

March 12, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held March 12, 2020
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Council
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Lynn Dwelley, Emergency Management
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories
Michael Crabtree, Sheriff's Office
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Rich Rolfe, Sheriff's Office**

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:13 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on February 24, 2020. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

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

Emergency Management Director, Lynn Dwelley, briefed the Commissioners on the latest statistics on the Coronavirus, also known as COVID 19. Lynn reported there has been a confirmed case in the State of Maine and that the CDC is sure there will be more. Lynn stated she has been listening to the CDC briefing every Monday. Lynn also noted she will be getting an update from MEMA on Friday. Commissioner Gardner asked for information about the funding being discussed to fight

25

Coronavirus. Lynn stated there has been discussions to fund \$4.6 million for the CDC to purchase Personal Protective Equipment. Sheriff Curtis asked when his office would be able to get PPEs. Lynn

March 12, 2020

stated there is a four-tiered process with emergency personnel being first on the list. Lynn noted any requests are going thru the CDC right now. Lynn stated people should not panic but be prepared.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Gavin Gardner as part-time Corrections Officer effective 03/08/20 not exceed 30 hours except for training and emergency purposes.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0-1)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Gavin Gardner as full-time Corrections Officer effective 04/26/20.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0-1)**

Commissioner Gardner recused himself from the vote as Gavin is a relative.

AGENDA ITEM: Sign Pollock Cove US Board of Geographic names Proposal - Robbinston

County manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented a U.S. Board on Geographic Names Geographic Name Proposal Recommendation to designate and name a 4.5-acre bay on the west side of the St. Croix River in Robbinston as Pollock Cove. Betsy stated she has contacted the Town of Robbinston and the town has no objection to the proposed name.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve and sign the U.S. Board of Geographic Names Proposal as presented.
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Award Bid for Tax Anticipation Note

Treasurer Jill Holmes presented a summary of the bid opening for the 2020 Tax Anticipation Note. (See attached) There were eight banks that submitted a bid. Key Bank was the apparent low bidder with the

26

bid of 1.77% based on 365-day year and \$31,680.58 interest. Treasurer Jill Holmes recommended to the County Commissioners that the TAN bid be awarded to Key Bank. The County Manager agreed with the recommendation.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to award the Tax Anticipation**

March 12, 2020

**Note for 2020 to Key Bank as recommended by Treasurer Jill Holmes and County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Carry-over

Treasurer Jill Holmes presented a list of all accounts with balances recommended to be carried forward from 2019. The total amount of funds to be carried-over is \$1,026,065.18. Under the advice of the Treasurer,

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the carry-over as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

Commissioner Gardner stated he is in support of a referendum bill to establish separate prosecutorial districts for District 7. Currently Washington and Hancock counties make up prosecutorial District 7 that is currently served by District Attorney Matt Foster. Republican State Representative Will Tuell has proposed the bill at the request of Sheriff Barry Curtis. Sheriff Curtis believes the in the need to have separate prosecutorial district for Washington County. Commissioner Gardner stated the County should prepare for the ballot process, formalities and costs to hold a referendum for this proposal. Commissioner Gardner would like to work with Hancock County but stated Washington County should prepared to cover the cost if Hancock County is not interested. Commissioner Crowley stated Hancock County would need to agree with the proposed referendum bill. Commissioner Gardner disagreed but reiterated that Washington County will need to be prepared to pursue this proposal on its own. Sheriff Curtis expressed concern about finding funding for the referendum. Commissioner Gardner reassured the Sheriff the County will find the funding.

27

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald provided Commissioner Gardner with the Federal Government language on asylum seekers. Commissioner Gardner stated the Hancock County Commissioners had voted unanimously to support refugees moving to Hancock County. Commissioner Gardner noted that although the Board of Commissioners would encourage people to move to Washington County, the County does not have resources to support any refugees who might relocate to this area. A letter is being drafted and will be sent to notify Governor Mills office of the Washington County Board of Commissioners' position.

March 12, 2020

ADJOURNMENT
4:30 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.