

March 14, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
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
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

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on January 10, 2019. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)

Approval of the minutes for the Special Commissioners' meeting held on February 7, 2019. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on February 21, 2019. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided written reports for February and March from Emergency Management Agency and were accepted under the gavel.
(See attached)

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AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of**

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Albert Alley as part-time Corrections Officer effective 01/29/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of William Sternbergh as part-time EMA Deputy Director effective 01/18/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

Probate Judge Holmes introduced John Woodward. Judge Holmes recommended John to be hired to fill the full-time Deputy Register of Probate position. Judge Holmes noted John has worked for the Town of Addison and is familiar with municipal matters.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire John Woodward as full-time Deputy Register of Probate effective 02/17/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Ashley Seiler as part-time Patrol Deputy effective 03/01/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to acknowledge Sherry Cole's retirement as full-time Deputy Register of Probate effective 03/02/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Angela Prenier as full-time Jail Cook effective 03/08/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Prescott Guerra as full-time Jail Cook effective 03/17/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to reclassify William White from part-time to full-time Patrol Deputy effective 03/31/19. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

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AGENDA ITEM: Signatures of six-month certificate for Eileen Simpson and Zachary Atkinson

The six-month certificates were signed as presented.

AGENDA ITEM: Request of vehicle donation

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County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald requested the Commissioners' consideration on donating a 2008 Chevrolet Impala. The vehicle was used by the jail for many years. The power steering is gone and it has high mileage. Captain Rolfe stated the vehicle would cost more to fix than it is worth. It is recommended the vehicle be donated to the Washington County Community College for the automotive program. WCCC is excited about the possibility of getting a newer vehicle to work on and will gladly accept the donation.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to donate the 2008 Chevrolet Impala (VIN#2G1WB58N089277758) to the Washington County Community College. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule/Reschedule Tax Abatement Hearings

The Hill vs. Town of Alexander Tax Abatement hearing has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 3 p.m.

The Gray vs. Town of Robbinston Tax Abatement hearing has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 3 p.m.

The Quigley vs. Town of Dennysville Tax Abatement hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: Award the TAN bid

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated bids for a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for a principal amount not to exceed \$1,800,000 were opened on Monday, March 11, 2019. Three bids were received. Bangor Savings Bank submitted a bid for 3.41% based on 360-day year and \$48,592.50 interest; Machias Savings Bank's bid was for 2.62% based on 360-day year and \$36,823.00 interest; and The First National Bank's bid was

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for 2.85% based on 360-day year and \$40,613.00 interest. The County Treasurer and County Manager both recommend the County Commissioners award the bid to Machias Savings Bank.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to award the TAN bid to Machias Savings Bank with an interest rate of 2.62% as recommended by the County Treasurer and County Manager. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

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AGENDA ITEM: Reappointment of Washington County Courthouse Archives Committee Members

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented a list of Washington County Courthouse Archives Committee Members with a description of each members' experience (see attached). It is the recommendation of the County Manager to reappoint all previous members to the archives committee and to include Tanya Rucosky as a new member.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to reaffirm all previous members and to affirm one new member, Tanya Rucosky, to the Washington County Courthouse Archives Committee. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

The list of Committee Members are as follows: Valdine Atwood, Chair, Dr. Karen Kimball, Judge Lyman Holmes, Frances Raye, Dr. Ruth Ahrens, Tanya Rucosky, Carlene Holmes, Susan Wright, and Dr. Bernie Venzani as special advisor to the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of LD 992/Trail Bill and LD 783 Connector Trail

By consensus, the Board of Commissioners state for the record their support of opposition to both LD 992 and LD 783.

LD 992 is a bill **to extend the Down East Sunrise Trail from Ayers Junction to Calais.** Commissioner Gardner plans to offer testimony stating "the trail bill opposition will be qualified in saying that although we may not oppose a trail extension in general, it cannot involve any part of the existing rail corridor in its creation."

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LD 783 is a bill **to require an independent analysis of the Department of Transportation's I-395/Route 9 Connector project.** County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald noted the connector project has been studied for twenty years. Commissioner Gardner also plans to offer testimony on behalf of the County. Commissioner Gardner stated "on the 395 bill I will be speaking to the importance of an economic and freight connection as well as the safety improvements from such a connector for the Port, Washington County and the entire Down East region." Commissioner Gardner will also testify as to "how any further delays will only unnecessarily hamper that." Commissioner Cassidy noted Route 9 is a main artery for commerce.

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AGENDA ITEM: Award bid for Sheriff's Office Patrol Vehicles

Sheriff Curtis stated a request for bids was sent to vendors across the State of Maine for three new SUV patrol vehicles. Two dealerships submitted bids. The results are as follows:

Darling's Ford	\$103,944.00
Quirk Auto Group	\$100,497.00

Sheriff Curtis recommends accepting the bid from Darling's for \$103,944.00. Sheriff Curtis noted although Darling's bid is higher, the total includes the "ready for the road" package.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the bid for three new SUV patrol vehicles from Darling's Ford for a total of \$103,944.00. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

**ADJOURNMENT
4:45 p.m.**

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