

March 14, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held March 14, 2019
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Prescott Guerra, Machias
Reid Albee, East Machias
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA
Dean Preston, UT
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Chief Deputy Crabtree, WCSO
Sheriff Curtis, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator
John Woodward, Probate Deputy Register
Lyman Holmes, Judge of Probate**

Commissioner Christopher Gardner was not present

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of the January U.T. meeting minutes of January 10, 2019.
(Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report for February and March

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly reports were submitted. (See attached)

Dean stated the date for the UT 2019-20 budget hearing is still pending but expects it to take place mid-March.

Dean reported the UT has been approached by Grand Lake Stream and Machias about potentially contracting for ACO services. His office

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will be gathering data to determine if the UT office can handle the increase in volume.

Dean gave an update on the Forest City land dispute. The land does not show up as a listing for sale and does not appear to have been purchased. The UT office is researching current ownership intending to open communications in order to secure/protect this access point to the Lake.

Dean reported on a success story of the TIF planning grant program. Big Lake RV Park and Family Campground, consisting of 51 sites, a service building, a recreational building, a pond, a swimming pool, and 2 camper cabins, is open for business. One key aspect of the project is that the RV sites have access to the internet making it possible for travelers to stay connected to home or work. The Pioneer Wireless TIF planning project was a corner stone to the RV project; providing the internet access that essentially made the Big Lake RV project possible.

Dean presented two animal control agreements for the Commissioners' approval.

The first agreement is for Washington County Territories to provide ACO services to the Town of Whitneyville for a two-year period (January 10, 2019 – June 30, 2021) for an annual stipend of \$200.00 plus an additional per call rate of \$21.00 per hour.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Animal Control Service Agreement between Washington County Territories and the Town of Whitneyville as presented.
(Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

The second agreement is for Small Animal Clinic of Ellsworth to provide Washington County Territories with animal control services by accepting the U.T.'s stray animals with an open-ended term beginning on March 1, 2019. There is no annual stipend charge. The animal rate per dog is \$52.00 and \$40.00 per cat.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Animal Control Service Agreement between Small Animal Clinic and Washington County Territories as presented.
(Cassidy/Crowley, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

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Reports for February and March were submitted and are attached.

TIF Administrator, Susan Hatton had two action items and provided updates on two grants.

Susan presented a request for a substitution of collateral on TIF loan #TMC-TIF-02-02-17 for Rachel Bell and Nathan Horton of Tide Mill Creamery. The original loan in the amount of \$140,000 was closed on 04/28/17. The current balance on the loan as of February 12, 2019 is \$121,189. The original 1st position on the creamery business included real estate and all assets located in Edmunds, and \$15,000.00 in a restricted savings account. At this time, Rachel and Nathan are requesting the \$15,000 in savings be released to pay off a tractor that was part of the business assets. The \$15,000.00 will not only be used to pay off the tractor, but another high interest debt; reducing their monthly payments by \$800.00. The tractor will remain as 1st security in return for the release of the \$15,000.00 in savings. The Loan Committee recommended approval of the collateral substitution.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the collateral substitution on loan #TMC-TIF-02-02-17 as recommended by the Loan Committee. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

Susan presented an historical view of fund allocation and awards with a recommendation for 2019 TIF fund allocation amounts. New TIF funds in the amount of \$230,588.00 was recommended to be distributed to the following TIF funding lines:

☐ TIF-EDI	\$23,774.00
☐ TIF-EDP	\$23,774.00
☐ TIF-NBT	\$23,774.00
☐ TIF-Loan	\$77,266.00
☐ County Match	\$25,000.00
☐ Administration	\$57,000.00

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With the recommendation of the Loan Committee,

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the 2019 TIF allocation amounts as presented. (Cassidy/Crowley, 2-0)**

Susan gave an update on Crystal & Merrill Hallowell of Hallowell Construction. This is the last grant updated as they have fulfilled the requirements of their grant agreement.

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A final update from the Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems regarding the Eastern Maine LiDAR project was submitted and is attached.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None

**ADJOURNMENT
4:10 p.m.**

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