

December 8, 2022

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held December 8, 2022  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge  
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer  
Carlene M. Holmes, Probate  
Dean A. Preston, U.T Supervisor  
Dennis Dorsey, WCSO  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Elizabeth Powers, Jonesboro  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Katie Freedman, Healthy Acadia  
Regina Grabrovac, Healthy Acadia  
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds  
Heather Green, Deeds  
Joshua Rolfe, RCC  
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA  
Stephen Rutto, Jonesboro**

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The regular meeting of the Unorganized Territories proceeded at 4:07 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of October 13, 2022.  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

Dean gave an update on the Wireless Partners/Rising Tide Tower project. Dean reported there are 14 proposed towers; 13 are new builds. Dean noted 6 of the 14 proposed towers are located in the

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U.T. The towers are located in: Day Block Twp. (Holmes Falls Road); T30MD (Airline Road); T30MD (Pine Tree Hill Road); Codyville Twp (Vanceboro Road); Lambert Lake Twp. (Davey's Mill Road); and Forest City Twp. (Forest City Road). Dean stated the project is running on schedule. Commissioner Gardner commented this project sounds like a really good success. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners need to look more seriously at the TIF monies and entertain those projects that will be as successful as the current tower project.

Dean presented a Fire Protection Agreement. The Agreement is for fire fighting services for the U.T. areas of Centerville Twp; T18MD; T19MD, T24MD and T25MD. The services are to be provided by Epping Volunteer Fire District for a three-year term with an annual compensation of \$1800.00 per year.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Susan Hatton presented two separate Economic Development Planning Grant requests from Axiom Technologies. Both requests are for \$10,000 each for planning work completed by Axiom; one grant request for Trescott and the other for Edmunds. The funds are to be used to explore the feasibility of building and operating a project under the Axiom Model, and bring world class fiber optic internet connectivity to these communities. The Grant Committee recommended viewing both grant applications as one grant for \$10,000.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Grant requests, #GA-2210-06-EDP and #GA-2210-07-EDP, for a combined amount of \$10,000 for Axiom Technologies. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

Ms. Hatton reported Nicky Dubey, DBA Ben's Dive Shack, has had a new heating system installed. The new system is set up and should be functioning by this time.

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**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

Commissioner Gardner asked Dean if there are any plans to further build out the broadband in the Cathance area. Commissioner Gardner stated he was inquiring for Robert Higgins who is a constituent from his district. Dean answered there are no plans at this time but he is always looking.

Commissioner Cassidy stated Dana Kadey has contacted him regarding road repairs needed in Big Lake Twp. Commissioner Cassidy asked if the road repairs in Big Lake Twp. are on the list of projects to be completed this spring. Dean responded that the roads in Big Lake Twp. are no worse than any roads anywhere else on the planet. Dean reported the Big Lake Twp. roads were on the schedule but got bumped. The Big Lake Twp. roads are back on the schedule again for this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:45 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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