

July 11, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held July 11, 2024
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Reid Albee, County Wide
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Paul Sylvain, MVNO
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office
Jill C. Holmes, finance
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Dennis Perry, WCSO/RCC/Machias P.D.
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Josh Rolfe, RCC/WCSO
Dennis Dorsey, WCSO
Darlene Perry, Probate**

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on May 9, 2024. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on June 13, 2024. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided written reports from the Treasurer's Office and Sunrise County Economic Council. The reports were accepted under the gavel. (See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-month Certificate

A six-month certificate for Karen Lockenwitz was signed as presented.

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AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

By consensus, the Commissioners accepted the resignation of Cody Eaton as full-time Corrections Officer effective 06/27/24.

By consensus, the commissioners accepted the resignation of Wayne Robbins as full-time Patrol Deputy effective 07/01/24.

The following promotions were recognized and signed per the recommendation of Sheriff Curtis:

- Promotion of Eric McLaughlin to Corporal in the Sheriff's Office division effective 07/07/24;
- Promotion of Ryan Allen to Sergeant in the Sheriff's Office division effective 07/07/24;
- Promotion of Toni Bridges to Corporal in the Sheriff's Office division effective 07/07/24; and
- Promotion of Matthew Carter to Corporal in the Sheriff's Office division effective 07/07/24.

By consensus, the Commissioners accepted the resignation of Gregory Sawyer as full-time Patrol Deputy effective 07/07/24. Commissioner Gardner asked that the records reflect that Patrol Deputy Sawyer always demonstrated a high level of professionalism and noted the door is always open should he ever want to return to a full-time position with Washington County Government. Patrol Deputy Sawyer will remain on the part-time deputy roster.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Sheriff's Bonds

Commissioner Gardner stated that as an annual process as required by the provision of 30-A M.R.S.A. § 372 (2) the Sheriff's bonds are review to determine their sufficiency. District Attorney Granger provided the necessary documents to confirm that the member coverage of the Maine County Commissioners Association self-funded risk management pool provides sufficient coverage to the Sheriff, Chief Deputy and the Sheriff's deputies.

***MOTION* Commissioner Gardner moved to approve the Sheriff's bond, the Chief Deputy's bond and the Sheriff's deputies' bonds as presented. (Gardner / Cassidy, 3-0)**

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AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Dates and Times to Hold Caucuses for Budget Advisory Committee Members

The Commissioners were provided a proposed schedule for the annual caucuses to elect members to the fiscal year 2025 Washington County Budget Advisory Committee. Commissioner Gardner reviewed the schedule for each district. The schedule is attached. Commissioner Gardner noted the caucuses to elect members to the BAC are usually lightly attended. Commissioner Gardner asked the members of the press to help get the word out as it is important for towns to have representation. Commissioner Gardner noted that a BAC member must be a town official or representative of town government. He concluded that town representation for the County budget is most consequential. By consensus, the Commissioners approved the dates and times to hold caucuses as presented.

AGENDA ITEM: County Manager's Report

County Manager Renée Gray submitted a written report. See attached.

Renée gave an update on the elevator repair. Renée reported that Kone has ordered the parts. The County will be notified once the parts have arrived so repair work can be scheduled.

Renée gave an update on the new Safety Building. Forms for the foundation have been installed. The weekly Building Committee meeting was held in person on June 25th to allow for a site inspection.

Renée reported that Maine Fire Protection did a site visit at the District Attorney's office building in preparation of the sprinkler system installation. Commissioner Gardner stated D.A. Granger had questioned why the installation of the sprinkler system was needed. Commissioner Gardner asked that Renée follow-up with D.A. Granger in regards to this.

Renée stated the County network infrastructure upgrades have been completed. The county .GOV email addresses have been applied for and will be implemented once granted.

Renée reported a man-lift has been rented for the month of July. It will be utilized by the Buildings and Grounds department to wash

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windows, paint and do gutter work. It will also be used by Armor Roofing to work on the slate roof repair and jail membrane roof repair.

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Department Head budget meetings with the Treasurer and County Manager will begin at the end of July or early August.

AGENDA ITEM: Commissioner Issues and Comments

Sheriff Curtis stated the Sheriff's Office has had a problem with their efforts to purchase new cruisers. Sheriff Curtis reported that RFP's were sent out to dealerships all over the state. There were no responses. Sheriff Curtis explained that upon further investigation he discovered that some automakers have stopped production of gas-powered police cruisers. Sheriff Curtis also noted that a Ford dealership that he spoke with has been cut off because the owners didn't want to have electric cars. Commissioner Gardner suggested the funds for new vehicles may have to be used for maintenance instead. Sheriff Curtis stated they need cars. He has found three vehicles in Pennsylvania. Sheriff Curtis stated he would like permission to move forward with purchasing the vehicles from the out-of-state dealership. Commissioner Gardner stated after an attempt to work through the bid process and due to unusual circumstances,

***MOTION* Commissioner Gardner moved to authorize the Sheriff to work with the County Manager and Treasurer's Office to acquire the three vehicles needed with the out-of-state purchase. (Gardner / Cassidy, 3-0)**

RCC Operational Supervisor Dennis Perry requested the Commissioners discuss the current crisis situation at RCC. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners were informed during the May Commissioners' meeting of the need to immediately add new dispatchers. He noted the Commissioners directed the issue be brought to the Budget Advisory Committee. An emergency meeting was held by the BAC on June 18th. Commissioner Gardner reported that after the BAC heard the explanations of the growing needs of the RCC, it was unanimously agreed upon to add two more positions. Commissioner Gardner stated the County now needs to figure out how to handle the financial impact of adding these new positions. Commissioner Gardner asked what a realistic timeframe would be for adding two new dispatchers to the roster. Dennis Perry responded it will take approximately two months to advertise and hire the new dispatchers. Commissioner Gardner then

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asked what the financial impact would be on the current fiscal year. Dennis stated two full-time dispatchers for the remaining months of this budget year would cost between \$86,000.00 to \$97,000.00. Commissioner Garnder asked Treasurer Jill Holmes where funds could be

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taken from within this budget year. Treasurer Jill Holmes suggested using funds earmarked for roof repair and maintenance in the buildings fund. Commissioner Crowley suggested using opioid-related funds. Commissioner Gardner agreed with Commissioner Crowley. He stated the opioid crisis has certainly led to a lot more calls to the RCC. Commissioner Gardner recommended the opioid funds be considered for a one-time funding to add the additional positions needed. Treasurer Jill Holmes stated there would be sufficient opioid funds for this one-time use. County Manager Renée Gray noted the opioid funds are being used for therapy in the jail.

MOTION Commissioner Gardner moved to authorize the County Manger and Treasurer to take steps necessary to use opioid funds for the two additional positions for RCC as so proposed by the Budget Advisory Committee and the Board of Commissioners. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

Treasurer Jill Holmes requested "that as long as the opioid funds can be used for this purpose" be added to the motion.

MOTION Commissioner Gardner moved to amend the previous motion to state that the two additional positions for the RCC will be funded with the opioid funds as long as those funds can be used for this purpose. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

MOTION Commissioner Gardner moved to authorize RCC to hire two additional dispatchers. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 4:40 p.m. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

MOTION The Commissioners declared themselves to have closed the Executive Session. It was 5:09 p.m.

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(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

No decision.

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ADJOURNMENT

5:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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