

December 8, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Public Meeting held
December 8, 2016
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, WCSO
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Mike Hinerman, WNEMA
Sharon W. Strout, Register of Deeds
Marga James, Machias Monitor
Carly Delsignore, Edmunds
Laura Baker, Pembroke
Aaron Bell, Edmunds
Carlene Holmes, Register of Probate
Jill Holmes, Treasurer**

Commissioner Gardner called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. on the proposed F/Y 2017/2018 UT Budget.

U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston was unable to attend the meeting. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented the proposed draft budget in Dean's absence. Betsy reported the draft budget has been submitted and reviewed by the Fiscal Administrator of the State of Maine. There were no issues with the budget.

Betsy summarized line item changes in the proposed budget. The cemetery maintenance line decreased from \$9500.00 to \$2000.00. Betsy explained that labor costs were relocated to the road maintenance line. Commissioner Gardner inquired about the reasoning for the

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change. Betsy explained the cemetery maintenance cost will no longer be contracted. Non-road miscellaneous maintenance will now be covered under the new line of "Public Works Crew". The E911 maintenance costs have also been relocated to the Public Works Crew line. Costs were reduced in the Solid Waste Services by renegotiating contracts and by having electricity turned off for unnecessary lights.

Commissioner Gardner noted the donation for the funds solicited for the Edmunds-area baseball field did not seem to be included in the proposed budget. In the interest of full disclosure Commissioner Gardner explained his involvement in the baseball league. Commissioner Gardner is a volunteer coach for the Edmunds-area Cal Ripken league in Washington County. The Edmunds baseball field fence was in need of repair as it was a safety hazard. The community took it upon themselves to fix the fence. The expense was shared by the Edmunds school and with funds raised from personal donations. The field is owned by the Unorganized Territories. A request for U.T funds was asked for last year but there was no money in the budget. Commissioner Gardner stated he was in hopes the U.T. would be able to contribute with a one-time increase for building infrastructure. Betsy stated she would relay the message to Dean.

The Commissioners commended Dean on continuing to provide services to the U.T. while keeping increases in the budget to a minimum. The total appropriated amount of \$1,294,358.00 decreased by 2.54% from 2016-17. The reserve account decreased by 12% leaving \$1,008,408.00 to be raised by taxation.

During the regular Unorganized Territories session,

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the F/Y 2017/2018 UT Budget in the amount of \$1,294,358.00 with the amount of \$1,008,408.00 to be raised through taxation. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

Adjournment 4:06 p.m.

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