion is unneeded because there are few days when the facility is over-crowded. District Attorney Dee Bassano was asked to come to the meeting where she explained that the issues to which the Sheriff referred concerning arraignments had been rectified to her knowledge. Jeff Davidson explained to the Commissioners the need and reasons for regularly scheduled time for arraignments. Even so, there are some judges who refuse to do arraignments via the video conferencing system. Sheriff Smith ended his remarks with the observation that no one brought the Sheriff's office into the discussions regarding setting a schedule for arraignments and his office is involved from the very beginning.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm (Crowley/Cassidy, 3-0).