

December 13, 2018

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Meeting
Held December 13, 2018
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy (Present by Phone)
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Nathan Pennell, Washington County Soil and Water, DERC&D
Sandy Patterson, Forest City
Patrick Patterson, Forest City
Rich Rolfe, Jail
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA
Dean A. Preston, U.T.
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Marianne Moore, Calais
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Lora Whalen, Quoddy Tides
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Barry Curtis, WCSO
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge

Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:40 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of November 8, 2018
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported the Shellfish Warden will be attending a Shellfish forum. This is an opportunity to share and learn better management

114

practices particularly new eradication and/or marketing strategies for green crabs.

December 13, 2018

Dean discussed the 19 Road 4000' Construction Project. Dean stated 11 bid packets had been sent out; six contractors had submitted a bid. The bid opening for the project was held on November 26th. The bid for Stage 1 of the project was awarded to Jerry wood & Son with the low bid of \$18,500. The bid for Stage 2 of the project was awarded to Terry Stevens Construction with the low bid of \$23,600. The last 700 feet of the project includes moving the ATV/Snowmobile trail off of the 19 Road.

Dean noted that there have been a few road condition concerns during the past month's storms. Dean stated he has addressed these concerns.

Dean stated the U.T. office continues to prepare the application for septage land site approval. Soil samples are needed to submit to the State. Dean plans to collect that sample once the ground has thawed enough.

Dean reported the MDOT is scheduled to replace the Mays Bridge in Lubec on Route 189. The U.T will allow the MDOT to use the Crows Neck Road and Timber Cove Road as a detour during construction this summer. The detour is expected to be needed for 7 days during August. Anticipating some traffic concerns during the initial period of the construction, Dean plans to meet with the Sheriff's Office for some coverage.

Dean stated there is an on-going land dispute relating to Spednic Road in Forest City. The concerns are from the public using Spednic Road for access to the public landing on Spednic Lake. Dean reported in last months' meeting that, although Spednic Road is privately owned, it has been used for some fifty years for access to the public landing on Spednic Lake. The new owner has now blocked that access.

Sandy Patterson, President of Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, was present to speak about the issue. Ms. Patterson stated the long-established public boat landing has been blocked by the new owner and "NO TRESPASSING" signs have been posted. The new owner has been very

115

threatening by means of signage, notes left on vehicles, verbal harassment and a show of guns. Ms. Patterson stated it is the understanding of Woodie Wheaton Land Trust as well as many residents of Forest City that the public boat launch has been maintained by Washington County for over 50 years. Ms. Patterson stated the public boat landing is an integral part for tourism in Forest City. On

December 13, 2018

behalf of WWLT, Ms. Patterson asked the Commissioners and U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston for help in settling this matter.

Dean stated he is in a unique position as he represents both parties. Dean stated he will need to gather more information and history in order to help find a way forward in this matter. Dean will also investigate possible alternative access to the lake. Dean noted the dispute may end in court with a Judge's decision. Ms. Patterson noted the WWLT has engaged a lawyer. Commissioner Gardner stated Dean may need to request the Sheriff's Office involvement. Dean stated his next step will be to contact the new property owner for insight and to better understand the whole picture.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT

5:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.