

December 12, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held December 12, 2024  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Renée Gray, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Joshua Rolfe, RCC / WCSO  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Commissioner Elect David Burns, Whiting  
Anne Cassidy, Calais  
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office  
Tammy Gay, Deeds  
Heather Green, Deeds  
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer  
Darlene Perry, Probate**

**Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr. was not present.**

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The regular meeting of the Unorganized Territories was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of November 12, 2024  
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

Heron gave an update on the Mill Stream Bridge Project in Centerville Twp. Heron reported the Preliminary Design Report has been completed by Calderwood Engineering and has been reviewed and approved by the U.T. Office and Maine DOT.

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Heron noted that he has completed the MDOT Local Project Administration certification course that is required in order to administer projects that received federal funding. Funding is now available to pay for this project.

Heron stated there has been a bridge inventory done. He explained that every two years MDOT inspects all bridges in Maine and provides bridge inspection reports to all local municipalities. Heron stated the Washington County UT is responsible for the following bridges:

- Middle Branch in Edmunds,
- Mill Stream in Centerville,
- McClellan Bridge in Trescott,
- Tide Mill in Edmunds,
- Northern Stream in T19 ED, and
- Richardson Brook in T19 ED

Heron stated the report indicates the U.T is in good shape with bridges. Despite the low rating on the Tide Mill Bridge, it was determined that the bridge is in overall good shape. The concrete deck should likely be replaced in 10 to 15 years. Heron noted the biggest issue on the Tide Mill Bridge was the retaining walls on the roadway approaches to the bridge. Heron also noted the McClellan bridge will likely need to be replaced in 10 to 15 years.

Heron reported that NWSARA (Danforth EMS) has been notified by Calais Fire that they are expecting to discontinue providing management services for the Danforth station when their contract is up June 30, 2025. Calais Fire station currently provides EMS coverage for UT residents in Brookton, Forest, and Forest City Townships. Options for coverage are being discussed. Those options are: join with Southern Aroostook EMS in Houlton, join with Downeast EMS in Baileyville or remain independent and hire a local manager.

Heron stated a recent car fire on a logging road in Fowler Twp. revealed confusion about fire coverage for the sparsely populated township. Coverage clarified that Indian Twp. Fire Department covers Fowler Twp. and contracts have been renewed.

Heron reported that a town line dispute in Big Lake / Princeton area has been resolved. Dean Preston, former U.T. Supervisor, had pursued the investigation of town documents that lined up with historical documents. The landowner accepted the results of the survey performed by Haley Ward. These documents will be submitted to the Registry of

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Deeds to be recorded.

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Heron presented a Fire Protection Agreement for the Commissioners' approval. The Fire Protection Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028. The agreement is for Indian Township Fire Department to provide fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces for the inhabitants of Fowler Twp. and Dyer Twp. The U.T. agrees to pay a flat fee of \$1,500.00 annually, plus individual hourly fees for the following:

- Fire Chief \$35/hr.
- Firefighters \$25/hr.
- Fire Chief's Truck \$35/hr.
- Pumper Truck \$175/hr.
- Tanker Truck \$150/hr.
- Brush Truck \$125/hr.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Cassidy moved to ratify the Fire Protection Agreement between Washington County Unorganized Territories and Indian Township Fire Department as presented. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0.)**

Heron presented an Animal Control Agreement for the Commissioners' approval. This agreement is for ACO services in the Town of Cutler. The town agrees to pay an annual training stipend of \$250.00 annually. The agreement also includes individual call out rates of:

- ACO Salary: \$18/hr.
- Benefits, Insurance & Bond: \$9/hr.
- Mileage Reimbursement: \$0.67/mile

The agreement is for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Cassidy moved to ratify the ACO Agreement between Washington County Unorganized Territories and Town of Cutler as presented. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0.)**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton reported on an update from Downeast Lakes Land Trust regarding the purchase of Big Sand Beach on Sysladosis Lake in Sakom Twp. The closing is expected to happen the first of next year.

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Commissioner Gardner stated that the new Commissioners should be made aware of pay in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement.

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Susan stated collection is still on-going on Michael Griffin's loan. She expects to give a final report in January.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:26 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**

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