

March 12, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held March 12, 2020
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Council
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Lynn Dwelley, Emergency Management
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories
Michael Crabtree, Sheriff's Office
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Rich Rolfe, Sheriff's Office**

Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:00 p.m.

Prior to the meeting, there was a 3:00 p.m. National Corrections Employees Union Grievance hearing.

Approval of the Public Hearing minutes for the Washington County Downeast Wind Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District of February 24, 2020. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of February 24, 2020. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

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Dean reported that Shayne White will no longer be the Fiscal Administrator of the UT. There has been no replacement yet but there is someone covering the duties until a new person is hired. Dean stated he has communicated with the interim person regarding the current budget and the schedule for submission. Dean is hoping to have the opportunity to discuss the details of the Bridge budget, and he anticipates having to sit before the Committee to answer questions on the bridge budget.

Dean stated the bid opening for the Centerville Middle Branch Bridge over Caler Brook Project has been postponed. The initial plans sent to the Army Corp of Engineers did not include a permit for a temporary bridge crossing at the site. Dean stated a temporary bridge crossing was initially thought to be unnecessary. All contractors have been notified of the postponement. Dean noted there are 15 contractors who have submitted bids; all contractors are local except two. Commissioner Gardner recommended Dean hold the bid opening with the presence of two county employees. Commissioner Gardner also recommended the Board of Commissioners authorize Dean to accept the apparent low bidder with final approval to be grant by the Commissioners. Dean stated the rescheduled bid opening for this project will be held on March 25th at 11:00 a.m. The official award of the bid will take place at the April 9, 2020 Commissioners meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Courthouse in Machias.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to authorize Unorganized Supervisor Dean Preston to accept the apparent low bidder for the Centerville Middle Branch Bridge over Caler Brook Project with final approval to be granted by the Commissioners. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0.)**

Dean reported the winter damage to county roads has been more intense than previous years. Dean stated he is currently building a maintenance list for the beginning of the construction season. Commissioner Gardner asked if there were enough funds for winter road maintenance. Dean replied he has funds available in his Capital Project Account if needed.

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Dean noted there are seven snow removal contracts expiring this spring. Dean stated these contracts will be rebid. Dean plans to have that process started by May 2020.

Commissioner Gardner stated he has been getting a lot of local complaints regarding the lower Edmunds Bridge and the possible need for further work to be done. Commissioner Gardner asked Dean to

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contact Steven Brown and check on the situation.

Dean reported that he has spoken with the Executive Director of the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, Colin Brown, regarding the concern about public access to the lakes in Forest City. Dean is in the process of developing a letter to present land-owners to identify public access to lake areas such as Spednic Lake; scheduling a meeting with Colin Brown to discuss plans to move forward; and researching the possibility of TIF funding to acquire such land if it becomes available for purchase.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

There were no action items.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.