

March 10, 2016

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held March 10, 2016
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Bryan J. Albee, Jail
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Cat Cannon, MVNO
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Matt Foster, DAO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Unidentified Man**

Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy was not present.

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Approval of the February U.T. meeting minutes of February 11, 2016
(Crowley / Gardner, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston provided his monthly written report. (See attached)

U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston reported that he and County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald went to Augusta to submit the 2016-17 U.T. budget to the State Taxation Committee. The Committee approved the budget and will be submitting it to the full Legislature for final approval. While in Augusta, Heron and Betsy had a chance to meet many of the U.T. personnel from around the State. They also met Lisa Whynot of Maine Revenue Services.

March 10, 2016

Heron stated that the U.T. office has had many calls requesting 911 addresses and will work on updating the database.

Heron reported that weight limit signs have been posted. This is at least three weeks early due to early thawing. Commissioner Gardner inquired about the condition of the Nineteen Road. Heron responded that the Nineteen Road had been graded this fall. Heron said that it is an effort to save the upgrades that have been done to the Nineteen Road that the weight limit signs were posted early.

The Cathance Dry Hydrant project is scheduled to begin late next week.

The new shellfish warden, Ben Robinson will be attending DMR's Shellfish Warden Certification Training next week. Heron also pointed out that Ben has an Associates in Law Enforcement from Washington County Community College. The annual meeting to discuss conservation practices will be held in May.

Heron reported that during the Danforth Ambulance meeting the budget proposal called for a 70% increase in stipends to replace an aging fleet of ambulances. The public and town officials are not in agreement with the increase. The impact for the U.T would be an increase of approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Heron stated that he and County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald attended the Community Guided Planning meeting. The Planning Committee has begun focusing on more populated areas rather than the rural, less populated areas.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

Program Manager Susan Hatton submitted a written report. (See attached)

Susan stated that she had no action items to present. There were several updates for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gardner asked that the record reflect the update from Alan Furth of Cobscook Bay Company, LLC regarding progress in satisfying loan guarantees'. (See attached.)

March 10, 2016

There was a grant update from the Dennysville Snowmobile Club. The Club had little use of the new snow groomer due to the lack of snow this past winter but was able to earn enough money for the groomer payment without using money raised from other activities.

Sara and Brent Griffin, F/V Triple Trouble, reported that they had an adequate fishing season and the business is proceeding nicely.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.