

July 13, 2023

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held July 13, 2023
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Renée Gray, Deputy County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Susan Hatton, SCEC
C. DeFalco, Machiasport
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Josh Rolfe, WCSO, RCC
Dennis Dorsey, WCSO
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories
Tammy C. Gay, Registry of Deeds
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office
Lisa Hanscom, EMA
Jill Holmes, Finance**

Commissioner John Crowley, Sr. was not present.

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of June 8, 2023
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean stated ACO Jessica Lewis has given her notice of resignation. ACO Colleen Conrad is still working on her training for the ACO position, and he has a potential candidate that he will interview in the Fall. Dean reported there are a lot of calls for Animal Control at this time of year. Dean stated Steve Seavey has been helpful and a great resource.

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Dean reported shellfish conservation efforts are still on-going. Dean stated one goal discussed at the annual shellfish conservation meeting is to map and name all coves. Dean noted U.T. is also responsible for all diggers to be aware of any digging area closures.

Dean reported there have been unusually high volume of address requests in the U.T. Dean explained the high number of requests is driven by insurance companies requiring addresses for insurance coverage. Dean stated some of the addressing has been challenging due to their rural nature.

Dean stated the U.T. Office is currently reviewing transfer station agreements and continues to work with transfer stations to implement the U.T. permit plan.

Dean stated the State wants to do away with all septage spreading sites due to PFAS concerns.

Dean listed special projects:

- The Mill Stream Bridge Project in Centerville Twp. is currently on the MDOT 2024 work plan and a meeting has been scheduled. Fifty percent of that project will be paid by Department of Transportation.
- Dean met with Carrie Castonguay of MDOT to review and confirm the roadway mileage, status and ownership of Washington County Roads in the U.T. Dean stated he is retooling his spreadsheet to help build a maintenance plan for each year; planning for placement of signs, cross-pipes, etc.

Dean stated he will be reviewing all snow removal contracts in August and meet with any contractors to discuss any concerns. Dean reported there are no current Snow Removal Contracts needing to be renewed at this time.

Dean has been working with the Board of Elections to confirm residency and which ballots should be used.

Commissioner Gardner inquired about the current situation with the abandoned bridge on Hobard Road in Edmunds Twp. Dean replied he has requested assistance to figure out the responsibility of deconstruction of the structure.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

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A report was submitted and is attached.

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Ms. Hatton stated there are no action items.

Ms. Hatton reported that she has spoken with Scott Hallowell of Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative regarding the line extension proposal. Mr. Hallowell stated EMEC would not be able to contribute to the project as it would be against the Maine Public Utilities Commission's regulations. Commissioner Gardner stated he would like to see a copy of the regulations. Commissioner Gardner noted the line extension proposal is a unique situation. Ms. Hatton stated she will work on providing a copy of the regulations to the Commissioners. Ms. Hatton stated the Whiteriver's of Wilderness Lodge are planning a significant electrical upgrade at the lodge should the line extension be approved. Ms. Hatton reported the Whiteriver's are unsure if they could help pay for the extension at this time.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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