

August 11, 2022

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held August 11, 2022
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Kenneth Holzworth, WCSO
Joyce Holzworth, Pembroke
Zena Holzworth, Pembroke
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Rich Rolfe, WCSO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA
Nancy Oden, Jonesboro**

Commissioner John Crowley, Sr. was not present

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on July 14, 2022. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided written reports from the Treasurer's Office and Sunrise County Economic Council. The reports were accepted under the gavel.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

By consensus, the Commissioners accepted the resignations of Paige Sprague as full-time Corrections Officer effective 07/26/22, and Elmer Farren as full-time Patrol Deputy effective 07/29/22. Both employees will remain on the part-time roster.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Kenneth Holzworth as full-time Corrections Officer effective 08/14/22. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Award Bid for Bulk Salt

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated bid packets were sent to six vendors requesting bids for bulk salt. Betsy reported only one bid was received. The bid received was from New England Salt Company of Bangor for \$88.50 per ton for all locations. A summary of the bid opening is attached. As there was only one bid received, Betsy recommended the Commissioners reject the bid and rebid. Commissioner Gardner expressed his concern that should the county do a rebid, the bid or bids received could be higher. Commissioner Gardner suggested a motion be made to instruct the County Manager to find out the results of the State-wide bid. If the bid received by New England Salt is greater than 20% of the bid for the State, the bid will be rejected and the bulk salt will go back out to rebid. If the State bid amount is within 20% of the bid received from New England Salt, the bid will be accepted and awarded to New England Salt.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to explore salt bid options and award the bid received from New England Salt Company if it is within reason and aligns with the bid amount received by the State bid. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Award Heating Bid

Request for Proposals were sent out to oil and propane distributors for the winter season 2022/23. Two bids were received; one from Dead River and one R.H. Foster for both the oil and propane. Bids were opened on August 8th and a summary of the bid opening was prepared. The summary is attached. Due to the volatility of the market at present, new prices were obtained on August 11th. Dead River's final bid for oil was for a fixed price of \$3.7310, and a fixed price of \$1.79 for propane. R.H. Foster's final bid for oil was for a fixed price of \$3.929, and a fixed price of \$2.359 for propane. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald recommended the bid for both propane and oil be awarded to Dead River as apparent low bidder.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for oil to Dead River for a fixed price of \$3.7310.**

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(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)

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MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for propane to Dead River for a fixed price of \$1.79.
(Cassidy / Crowley, 2-0)

Commissioner Gardner asked how prices for propane and oil this year compare to last year. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported last year the County paid \$1.73 for propane and \$2.43 for oil. Commissioner Gardner noted oil prices this year is \$1.30 more per gallon than last year.

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement hearing for Cobscook Shores, Inc. vs Town of Wesley

A Tax Abatement Hearing request has been received by Cobscook Shores, Inc. for property in the Town of Wesley. By consensus, the Commissioners scheduled the hearing to be held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 3 p.m. in the Washington County Probate Courtroom.

AGENDA ITEM: Building Committee Update

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported that the architect from Port City Architecture is working on a proposal for the Safety Building based on his meeting with the Building Committee. Betsy stated she anticipates the architect will present the proposal at the next Commissioner's meeting.

Nancy Oden asked to be placed on the agenda to present her proposals for the use of ARPA funds. Commissioner Gardner told her she would need to put her request in writing.

AGENDA ITEM: Commissioner's Issues

Commissioner Gardner stated a report from Malcolm Ulmer of the MCCA Risk Pool showed the number of accidents with Sheriff's Deputy vehicles are up from previous years. Sheriff Curtis acknowledged that accidents in his department are running high. It was noted that Sheriff's Deputies are covering more area with the decrease in State Police coverage so the Sheriff's Deputies are driving more miles. Sheriff Curtis did note that the Sheriff's Office has received an award for Safe Driving.

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ADJOURNMENT

5:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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