

June 12, 2025

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held June 12, 2025
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner David C. Burns
Commissioner Courtney Hammond
Commissioner Billy Howard
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Josh Rolfe, WCSO / RCC
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Paul Sylvain, Machias Valley News Observer, Machias
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Lisa M. Hanscom, WNEMA
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Heather Green, Deeds
Charlene Hammond, PRAS
Dennis Dorsey, WCSO
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Darlene Perry, Probate

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

Prior to the regular U.T. meeting, the Commissioners announced an appointment to the Land Use Planning Commission. Commissioner Burns stated the Board of Commissioners had received interest for the commission by two qualified candidates; Betsy Fitzgerald and Christopher Gardner. Commissioner Burns stated Betsy Fitzgerald withdrew her name. Commissioner Burns asked for a motion to appoint Christopher Gardner.

***MOTION* Commissioner Howard moved to appoint Christopher Gardner to the Land Use Planning Commission. (Howard / Hammond, 3-0)**

Commissioner Burns stated the Board of Commissioners are looking forward to working with Mr. Gardner.

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**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of May 22, 2025
(Hammond / Howard, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Old Business - Update on Shadagee Road

During the May Commissioners' meeting, conversation continued regarding the condition of the Little Mopang Stream/Shadagee Road crossing. With repairs required to the crossings, clarification of ownership and responsibility for the maintenance was needed. Heron reported last month that through a thorough investigation process his findings were that the land owner is responsible for maintaining the road, and the County is responsible for maintaining the crossings. Also, during last months' meeting, the Commissioners considered their purview to discontinue road maintenance, but unanimously agreed they would not want to jeopardize public access to this road. In an interest for a collaborative effort to work on the repairs to the crossing, the Commissioners directed Heron to contact the land owner. Heron reported the new Farm Manager for Cherryfield Foods, Bill Malay, is happy to work together to maintain the crossings. Heron stated Mr. Malay is not concerned about the Little Mopang Stream/Shadagee Road crossing being able to support the harvest trucks in its current condition. Heron reported Mr. Malay feels the repair is not urgent. Heron suggested the repairs to the crossing be put on hold, put the repair costs on the funding list, and continue to work together with the land owner. The Commissioners were satisfied with this outcome. Heron concluded the land owner was also happy with the outcome, and noted the history of the road and crossing maintenance was needed.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Heron reported that the Richardson Brook Bridge Deck Replacement in T19 ED has been completed. The final inspection has been performed and everything looks great.

Heron presented a Fire Protection Agreement to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to the Town of Kossuth. The service will be provided by the Town of Springfield in Penobscot County. The Township of Kossuth will pay the Town of Springfield a flat rate of \$4600.00 per year beginning June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2028. The flat

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rate does not include additional service fees for personnel and/or equipment. Commissioner Howard asked if FEMA used the same additional

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fees rates that are stated in this contract. Heron stated FEMA does use these same rates; these rates are actually set by FEMA.

***MOTION* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Agreement with the Town of Springfield to provide services to Kossuth Township as presented. (Howard / Hammond, 3-0)**

Heron reported the U.T. has agreed to take over the maintenance for cemeteries with veterans in Centerville Twp. These cemeteries have been in the care of the Centerville Cemetery Association. These include the Ingersoll Cemetery which requires regular maintenance and eight other private historic burying grounds that will require minimal maintenance. Heron stated he has used the GPS system to map the cemeteries. Heron noted the main goal is to not lose track of these burial grounds.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented a TIF Revolving Loan modification request for Ralph Doane, DBA T&E Excavation. Ms. Hatton explained that Mr. Doane currently has two TIF loans. She stated Mr. Doane's primary work takes place April through December. Mr. Doane has requested to change the terms of payments on his loan from twelve months to eight months per year to coincide with his work schedule.

***MOTION* Commissioner Hammond moved to approve the loan modification request by Ralph Doane, DBA T&E Excavation, for TIF Loan #'s RD-TIF-03-17-22 and RD-TIF-04-11-23 as presented. (Hammond / Howard, 3-0)**

Ms. Hatton stated she and Ashley Dhakal, SCEC's Communication Manager, visited Griffin Lumber. Ashley prepared an article to share on social medial that highlights the new business.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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4:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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