

February 8, 2018

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held February 8, 2018
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Mike Hinerman, Emergency Management Agency
Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds
Captain Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Gilbert Murphy, Downeast Emergency Medical Services, Eastport
Eddie Moreside, Downeast Emergency Medical Services, Baileyville
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories Supervisor
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Council

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

**Approval of the January U.T. meeting minutes of January 11, 2018
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported he has been fielding questions in regards to standards and criteria for steel buildings. The questions come from organizations that are not local and are unfamiliar with snow-load and winds in this area. Dean asked if the Commissioners are comfortable with him fielding such questions. Dean stated he has done research to

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find guidelines to offer. Commissioner Gardner started the Commissioners feel comfortable with Dean fielding these questions as long as they are not building code or building requirement questions.

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Dean confirmed the information was standards and guidelines only. There is no liability involved. By consensus, the Commissioners authorized Dean to provide general guidelines to contractors.

The Town of Topsfield is moving to enter into an agreement with the U.T. for ACO services. Dean anticipates to have a signed agreement for the Commissioners to review at the March meeting.

Dean reported that the U.T. Office has met with the local biologists and have had in-depth conversations about water quality in the closed shellfish areas in the U.T. This information will be used to graphically display the water quality in the locations on shellfish maps.

Dean stated winter season damage to projects are being investigated and added to the summer maintenance lists. The UT experienced several wash-outs and floods due to the rain on top of freezing weather. Dean elaborated on one such flooded area on the Nineteen Road. Flood waters rose to a precarious height and caused great concern for possible damage to a newly-built concrete bridge. Dean was relieved to report there was no damage to the bridge. The areas that had wash-out and flood damage have been repaired for immediate usage and have been placed on the summer project list for permanent repairs to be done.

Dean noted most salt and sand stockpile quantities are at a good level. The northern areas of the U.T. have experienced more snow causing stockpiles to be more likely to come up short before the end of the winter season.

The U.T. office reviewed the Emergency Service Zones throughout the Washington County Unorganized Territories. It was determined the ESZ for Greenlaw Chopping Twp. did not correctly reflect the EMS service. The proper paperwork has been submitted to the State E911 Bureau and is now properly coded. The RCC has confirmed the information to be correct.

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Dean reported that soil samples for the septage spreading site has been taken and submitted to the University of Maine lab. The results will be submitted on the annual report to the DEP. The septage area site will be reopened in a few months for another season.

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Dean had a citizen request for a Certificate of Occupancy. The citizen needed the certificate for a bank in support of his house loan. Dean stated the U.T. Office does not provide this documentation. The LUPC does not provide this documentation either. The LUPC does provide a letter of completion upon a site inspection. Dean's recommendation to the citizen was that they approach the LUPC for a letter of completion in place of the Certificate of Occupancy.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

TIF Administrator, Susan Hatton provided updates on two grants. (The updates are attached.)

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT

4:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.