

January 10, 2013

Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held January 10, 2013
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine

Attending the meeting were:

Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Dean Preston, U.T. Supervisor
Tom Walsh, Bangor Daily News
Sharon Mack, Downeast Coastal Press
Melissa Farris, Roque Bluffs
Crystal Farris, Roque Bluffs
Hillary Savage, MVNO
Donald Smith, Sheriff
Sharon Strout, Deeds
Mary Zidalis, Jail
Ken Daye, SCEC
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Eileen Mills, Jail
Patrick Spencer, Jail
Jill Holmes, Treasurer's Office
Judy Alexander, Treasurer's Office
Eleody Libby, WC:OC
Angela Fochesato, WC:OC
Terri Woodruff, WC:OC
Joe Ferrier, WC:OC
Carlene Holmes, Probate

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and asked the Commissioners to elect a Chairman for the year.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to elect Chris Gardner as the chair for 2013. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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Commissioner Gardner welcomed newly elected commissioner, Vinton Cassidy.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the December UT Public Hearing meeting minutes for the F/Y 2013/2014 budget.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the December UT Public meeting minutes for the F/Y 2013/2014 budget. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the December UT regular meeting Minutes.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the December UT regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

The monthly report was submitted and is attached.

Supervisor Dean Preston had one action item requesting the Commissioners to review and sign the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with the Town of Machias for Townships 24, 29, 30 and Day Block Township. The fee is for a total of \$1585.00 which is based on population.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the Solid Waste contract with the Town of Machias in the amount of \$1585.00. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

There were no action items. A report was submitted and is attached.

Ken Daye introduced himself to Commissioner Cassidy. He stated that there was no TIF Grant Committee meeting in December due to the holidays and the lack of new business.

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Along with his monthly report, Ken submitted a written update on the Marion Communications Tower TIF Grant project.

Commissioner Gardner stated that he attended a meeting that the LUPC held at the University of Maine at Machias. There was much interest in the prospective zoning process and he pointed out that Washington County was one of the three applicants chosen to be considered for the community-guided planning process. The other two applicants to be considered are Aroostook County and Western Mountains. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Commissioners are looking for input from residents of the county and suggested that the County should try to petition LUPC to be able to continue the prospective zoning process if Washington County is not chosen.

By consensus, the Commissioners approved the County Manager to have communication with LUPC in the effort to begin the petition of TIF funds should it be needed.

AGENDA ITEM: Approve continued work on new T.I.F. Agreement

Joan Fortin of Bernstein Shur, on behalf of Champlain Wind, LLC, requested the Commissioners to authorize the County Manager to work with her to complete the application for Bowers Wind Power Project and submit the package to the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development for final approval. The Commissioners will be asking the DECD for approval to direct the Bowers Mountain TIF funds back to be applied to taxes. If the funds were to be used to offset taxation, the distribution would need to be State-wide. For that reason, Commissioner Crowley stated that he would like to stipulate that there be a review after ten years as the TIF has a 22 year lifespan.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to authorize the County Manager to work with Joan Fortin to submit the application for the Bowers Wind Power Project with a 10 year review. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.