

January 9, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners
Regular Meeting held
January 9, 2014
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:

**Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Ken Daye, SCEC
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Sharon D. Strout, Deeds
Paul Cavanaugh, Calais
Sheriff Smith, WCSO
Carlene Holmes, Probate
F. Hastings, DCP**

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the December Regular Commissioners' Meeting
Minutes (December 12, 2013)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the December
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Gardner seconded
the motion which passed 2-0-1.**

Commissioner Crowley abstained.

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 accepted the resignation of Travis
Oakes as a part-time deputy effective 12/16/13. Travis is unable to

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continue working for the Sheriff's Office with his new position as a Judicial Marshall.

Following a hiring process, Sheriff Smith recommended Timothy Carter for a Patrol Deputy position. Timothy has recently returned home from service in the U.S. Marines.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Timothy Carter as a full-time Patrol Deputy effective 01/05/14. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Gardner thanked Timothy for his service to the Country.

AGENDA ITEM: Six-Month Certificate for Heron Weston.

The six-month certificate presented was signed.

AGENDA ITEM: Tax Abatement Decision

The tax abatement for James vs. Greenlaw Chopping Twp was granted.

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

The Commissioners were provided with a list of committees and boards on which the Commissioners and the County Manager sit. Commissioner Crowley made a motion to leave all committee and board members the same as last year, but withdrew his motion as it was not seconded. Re-appointments for 2014 were made as follows:

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to reappoint Betsy Fitzgerald to sit on the Washington County Council of Government (WCCOG) Board of Directors. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to reappoint Betsy Fitzgerald to sit on the WCCOG Brownfield Advisory Committee. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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 the nomination. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Board

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represents both private and public sectors that plan, oversee and evaluate local workforce development programs. The Committee meets once a month, usually in Aroostook County. Attendance can be done by polycom. After some discussion, it was decided by consensus to elect a board member at the February meeting of the Commissioners.

MOTION **Commissioner Cassidy moved to reappoint Commissioner Gardner to sit on the Sunrise County Economic Council Board. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

MOTION **Commissioner Cassidy moved to reappoint Betsy Fitzgerald to sit on the DERC&D Board. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

It was noted that Commissioner Gardner was reappointed to the Maine County Commissioners Association Board and MCCA Risk Pool Board during the November 2013 Commissioners' meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Set overlay percentage amount

Treasurer Jill Holmes stated that the overlay percentage needed to be set. She explained that the overlay is a percentage added to the municipal taxes to compensate for potential unpaid taxes, and the Commissioners may set the rate between .5% and 2%. Jill reported that the overlay has been set at .5% for the past two years. She provided the following figures stating that it would be the amount each percent would provide for an overlay; .5% - \$26,247.10; 1% - \$52,494.20; 1.5% - \$78,741.30; 2% - \$104,988.40. Her recommendation was to set the overlay percentage at .5%.

MOTION **Commissioner Cassidy moved to set the overlay percentage amount at .5%. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

AGENDA ITEM: Set County tax interest rate

Treasurer Jill Holmes stated that the county tax interest rate is charged to any taxes that are paid after the due date of November 1st. She stated that the rate has been set at 5% the last several years. Commissioner Crowley recommended continuing with 5% for 2014.

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MOTION

Commissioner Crowley moved to set the County tax interest rate at 5%. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adjournment 4:35 p.m.

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

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