

July 14, 2022

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held July 14, 2022
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Nancy Oden, Jonesboro
Elizabeth Powers, Jonesboro
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA**

Commissioner Cassidy called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of June 9, 2022.
(Cassidy / Crowley, 2-0-1)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report was submitted and is attached.

In Dean's absence County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported there were no action items for the Unorganized Territories.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton reported there were no action items.

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AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

Nancy Oden asked the Commissioners if any of her proposals for the ARPA funds have been considered. Ms. Oden stated she had previously presented the Commissioners with four suggestions. Ms. Oden listed the four suggestions again. Those suggestions are:

- Create warming centers for public to take refuge during power outages;
- Provide public transportation across Washington County;
- Subsidize the public for home gardens in preparation of food shortages; and
- Implement a tree planting program to plant trees in public areas.

Ms. Oden continued that the Commissioners should take an interest and active stance in banning the use of sludge and herbicides.

Commissioner Gardner responded that he has contacted the Governor's Office regarding the PFAS Issue. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners are doing what they can do within their sphere. Ms. Oden suggested the Commissioners could send out newsletters to tell people to stop using chemicals. Commissioner Crowley stated there is already a law. Commissioner Gardner responded to Ms. Oden's suggestions, speaking to each suggestion one at a time.

- Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners can not tell entities to plant trees on their premises; it is not realistic. People have to choose to plant trees.
- Commissioner Gardner stated that providing transportation to the public across Washington County is not sustainable. Commissioner Cassidy noted there is 158 miles from Steuben to Danforth. It was also noted that West Bus Transportation, which already receives a public subsidy, would still be a working public transportation service if it was sustainable. Commissioner Gardner stated Downeast Community Partners also provides transportation service.

Not all suggestions were addressed. Ms. Oden stated it was the Commissioners obligation to use the ARPA funds in a way that is the best benefit for the public. Commissioner Gardner responded that the Board of Commissioners agree that funds must be used in a way to best benefit all. Commissioner Gardner stated it is the Commissioners intention to make the best decisions they can on how to use the funds available. Commissioner Gardner noted working on the budget this year will be a challenge due to inflation.

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Ms. Oden asked what the progress is on the Washington County Website updates and corrections. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated the website is in the process of being moved to a new domain. Ms. Oden asked who will be maintaining the website. Betsy responded Borderline Digital of Presque Isle, Maine will now be managing the website.

ADJOURNMENT

4:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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