

March 10, 2022

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held March 10, 2022
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:

**Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Nancy Oden, Jonesboro
Dean Preston, U.T.
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Dennis Perry, RCC
Charles Rudelitch, SCEC
Lisa Hanscom, EMA
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Darlene Perry, Probate
Carlene M. Holmes, Probate
Josh Rolfe, RCC**

Executive Department business was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on February 10, 2022. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-0)

Commissioner Gardner noted that during the February meeting the Commissioners approved a wage increase for all part-time Corrections Officers and Emergency Communications Specialists. With the recommendation of Captain Rolfe, the wage was increased to \$17.79. Commissioner Gardner requested the records reflect the part-time wage for all Corrections and Dispatch was already increased to \$17.95 by the BAC. The adjustment was made effective 01/01/22.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners was provided a written report from the Treasurer's Office. The report was accepted under the gavel. (See attached)

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AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

The Commissioners signed a payroll change form to reclassify William White from full-time Patrol Deputy to full-time Detective. Commissioner Gardner stated the reclassification is under the Sheriff's purview. The effective date of the reclassification is 03/13/22.

By consensus the Commissioners accepted the resignation of Jim Sosa as part-time U.T. Shellfish Warden effective 03/31/22.

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-month Certificates

The Commissioners signed all six-month certificates as presented. Certificates were signed for: Paige Sprague, Ber-Moses Terry, Jeremy Towne and Rachel Worcester.

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Sheriff's Contracts with:
Town of Jonesport
Town of Lubec**

The Sheriff's Office presented two contracts for renewal for selective enforcement efforts for the towns of Jonesport and Lubec. The M.O.U. with Jonesport is a one-year term beginning 07/01/21 and ending 06/01/22. The compensation is not to exceed \$25,000.00.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the M.O.U. between Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Jonesport as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

The M.O.U. with Lubec is also for a one-year period beginning 07/01/21 and ending 06/01/22. The compensation is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the M.O.U. between Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Lubec as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

Commissioner Gardner signed both agreements. Commissioner Gardner noted both agreements are for one year. Commissioner Gardner stated the County must start making assessments of the cost to do business with the increasing costs due to inflation. Commissioner Cassidy

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agreed, stating the cost of fuel will impact the cost of services provided.

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Captain Rolfe voiced his concern for the cost of electricity and the impact that will have on his budget in the jail.

AGENDA ITEM: Building Committee Update

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported the Building Committee met and reduced the Architectural and Engineering Firm proposals being looked at from five to three. After all proposals are reviewed, interviews will be held. Commissioner Gardner stated many ideas have been brought to the Board of Commissioners for the use of ARPA funds. All the ideas have been good but the Board must make decisions based on the best use of generational money.

AGENDA ITEM: Commissioners' Issues

Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners have increasing concerns regarding inflationary issues. Commissioner Gardner stated all departments are expected to consider the impact of inflation on their budgets.

Commissioner Gardner stated he has been working closely with Troy Jackson of the Veteran's Home Administration in regards to the pending closure of the Machias Maine Veteran's Home. Commissioner Gardner stated he is reasonably confident the facility can be saved from closing. There are a few policies being considered for revision such as changing the eligibility criteria to include those that have served in the National Guard. Commissioner Crowley noted he worked five years to help in the opening of the Machias Veteran's Home and he hopes the facility can remain open.

ADJOURNMENT

5:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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