

January 11, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held January 11, 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  
Christopher Thornton, MDEA  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Lynn Dwelley, D.A.'s Office Machias  
Randolph Look, Columbia  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO  
Rich Rolfe, WCSO, Jail Administrator  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office Machias  
Megan Huffman, Finance  
Tammy Gay, Deeds  
Dennis Dorsey, WCSO  
Josh Rolfe, WCSO/RCC  
Darlen Perry, Probate**

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

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County Manager Renée Gray called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Renée requested nominations for a chairman for the Board of Commissioners.

**Commissioner Gardner was elected as Chairman of the Washington County Commissioners for 2024. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

Commissioner Cassidy stated his appreciation for the leadership role Commissioner Gardner accepts as Chairman of the Board.

**Approval of the Public Hearing minutes for the FY 2024-25 UT Budget of December 6, 2023. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of December 6, 2023 (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

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**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

In Dean's absence, County Manager Renée Gray highlighted items of interest from Dean's written report.

- The final and signed 2024-25 UT Budget was submitted to the Fiscal Administrator on December 28, 2023.
- Schoodic Media LLC has kicked off the Washington County UT website. This site is up and running. Minor changes will be made as needed.
- The Shellfish Management Plan 2024 for Washington County Territories was submitted to the Commissioners' for review and any feedback.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton stated the Downeast Lakes Land Trust is requesting a \$50,000.00 TIF Grant for the purchase of property located in Township 5, ND BPP. She presented an *Agreement for Public Access and for Payment In Lieu of Taxes* for the Commissioners' approval. When the initial request for the grant was made, the Commissioners' expressed their concern regarding public access to Big Sand Beach and the property coming of the property tax rolls. DLLT's proposal is to (1) agree to maintain public access to the property, and (2) agrees to continue to make a payment in lieu of taxes when due although they are exempt from taxation pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §652(1)(A). With all items in order,

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Gardner moved to approve the Maine State Revenue PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) agreement and Public Access Agreement. (Gardner / Cassidy, 2-0.)**

Ms. Hatton will proceed with the TIF Grant for \$50,000.00 to the DLLT.

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**AGENDA ITEM:** Public Comment

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

2:15 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.