

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held January 14, 2021
in the Washington County Superior Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Lynn Dwelley, EMA
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories Supervisor
Rich Rolfe, WCSO**

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Betsy requested nominations for a chairman for the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Gardner was elected as Chairman of the Washington County Commissioners for 2021. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

Approval of the Public Hearing minutes for the FY 2021-22 UT Budget of December 10, 2020. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1)

Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of December 10, 2020 (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported that the bridge project on the Mitten Mountain Road in Centerville Twp. has been suspended due to weather. The temporary bridge rental has been extended. The rental company is in agreement with the extension. The contractor will pick up the rental charge for the remainder of the project. The startup date is April 15th with a completion goal date of May 15, 2021.

Dean presented a Food Sovereignty Ordinance draft for Washington County U.T. Dean stated the ordinance was modeled after the Machias and Lubec Food Sovereignty Ordinances. Dean has requested the Commissioners' review the ordinance. Dean plans to present a rough

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draft for approval at the Commissioners' February meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented a *Historical View of Fund Allocations and Awards* for the previous four years. (see attached) The total funds received for 2021 is \$286,901. The recommended allocations for 2021 funds are as follows:

➤ TIF-Economic Development Implementation	0%	\$0
➤ TIF-Economic Development Planning	24%	\$49,176
➤ TIF-Nature-Based Tourism	24%	\$49,176
➤ TIF-Revolving Loan Program	52%	\$106,549
➤ County Match	0%	\$25,000
➤ Administration	9%	\$57,000

The allocation percentage amounts are the same as the previous two years. The EDI line is for grants to supplement TIF loans. It was decided to eliminate the use of the EDI fund line as it is essentially free money. The allocation for the previous two years for the EDI fund was split between the other TIF lines. The Loan Committee approved the allocations with a 2-1 vote.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the U.T. TIF Fund Allocations for 2021 as presented.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

Commissioner Gardner asked how many more years the TIF agreement is in effect. Treasurer Jill Holmes stated she would check the records and report back to the Commissioners with the timeframe of the TIF agreement.

Ms. Hatton reported Cobscook Institute classes are currently on campus but other activities are slow.

Ms. Hatton gave an update on the TIF loan for Michael Griffin. Mr. Griffin has filed bankruptcy under Chapter 12. Filing under Chapter 12 gives Mr. Griffin protection from creditors and collectors and allows him the opportunity to reorganize debts. Mr. Griffin may sell assets to pay his current debts. Ms. Hatton stated Mr. Griffin is in arrears. Ms. Hatton noted the County has 1st position on the property for collateral. Commissioner Gardner requested a breakdown on Mr. Griffin's loan. Ms. Hatton stated she is already working on it and will provide that to the Commissioners as soon as possible.

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AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.