

August 8, 2013

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting held
August 8, 2013
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Ken Daye, SCEC
Phil Duggan, DECP
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Sharon Strout, Deeds
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Heron Weston, U.T.
Sandra Jones, Trescott Twp.
Wayne Jones, Trescott Twp.
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Christopher Polk, Calais
Val Atwood, Machias
Tim Cox, Bangor Daily News
Darlene Wallace, Deeds

Commissioner Gardner called the Executive Department business to order at 4:50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the July Regular Commissioners' Meeting Minutes (July 11, 2013) (Cassidy / Gardner, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

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

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AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Status Change Notices

By consensus, the Commissioner's accepted Dale McLean's resignation of his full-time position as Corrections Officer. Dale has retired but will remain on the part-time roster. The Commissioner's wished him well on his retirement.

With the recommendation of County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald,

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Christopher Polk as part-time Custodian for 30 hours per week except for training or an emergency. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Six Month Certificates

Six month certificates were presented and signed for Melissa Farris and Rebecca McKenna for their successful completion of their introductory period.

AGENDA ITEM: Tax Abatement Decision

The tax abatement for Laukstein vs. Town of Milbridge was signed. The request for an abatement was denied.

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement Hearing

It was decided by consensus that the Commissioner's Meeting for September will be rescheduled from the second Thursday of the month to the first Thursday; September 5th.

Two tax abatement hearings will be held on September 5th, 2013 in the Commissioner's Conference Room. The tax abatement hearing for Christensen vs. Town of Milbridge will be held at 1:30 p.m.; then Towe vs. Town of Meddybemps will follow at 2:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Reappointment of Amanda Look to WHCA Board of Directors (Gardner / Cassidy, 3-0)

This appointment is for a three year term.

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AGENDA ITEM: Signature on Community Corrections Annual Expenditure Report

The Community Corrections Account Annual Expenditure Report for the reporting period of 07/01/12 to 06/30/13 was submitted to the Commissioners for approval.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Community Corrections Annual Expenditure Report as presented. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.**

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion regarding future use of Courthouse space

The Commissioners discussed their concerns and ideas on the use of the new proposed space and renovations for the Courthouse. Of particular concern was the recent letter from Justice Murray as Chairman of the Building Project Committee. In his letter to the Commissioners he addresses the anticipated move of the Probate Office to the new building requiring "the county to pay a portion of operational costs in the new building." From the conception of the proposal by the State for the construction of new space, the Commissioners have been adamant that they would proceed with caution, assuring the community that the cost of said construction would not fall to the taxpayers. Commissioner Gardner reiterated that the County is not in need of more space, the State is. Register of Probate Carlene Holmes was asked to give her input of the proposal of Probate space in the State addition. She stated that they measurements of the proposed Probate space calculated by the County Manager and herself appear to show that the proposed Probate office space is the same size or smaller than the existing Probate office space. Carlene stated that the Commissioners have more information to better make that decision (whether to move or not move into the proposed space). She also added that she was thrilled to be getting the former District courtroom and Judge's chambers. Commissioners were in agreement that all County functions should be kept in the County section of the building; if necessary, reshuffling the office spaces to accommodate all County departments. The Courthouse expansion is still in the planning stages with many more decisions to be made, but the letter seeking clarification on space utilization gave Commissioners pause. The State-driven building renovation project is not a County option, but how the Commissioners decide to navigate the proposals and space options is. Commissioner Gardner stated that this is not County money; this is State money.

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MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405-A 6 A (3) to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 5:10 p.m.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 5:30 p.m.

There were no motions or decisions made after Executive Session.

Adjournment 5:30 p.m.

Attest: _____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.