

April 10, 2025

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held April 10, 2025  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

---

**Attending the meeting were:**  
**Commissioner David C. Burns**  
**Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.**  
**Commissioner Billy Howard**  
**Renée Gray, County Manager**  
**Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant**  
**Susan Hatton, SCEC**  
**Tammy C. Gay, Deeds**  
**Heather Green, Deeds**  
**Rich Rolfe, Jail**  
**Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO**  
**Jill Holmes, Treasurer**  
**Barry Curtis, Sheriff**  
**Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy**  
**Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA**  
**Joshua Rolfe, RCC/WCSO**

---

Commissioner Burns called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

**Executive Department Business** (see Regular Commissioners' Meeting minutes)

**AGENDA ITEM: MCCA Presentation - Andre Cushing, President**

The regular U.T. business meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2025  
(Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Old Business - Update on Shaddagee Road**

During the March Commissioners' Meeting, the condition of a bridge on the Shaddagee Road was discussed. It was reported the road belongs to Cherryfield Foods, but the crossings are U.T. property. Heron was tasked with investigating ownership and responsibility of repairing the bridge. Heron reports that he has spoken with the Cherryfield

April 10, 2025

Foods Farm Manager Spencer Fiser and former U.T. Supervisor Dean

36

Preston. Both have an understanding that U.T. is responsible for the upkeep of the crossings. Dean acknowledges the agreement that U.T. is responsible for the crossings was made before his time. Heron stated he researched the County Commissioners' minutes for 1950 through 2000 for possible answers. In 1987, the minutes reflect the U.T. purchased a 3' culvert to allow a T25 MD property owner to "access Route 9". The minutes note the property owner was responsible for the culvert's installation. Heron stated no records or references to Washington County or the U.T. were found in any deeds in T24 MD. Heron noted the State of Maine has large land holdings in T24MD and there are references regarding public rights-of-way and maintenance responsibilities in property transfers between the State and Cherryfield Foods. One reference specifically mentions the Shaddegee Road. Heron stated he is not sure what should be the next step. He stated the issue is due to one crossing that was crushed by Cherryfield Foods and the crossing will need to be used during blueberry harvest time. Heron suggested looking into a temporary bridge that would cost approximately \$25,000.00. Commissioner Burns questioned again why the County and U.T. is responsible. Commissioner Howard stated skidder mats hold heavy loads and recommended using them as a cheaper option. Heron stated his concern with skidder mats is that they are not officially weighted and have a span limit. Commissioner Crowley noted that ten years ago when Mopang Crossing washed out, the U.T. replaced it. At that time, U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston believed the crossing to be "ours". Heron stated Mr. Fiser has inquired about the status of repairing the crossing. Heron suggested that a temporary bridge could alleviate the pressure and give more time to figure out who is the responsible party. Commissioner Burns state the board of commissioners will need more information before authorizing funds for a temporary bridge or to replace the bridge. Heron stated he will continue to work with the state and research other options.

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

Heron reported the 2024 Annual Shellfish Management Review was submitted to Maine DMR. Heron summarized the time-frame in review. He noted there were 600 hours of patrol time, \$4000.00 was spent on seeding and the number of licenses sold were down significantly.

April 10, 2025

37

Heron stated the U.T. Office is in the initial stages of negotiations with the Perry/Pembroke Municipal Shellfish Committee to provide Shellfish Warden Services to these communities. This agreement is potential revenue for the U.T. and is logistically doable.

Heron reported the U.T. Office has been asked to take over the caretaking of a private cemetery in Lambert Lake. This cemetery has previously been maintained by a local resident. The U.T. is negotiating a contract with the previous caretaker to provide the services. It was noted this cemetery contains numerous veterans. Commissioner Crowley stated there are funds available through the State of Maine to maintain cemetery lots that have veterans. Treasurer Jill Holmes reminded Heron that a Certificate of Liability or a Predetermination of Independent Contractor Status is needed for the Finance Office when a vendor is contracted for a job.

Heron presented a Solid Waste Services Agreement with Topsfield for residents of Kossuth and Codyville Townships. The term of the agreement is four years beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028. The annual compensation is \$2500.00. The amount represents approximately 15% of the town's annual solid waste collection and transportation costs. Tipping fees are not included in the cost.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Solid Waste Services Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Topsfield as presented. (Howard / Burns, 3-0)**

Heron presented a Voting Place Contract with Topsfield. The purpose of this contract is to provide a place for residents in Kossuth and Codyville Twp to vote. The contract is for four years beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028. The compensation is \$500.00 per year. This amount represents approximately 15% of the town's annual election expenses.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Voting Place Contract between Washington County U.T. and Topsfield as presented. (Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

Heron presented a Construction Overlimit Permit from Maine Department

April 10, 2025

of Transportation. Per statute, MDOT must notify municipalities of construction areas and may issue permits for loads and equipment employed on public ways. Heron stated the project is a bridge replacement over the Little Tomah Stream on Rte. 6 in the Township of

38

Codyville. Heron explained the construction overlimit permit is procedural. Heron noted the construction does not include U.T. roads. By consensus, it was decided no action is needed.

Heron requested confirmation that the U.T. Supervisor qualifies as an authorized representative to sign for utility pole permits within the right of ways of U.T. roads.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Howard moved to authorize U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston to be a qualified representative for the signing of utility pole permits within U.T. right of ways.  
(Howard / Burns, 3-0)**

Heron stated bids were received for the project to replace the Richardson Brook Bridge on the Nineteen Road. Heron noted the bridge structure is fine; it is just the deck that needs to be replaced. It was also noted Calderwood Engineering created the spec design. Commissioner Howard asked if the U.T. is responsible for the whole cost. Heron replied that the U.T. is fully responsible for the cost of the repair. Commissioner Howard asked if there have been funds budgeted. Heron stated there has been funds set aside for this project. Heron reported the bids were opened on April 8, 2025. Those present were County Manager Renée Gray, Greg MacAlister of Calderwood and George O'Bar of Northeast Paving. The bids received were:

- \$226,885 from Northeast Paving
- \$181,700 from CPM Constructors
- \$135,000 from Dirigo Timberlands

Heron recommends the Commissioners accept the bid of \$135,000.00 from Dirigo Timberlands.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Burns moved to award the Richardson Brook Bridge deck replacement project to Dirigo Timberland as recommended. (Burns / Crowley, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

April 10, 2025

Ms. Hatton presented a request for a partial release of collateral on a TIF loan. Ms. Hatton gave a brief history of the loan status. She stated Ralph Doane of T&E Excavation received an original loan in the amount of \$75,000.00 in 2023. The borrower had contributed \$10,000.00 to the project and pledged his savings account in the amount of \$5,000.00 as collateral. The current balance on the loan is

39

\$52,018.00. Mr. Doane is requesting the 1<sup>st</sup> position of his personal savings account of \$5,000.00 be released for collateral.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the requested release of collateral as presented and recommended by the TIF Loan Committee. (Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

Ms. Hatton reported on the loan status of Michael Griffin. She stated the loan is still in default and asked the Commissioners to approve foreclosure per recommendation of the Loan Committee. Ms. Hatton noted no payments have been made and Mr. Griffin has filed bankruptcy. She noted the collateral includes 1.5 acres with a house and buildings with a value of \$28,000.00. Commissioner Howard asked how long the foreclosure process will take. Ms. Hatton responded she was unsure. She stated Rudman & Winchell is involved.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Burns moved to approve initiating the process of foreclosure on the TIF loan for Michael Griffin. (Burns / Crowley, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

County Manager Renée Gray stated the LUPC Commission member expires July of 2025. The Washington County Commissioners are responsible for appointing an LUPC Commissioner. Renée noted the current LUPC Commissioner is Betsy Fitzgerald. The Board of Commissioners discussed their options; reappoint Betsy to another term or advertise for an appointee to serve. It was decided an advertisement process for any interested party should be completed.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Burns moved to authorize County Manager Renée Gray to advertise for anyone interested in being appointed to serve on the Maine Land Use Planning commission. (Burns / Howard, 3-0)**

April 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

4:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.