

December 12, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held December 12, 2019
in the Washington County Probate 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
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Eileen Simpson, RCC
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
David Bibber, Charlotte
Bill Jones, Charlotte
Michael Brooks, Jail**

Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:10 p.m.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Public Hearing for the Unorganized Territories budget for FY 2020/21 was held.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of November 14, 2019
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported summer highway maintenance has been suspended until the 2020 construction season. There are two projects that will be on-going until the project is complete or until there is snow. The two

100

projects that are on-going are: R.O.W. cutting and clearing on Timber Cove Road and Crows Neck Road in Trescott, Twp.

December 12, 2019

Dean presented a Fire Protection Agreement for the Commissioners' approval. The agreement with Town of Princeton is for fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces for Big Lake Twp. The term is for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025 for an annual compensation amount of \$1000.00.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement between Unorganized Territories and Town of Princeton as so presented. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

Dean presented an ACO Stray Cat and Dog contract with the Small Animal Clinic. The service will provide stray, abandoned, and surrendered animal services for all of Washington County Territories. The term is for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The compensation is as follows: stray dog, \$55.00 and stray cat, \$42.00. The fee schedule for other services are covered within the contract.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the ACO Agreement between Unorganized Territories and Small Animal Clinic as so presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton had three updates. The updates are included on Ms. Hatton's report.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

David Bibber of the Town of Charlotte asked for the Tax Abatement decision on the two tax abatements heard in November. Commissioner Gardner noted the discussion regarding the tax hearings for Bibber vs. Town of Charlotte and Jones vs. Town of Charlotte is item 13 on the agenda but agreed to address the topic at this time. Mr. Bibber stated he had tried to discuss his concerns with the Town but was told by town representatives that they could not discuss the issue as it is

101

in litigation. Commissioner Gardner stated an extension for the tax abatement decision has been granted in order to give time for the Town of Charlotte to find a resolution. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners were unaware of any litigation. It is the hope of the Board of Commissioners that the Town of Charlotte will address the tax issues on their own. Mr. Bibber and Mr. Jones both agreed

December 12, 2019

that it would be best to remedy the issues within the Town. By consensus, the Commissioners directed County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to act as facilitator between the Town of Charlotte and the taxpayers.

ADJOURNMENT

4:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.