

March 20, 2025

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held March 20, 2025
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner David C. Burns
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Billy Howard
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Bob Berta, East Machias
Galen Williamson, Northeastern Workforce Development
Heron Weston, U.T. Supervisor
Paul Sylvain, Machias / MVNO
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Nancy Harrison, Lubec
Ed Harrison, Lubec
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA
Betsy Fitzgerald, Machiasport
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Heather Green, Deeds
Jill C. Holmes, Finance
Megan Huffman, Finance
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Josh Rolfe, RCC / WCSO
Rich Rolfe, Jail / WCSO
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Saydee Plaster, EMDC
Michelle Murphy, EMDC
Darlene Perry, Probate**

Commissioner Burns called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Executive Department Business (see Regular Commissioners' Meeting minutes)

AGENDA ITEM: Northeastern Workforce Development Board Update - Galen Williamson

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The regular U.T. business meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

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AGENDA ITEM: LUPC Representative - Betsy Fitzgerald

Betsy Fitzgerald was present to give the Commissioners an update on the Maine Land Use Planning Commission. Betsy stated LUPC is required by statute to adopt a Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). The initiative of the CLUP is a guiding policy document for the Commission's regulatory activities in the Unorganized Territories. She noted the last CLUP was updated in 2010. Betsy reported the Commission recently voted to update the CLUP. The staff of the Commission have begun that process by collecting information and input from residents and property owners in the U.T. Betsy noted recent legislature has been presented to change the current LUPC structure. Betsy stated LD 870 is a bill to increase the members from 9 to 13 with the Governor appointing the additional members. Betsy stated there are five regional offices; Downeast, Eastern, Moosehead, Northern and Western. Betsy concluded her presentation by stating she would be willing to return with any updates for the Board of Commissioners.

AGENDA ITEM: Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

Megan Lamb, Senior Planner for the LUPC submitted an informational sheet with some background about the CLUP and an overview of the initial outreach phase for updating the CLUP. See the attached informational sheet.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2025
(Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Old Business - Discussion of Appointment of Treasurer
Jill Holmes to TIF Grant Committee Board**

Commissioner Burns stated during the February Commissioners' meeting SCEC Executive Director Charles Rudelitch requested the Commissioners' consideration to appoint Treasurer Jill Holmes to the TIF Grant Committee Board.

***MOTION* Commissioner Burns moved to appoint Treasurer Jill Holmes to
the TIF Grant Committee Board as recommended.
(Burns / Crowley, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

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Heron reported on the Richardson Brook Bridge deck replacement. The crossing is on The Nineteen Road in T19 ED. Heron stated the bridge had sustained damage last winter. The deck was severely damaged and rotted. The bid packet and design plans, created by Calderwood Engineering have been publicized. Heron noted he should have the bid results by the next Commissioners' meeting. Notification of the road closure will be accomplished by signage, direct verbal communication with local residents and notice to RCC and emergency responders. This will be communicated two weeks in advance. Heron stated he expects The Nineteen Road to be closed for up to one week.

Heron reported all U.T. roads have been posted for weight limit restrictions that should end in mid-May. Heron noted there is a more targeted weight limit restriction on a section of the South Edmunds Road due to a major construction project. All water lines are being replaced on the South Edmunds Road between Park Road and the Cobscook State Park northern access road. This restriction will be enacted and removed as soon as possible based on road conditions.

Heron presented three separate fire protection contracts and one solid waste contract for the Commissioners' consideration.

- Fire Protection Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Grand Lake Stream Fire Department to provide firefighting services and accident/injury responding forces for the inhabitants of Greenlaw Chopping (north), T6 ND, Kakom Twp, T42 MD, T43 MD, T36 MD (north), T37 MD (north) and T6 R1 (south). The term for the agreement is a four-year agreement beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2029 with an annual compensation of \$2000.00 plus per call rates.

***MOTION* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Grand Lake Stream Fire Department as presented.
(Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

- Fire Protection Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Wesley Volunteer Fire Department to provide firefighting services and accident/injury responding forces for the inhabitants of T26 ED, Day Block Twp., T30 MD, Devereaux Twp., T36 MD (south) T37 MD

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(south), T24 MD (north), T25 MD (north), T19 ED (north, Berry Twp. (west)). The term for the agreement is a five-year agreement beginning July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2029 with an annual compensation of \$4000.00 plus per call rates.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Wesley Volunteer Fire Department as presented.
(Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

- Fire Protection Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Town of Princeton Fire Department to provide firefighting services and accident/injury responding forces for the inhabitants of Big Lake Twp., Codyville Twp. and Greenlaw Chopping Twp. (south). The term for the agreement is a four-year agreement beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2029 with an annual compensation of \$4000.00 plus per call rates.

***MOTION* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Town of Princeton Fire Department as presented.
(Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

- Solid Waste Agreement between Washington County U.T. and Pine Tree Waste to provide solid waste collection, transportation and disposal for Day Block Twp. The services include 1 dumpster and 4 curbside pickups once a week for a rate of \$625.00 per month.

***MOTION* Commissioner Howard moved to approve the Solid Waste Agreement with Pine State Waste, Inc. as presented.
(Howard / Crowley, 3-0)**

Heron reported that he met with Megan Lamb of LUPC. He stated LUPC will be reaching out to officials regarding the updating of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Ms. Lamb said the committee will also reach out to landowners for feedback. Heron commented this is a good sign for an approach forward with the CLUP update.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton stated she met with Carly DelSignore and Aaron Bell of Tide

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Mill Organic Farm. She noted the USDA inspector was there at the time of her visit and had a lot of good things to say regarding the Tide Mill farm operations. Susan stated they have also received a REAP grant and just completed the installation of 86 solar panels to assist with their energy needs.

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Commissioner Crowley inquired about bridge project on the Shaddagee Road in Cherryfield. Commissioner Crowley asked who is responsible for the project. Heron stated it is an unusual situation. Heron explained there are three crossings on the Shaddagee Road. The road belongs to the blueberry company; the three crossings are U.T. property. It was asked if the U.T. should hand over the crossings to the blueberry company. Heron stated the County is within all rights to hand back the crossings but his suggestion was to not return them in disrepair. Heron rhetorically asked what the Counties responsibility is for the crossings. Heron stated he will research the history of the road ownership and report to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

Commissioner Howard asked for an updated on the loan status of Michael Griffin. Susan Hatton stated she will have a recommendation on the account at next month's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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