

April 14, 2022

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held April 14, 2022
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Nancy Oden, Jonesboro
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Susan Hatton SCEC
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Josh Rolfe, WCSO/RCC
Dennis Dorsey, WCSO
Mary-Alice Look, Whiting
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Ralph Doane, U.T.**

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

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of March 10, 2022
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported the animal control activities have increased due to the season.

Dean stated the annual Shellfish Report for the 2021 season has been submitted. The Commissioners were given a copy of the report for their information and review.

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Dean stated he is currently assessing and evaluating the condition of County roads in all townships/territories and prioritizing projects based on safety issues.

Dean reported that all snow removal contract payments have been paid for the current season.

Dean reported on several special projects. Dean has communicated with the Edmunds Elementary School regarding a project for an outside classroom that the U.T. plans to partner with the school to build. Dean has also communicated with the Town of Dennysville regarding partnering on a project at the old tennis courts. Dean stated he should have more details on both projects to report to the Commissioners by mid-summer.

Dean reported the Cathance Road septage spreading site is open for the 2022 season.

Dean reported he has continued to research what is available for citizens with a Land Use complaint in regards to junk yards and household waste. Dean stated there seems to be no real enforcement available to citizens of the U.T. Dean stated he has reached out to many different organizations including the LUPC. Dean noted he has tried to resolve the on-going issue but an ordinance for Washington County U.T. may be needed to enable enforcement of land use complaints.

Dean stated he will be recommending the hiring of Brian Smith as U.T. Shellfish Warden effective May 1, 2022. The payroll change form will be presented to the Commissioners during the Executive Department section of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented a TIF grant request in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the Town of Whiting. The purpose of the funds will be to repair and modify the dam structure and to create fish passage at the Mill Pond Dam. The Mill Pond Dam is currently owned by the Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF). The Town of Whiting has entered into an agreement to purchase the Mill Pond Dam. Ms. Hatton reported that the dam and

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its associated pond provide an exemplary water source for fire protection as it is centrally located for three communities, has

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good water quality and flow rate capabilities, and four-season accessibility for either aerial or ground firefighting. Repairs to the dam are required to maintain the ability to establish water levels and quantity sufficient to maintain and support firefighting needs. Repairs and modification to the dam will also support and promote fish passage at the dam. The Town of Whiting and the Downeast Salmon Federation have entered into a joint agreement to preserve water levels and promote fish passage at the rehabilitated and modified dam. The town and DSF plan to coordinate with the State and Federal resource agencies to seek funding. Ms. Hatton stated local firefighting departments have submitted letters of support. Ms. Hatton noted the dam would serve 78% of Washington County's U.T. area. Ms. Hatton stated the TIF Committee establish a policy to place an upper limit of \$25,000 on County Match Grant funding for projects outside of unorganized territories that benefit U.T.'s. The TIF Committee recommended the Commissioners approve the Town of Whiting grant request in the amount of \$25,000. Commissioner Cassidy stated it was a good project to support.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the grant request, #2203-03-CM, in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Town of Whiting per TIF Committee recommendation. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0.)**

Commissioner Gardner asked Mary Alice Look, Town of Whiting Representative, if the reduced amount would be enough to continue with the project goal. Ms. Look stated the Town of Whiting will be fine with the reduced amount.

Ms. Hatton presented a TIF Loan request for Ralph Doane, dba T&E Excavation. Mr. Doane is requesting a loan in the amount of \$85,000.00 to purchase equipment and working capital for his construction company. The term of the loan is 7.5 years with collateral of 1st security interest in the 2001 John Deere backhoe, the new equipment Mr. Doane plans to purchase, and a blanket UCC on all business assets. The total collateral review has a net valuation of \$98,700.00. Mr. Doane has invested \$5,000.00 of his own funds. Mr. Doane is requesting the Commissioners approve funds to be dispersed directly to him so he will have the funds available when he finds the equipment he plans to purchase. Commissioner Gardner stated

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dispersing of funds in advance is not normal procedure for TIF loans but he would support a motion for such an approval.

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MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the loan request, #RD-TIF-03-17-22, in the amount of \$85,000.00 for Ralph Doane, dba T&E Excavation, as presented.
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0.)

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

Nancy Oden was present to voice her concern regarding a compost/biosolid product sold by Casella Transfer Station in Jonesboro. Ms. Oden claims the compost contains toxic chemicals. Ms. Oden has proposed the Commissioners take an active stance in this matter by denouncing the product being sold by Casella. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners would need more information to verify these claims and to know where the DEP stands on this matter before considering any action.

ADJOURNMENT

4:24 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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