

September 8, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County
Public Hearing on the F/Y 2017 Budget
held September 8, 2016
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Crystal Cushing, Next Step
John Sutherland, Lubec
Gretchen Cherry, Washington County Extension Association
Dianne Tilton, Downeast Institute
Jean Savard, Firefighter's Association
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides
Meghan Dennison, Machias
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Nickey Dubey, Trescott
Joan Miller, WCEA
Rosemary Kulow, MCCA
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Dick Fickett, Cherryfield
Sharon D. Strout, Deeds
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Wendy Harrington, U Maine Cooperative Extension
Alan Majka, U Maine Cooperative Extension
Alan Furth, CCLC
Rich Rolfe, Jail
Rick Bronson, Baileyville
Carlene M. Holmes, Probate

Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner was not present.

Commissioner Cassidy called the Public Hearing to order at 2:00 p.m. on the proposed F/Y 2017 County Budget.

Commissioner Cassidy welcomed all that was present. He thanked the Budget Advisory Committee members for their service acknowledging their effort in the process. Ten members make up the Board; three

September 8, 2016

representatives from each district selected by their own Municipal Officers and one legislative member selected by the Legislative Delegation.

There were representatives from the non-governmental third party organizations present to give brief descriptions of what their organization provided to the community.

Washington County Firefighters Association requested the same funds as last year. Jean Savard stated that the request for \$6500.00 is used for training and equipment purchases.

Diane Tilton, Executive Director of the Downeast Institute of Applied Marine Research and Education, asked that DEI's funding remain at \$5,000.00. Ms. Tilton reported the funds help with DEI's work raising juvenile softshell clams for stock enhancement in Washington County. DEI raises shellfish for research; provides seed fish for entrepreneurs; and provides marine resources and education for Washington County children and teachers free of charge. A newsletter describing the work of DEI was distributed. Commissioner Crowley praised DEI for their work.

Crystal Cushing was present to represent Next Step. Next Step's fund request is for \$850.00. This is the same amount that was requested last year. Ms. Cushing explained that Next Step is a domestic violence project providing shelter, advocacy and other resources. They have served more than 249 individuals in Washington County, 373 people from Hancock County and more than 200 people from unidentified locations. Next Step is the only shelter in the County for those fleeing from domestic violence. Ms. Cushing concluded by expressing Next Step's gratitude for previous contributions.

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported that during the BAC members' adjournment for a brief meeting, Lewis Pinkham was unanimously re-elected as chairman. Dates for the first two meetings were set for Tuesday, October 4th and Tuesday, October 13th at 9.am. at 28 Center Street Conference Room. Two more meeting dates were tentatively set for Monday, October 17th and Monday, October 24th. The meeting place for the last two meetings is yet to be decided.

Commissioner Crowley recognized the Budget Advisory Committee once again has their work cut out for them. Commissioner Cassidy concurred

September 8, 2016

that preparing the final budget is not an easy task. Commissioner Cassidy stated Lewis Pinkham always does a great job leading the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

4:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.