

May 14, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held May 14, 2020
in the Washington County Superior 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
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, WCSO
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories**

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

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of March 12, 2020.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported that, after several postponements, bids were opened on April 8, 2020 for the Centerville Middle Branch Bridge over Calor Brook Project. The bids are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. BMB Construction | \$448,745.00 |
| 2. Hanscom Construction | \$259,500.00 |
| 3. CPM Constructors | \$760,000.00 |

After review of all documents, the project was awarded to Hanscom Construction on April 13, 2020 for the price of \$259,500.00. Dean

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requested the Commissioners formally accept this bid and the decision to award it to Hanscom Construction.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to formally accept and award the bid for the Centerville Middle Branch Bridge over Caler Brook Project to Hanscom Construction for the price of \$259,500.00 effective 04/13/20. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

Dean stated he is holding a pre-construction meeting next week. Commissioner Gardner asked if the cost of the project is in line with the budget. Dean confirmed the project is in line with the budget, noting the estimate for the project was \$300,000.

Commissioner Gardner asked if there has been any effect on U.T. business due to the Pandemic. Dean replied that there has been a negative effect on U.T. business. Dean stated the bid process for the Calor Bridge project was postponed twice. Dean also noted the COVID-19 Pandemic has slowed the Forest City lakes access project. Dean has recently been able to re-engage with Colin Brown, Executive Director of the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Program Administrator Susan Hatton presented a request for a three-month loan extension and interest rate deduction for Mark and Wesla Ranalli, owners of Big Lake Campground & RV Park. Susan explained the Ranalli's have done extensive work to the grounds and plan to continue to do more work on the campground this spring and summer. The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused their opening to be delayed. The Ranalli's have requested an extension on their loan commitment and an adjustment to their interest rate from the current interest rate on their loan of 4% to the current prime rate of 1.75%.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve a three-month loan extension and interest rate reduction from 4% to the current prime rate of 1.75% on the loan commitment of Mark & Wesla Ranalli, dba Big Lake Campground & RV park as recommended by the Loan Committee. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

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Commissioner Gardner stated it is the county's perspective to look favorably to what can be done to help business owners survive during these uncertain times.

AGENDA ITEM: Possible Adjustment: COVID-19 Impacts on TIF Financial Activities

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County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented a request from the TIF Loan Committee to offer up to 90-day extension of principal and interest or just interest on any TIF loans. The request from the Loan Committee arises from the Pandemic. Businesses have been adversely affected with the "Stay at Home" order from the Governor. Many businesses are finding it difficult to keep their business afloat during this state of emergency. The Board of Commissioners were in favor of a temporary policy that will help maintain businesses until the Governor opens Maine back up to "business as usual".

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve a temporary policy to authorize the Sunrise County Economic Council and the Loan Committee to offer forbearance for up to thirty days after the state of emergency. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.