

November 13, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Public Hearing for F/Y 2015 Budget
held November 13, 2014
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Barry Curtis, Sheriff Elect, Cherryfield
Matt Foster, D.A. Elect / Ellsworth
Jen Peters, SCEC
Dean Preston, U.T.
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Kelsey Porter, Jonesboro
Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Judy East, WCCOG**

Commissioner Christopher Gardner was not present.

Commissioner Cassidy called the meeting to order at 3:55 p.m. for the Public Hearing for the proposed F/Y 2015 County budget.

Budget Advisory Committee Chairman Lewis Pinkham stated that the Budget Committee worked diligently. The total proposed budget is \$5,351,546.23. This is an increase of 1.9455% from previous year. Lewis stated that the Budget Committee would like to have brought the budget back to the Commissioners with a decrease but considered the increase to be reasonable all things considered. Commissioner Cassidy agreed that with most expenses constantly rising that this reflects a reasonable increase. Lewis pointed out that two years ago the budget was increased by 3%.

Commissioner Cassidy asked Treasurer Jill Holmes to explain the difference between the contingency line and overlay. She explained

November 13, 2014

that contingency is set aside for emergency expenses not included in the budget. Overlay is the amount collected that is set aside to cover deficiencies in tax collection from the towns. The overlay rate is set by the Commissioners with the Treasurers' recommendation after the budget has been approved.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the F/Y 2015 County Budget in the amount of \$5,351,546.23. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0.**

Commissioner Cassidy thanked all the members of the BAC for all their work.

There were no comments or statements from the public.

**ADJOURNMENT
4:00 p.m.**

**ATTEST: _____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**