

January 9, 2025

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held January 9, 2025  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

---

**Attending the meeting were:**  
**Commissioner David C. Burns**  
**Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.**  
**Commissioner Billy Howard**  
**Renée Gray, County Manager**  
**Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant**  
**Susan Hatton, SCEC**  
**Paul Sylvain, MVNO**  
**Tammy C. Gay, Deeds**  
**Heather Green, Deeds**  
**David Bibber, Charlotte**  
**Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO**  
**Lisa Hanscom, EMA**  
**Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer**  
**Joshua Rolfe, WCSO / RCC**  
**Barry Curtis, Sheriff**  
**Rich Rolfe, WCSO / Jail**  
**Dennis Perry, WCSO / RCC**  
**Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office**  
**Megan Huffman, Finance**  
**Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy**  
**Darlene Perry, Probate**

---

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

**Commissioner Burns was elected as Chairman of the Washington County Commissioners for 2025. (Crowley / Howard, 2-0)**

**Approval of the Public Hearing minutes for the FY 2025-26 UT Budget of December 12, 2024. (Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

Commissioner Howard inquired about ambulance service in Danforth. U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston stated there is a lot of discussion regarding service coverage at this time. Heron reported during the December meeting that NWSARA (Danforth EMS) has been notified by

January 9, 2025

1

Calais Fire that they plan to discontinue providing services for the Danforth Station when their contract is up. Heron stated the contract terminates June 30, 2025. Options for coverage are being discussed. Commissioner Burns asked who is working on options for coverage. Heron stated several EMS members are taking the lead in discussing the options. Those options are: join with Southern Aroostook EMS in Houlton, join with Downeast EMS in Baileyville or remain independent and hire a local manager.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of December 12, 2024  
(Crowley / Howard, 3-0)**

Commissioner Howard inquired about the Fire Protection Agreement that was approved during the December meeting. Commissioner Howard questioned the amount paid for this coverage. Heron responded that under the provisions of the agreement U.T. will pay a flat annual stipend of \$1500.00 plus individual hourly fees that are based on per call. Heron explained that this helps keep expenses down.

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

Heron stated there are no action items.

Heron reported he is negotiating several different services for contract renewals. He stated negotiations for contracts include services for ambulance, fire and solid waste.

Heron stated there was a recent inspection done by MaineDOT on the Richardson Brook Bridge on the Nineteen Road. He stated there were several issues found during the inspection; 1) the bridge was never in the data base, and 2) more robust guardrails were recommended to keep traffic in the center of the travel lane. There was some damage to the deck noted but, in the opinion of MaineDOT, the bridge is safe for traffic. The inspector stated there should be a plan in place to build new guardrails by this Spring. Commissioner Burns asked who would be doing the work. Heron stated Contractor Jerry Wood will be building the guardrails. Commissioner Howard inquired as to who bears the cost of the work. Heron responded the U.T. would bare the cost as it owns most of the road; Crawford owns a small section of the road.

January 9, 2025

Heron stated he is working with Project SHARE for funding for the U.T. crossings. Heron noted Project SHARE is fish focused.

2

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton stated there were no action items.

Ms. Hatton stated there was one update for the Commissioners consideration. Ms. Hatton explained that she visits the TIF loan clients annually. She met with Crystal Hallowell of Hallowell Construction. Ms. Hallowell reported their business has really grown, and she is pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the TIF program.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:16 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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

January 9, 2025

3