

December 12, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held December 12, 2019
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Eileen Simpson, RCC
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Michael Brooks, Jail**

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:25 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Public Hearing for FY 2020 Budget held on November 14, 2019. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on November 14, 2019. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided written reports from EMA, the Treasurer's Office and Sunrise County Economic Council. The reports were accepted under the gavel. (See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

RCC Director Josh Rolfe recommended reclassifying Eileen Simpson from part-time ECS to the newly approved full-time Flex ECS position. Josh stated the new position was approved by the BAC for the FY 2020 budget.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to reclassify Eileen Simpson from part-time ECS to full-time Flex ECS effective 01/01/20 as recommended. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Eric McLaughlin as part-time Patrol Deputy effective 01/01/20.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Michael Brooks as full-time Corrections Officer effective 12/15/19.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

Jail Administrator Rich Rolfe reported Corrections Officer Adam Viera resigned his full-time position effective 12/23/19. Adam has moved to Piscataquis County. By consensus, the Commissioners accepted Adam's resignation without prejudice.

AGENDA ITEM: Signature on Six-month Certificate

A six-month certificate was signed as presented for ECS Jared Crowley.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Commissioners' Meeting Dates for 2020

By consensus, the Commissioners approved the scheduled meeting dates for 2020 as presented. The Commissioners will continue to meet at 4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. See attached schedule.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Holiday schedule for 2020

The holiday schedule for 2020 was compiled with the standard federal and state holidays observed. By consensus, the Commissioners approved the holiday schedule as presented. The holiday schedule is attached.

AGENDA ITEM: Election of MCCA Director for 2020

By consensus, the Board of Commissioners elected Commissioner Gardner as the elected official who will be serving as Washington County's representative to the MCCA Risk Pool Board of Directors in 2020. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald was authorized to serve as the proxy.

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County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald has also been named as the primary point-of-contact.

AGENDA ITEM: Extension of November Tax Abatement Decision

The decision to extend the November Tax Abatement decisions were

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discussed during public comment under the Unorganized Territories Business section.

AGENDA ITEM: Accept Bid for Communications SUV

RCC Director Josh Rolfe stated grant funds for \$42,600.00 have been awarded to Washington County RCC for the purpose of an emergency vehicle. Bid packages with specifications for mid-to-full size SUV to be equipped with mobile communications equipment were sent out to 12 dealerships. Only three dealerships submitted bids. The bid package and bids received are attached. After reviewing all bids, Josh recommended the Commissioners accept the bid from Darlings for the 2020 Ford Expedition for \$36,559.00. Josh stated this vehicle has the most interior room; the bid price is less than was initially figured when the grant was written and submitted. The interior layout for the vehicle was a significant factor in the choice of vehicles. Commissioner Gardner expressed his concern for the County to acquire another vehicle to the fleet. Commissioner Gardner asked if Josh had any anticipated fuel and maintenance costs that will affect the budget in years to come. Josh stated he had not anticipated the need to provide this type of information. Josh noted this grant is fully approved by MEMA and FEMA, and the vehicle will be covered by a warranty for the first few years. Commissioner Gardner stated he was more concerned with the bottom line of the budget. Commissioner Gardner noted he did not want it to be forgotten how the vehicle was obtained and that the County operated without it prior to the grant. The vehicle will need to be able to be properly funded in the years to come or it will need to be relinquished. Commissioner Crowley commented that it is not a general use vehicle. Josh stated it is an on-scene communications vehicle and he anticipates it will give the RCC the opportunity to do things that they were not able to do before.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to authorize the purchase of the Communications SUV as recommended to be paid for by grant funds. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

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AGENDA ITEM: Review of APEX Wind Documents Timetable

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated she met with Paul Williamson this past week regarding the proposed Washington County Downeast Wind Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District. A notice of public hearing will be posted. A copy of a preliminary draft of the proposed development and the TIF will be on file in the County Manager's office. The documents will be available for 10 days prior

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to the hearing and may be viewed during normal business hours. Commissioner Gardner asked if a decision on the proposed TIF will be expected at the January meeting and the Board of Commissioners may not be prepared to make a decision in January. UT Supervisor Dean Preston stated their decision can be postponed until February if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

4:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.