

May 22, 2025

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held May 22, 2025
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:

**Commissioner David C. Burns
Commissioner Hammond, Sr.
Commissioner Billy Howard
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Rachel Worcester, D.A.'s Office
Robert Granger, District Attorney
Toff Toffolon, Assistant District Attorney
Paige Bebus, Assistant District Attorney
Paul Sylvain, MVNO, Machias
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Bayley Grant, Centerville Twp.
Tim Tabbutt, WCSO
Ralph Pineo, WCSO
Christopher Thornton, MDEA
Brandon Parker, WCSO
Chris Myers, MDEA
Ryan Allen, WCSO
Anna Strout, WCSO
Taylor LeBlanc, WCSO
Tyler Dunbar, WCSO
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Heather Green, Deeds
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Josuha, Rolfe, RCC/WCSO
Regina Grabrovac, Healthy Acadia
Jasmine J. Haines, Healthy Acadia
Chris Gardner, Edmunds
Eric McLaughlin, WCSO
Betsy Fitzgerald, Machiasport, CEO, LUPC
Darlene Perry, Probate
Susan Sullivan, D.A. Office**

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:50 p.m.

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AGENDA ITEM: Executive Session: Personnel Issue pursuant to Title 1
MRSA § 405-A 6 A (3)

MOTION Commissioner Hammond moved to go into Executive
Session. Commissioner Burns seconded the motion which
passed 3-0. It was 2:31 p.m. (Hammond / Burns, 3-0)

MOTION The Commissioners declared themselves to have closed
the Executive Session. It was 3:01 p.m.
(Howard / Hammond, 3-0)

No action.

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Session: Pursuant to Title 1
MRSA § 405 (6) (A)

MOTION Commissioner Howard moved to go into Executive Session.
Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion which passed
3-0. It was 3:03 p.m. (Howard / Hammond, 3-0)

MOTION The Commissioners declared themselves to have closed
the Executive Session. It was 3:52 p.m.
(Howard / Hammond, 3-0)

No action.

Approval of the minutes for the Special Commissioners' meeting held on
April 10, 2025. (Howard / Burns, 2-0-1)

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on
April 10, 2025. (Howard / Burns, 2-0-1)

Commissioner Howard asked that the record reflect an amendment to the
meeting minutes of April 10, 2025. During the April meeting, EMA Lisa
Hanscom gave the Commissioners a funding overview. It was noted in
the minutes that Commissioner Howard asked Lisa if she would consider
hiring a grant writer. Commissioner Howard stated he did not make
this suggesting and asked that the records reflect this.

AGENDA ITEM: Old Business

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➤ County Manager Renée Gray stated there has been no bids received

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for the granite slabs. An RFP was published and bids were due by May 15, 2025. Renée noted there has been some interest shown. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to leave the bid process open until next months' meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided written reports from the Department Heads. (See attached)

RCC Deputy Director Joshua Rolfe stated two Washington County employees were recognized for their outstanding work during the 27th Annual Maine NENA (National Emergency Number Association). Josh reported Regional Communications Operational Supervisor Lieutenant Dennis Perry was awarded the 2024 Director/Operations Manager of the Year. Josh also reported Sergeant Michael Congelosi was awarded the NENA Silent Hero Award.

Register of Probate Darlene Perry noted her monthly report included a lot of information. She stated that at this time Hancock County does not have a Judge available. Washington County Probate has assisted Hancock County with Judge Interchange. Darlene noted she attached an article from the Mount Desert Islander newspaper with some information about the Hancock Judge. Darlene also provided the Commissioners the statutes 306 and 307; *Interchange of judicial duties* and *Conflict of interest; transfer of case*.

All other Department Head reports were accepted under the gavel.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

By consensus, the Commissioners recognized the promotion of Christopher Marshall to Corporal in the Corrections Division effective 05/04/25.

By consensus, the Commissioners accepted the resignation of Lynn Dwelley as Victim-Witness Advocate for the Machias District Attorney's Office. Lynn is retiring effective 06/06/25.

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-month Certificates

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Six-month certificates for Michael Cromer and John Peterson were signed as presented.

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AGENDA ITEM: M.O.U. with Town of Lubec - Sheriff's Office

Chief Deputy Crabtree presented an M.O.U. between the Town of Lubec and the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Crabtree stated the M.O.U. is an agreement to random patrol dedicated to their town for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year; April 16, 2025 through 12/31/2025. Lubec agrees to pay \$5,000.00 for this service.

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

Chief Deputy Crabtree stated the Town of Jonesport is the only other town that contracts the Sheriff's Office for selective enforcement services for their town. He noted the services are spread out in 3 to 4-hour increments.

AGENDA ITEM: MDEA Supervisory Agent - Christopher Thornton

Christopher Thornton introduced himself as Supervisory Special Agent for Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. Chris thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity "to highlight the ongoing and highly successful collaboration between the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Washington County Sheriff's Office." Chris acknowledged that challenges remain but the partnership between the two agencies has fostered a safer and more secure community for Washington County residents. Chris stated tight budgets are one such challenge. He noted that by using shared resources and by maximizing the use of existing assets and personnel, the collaboration has made the efforts cost effective with meaningful outcomes. Chris pointed out the operational success of MDEA, in part, is due to the support of the leaders of the Sheriff's office. He recognized the trust and responsiveness the MDEA has received from Sheriff Curtis, Chief Deputy Crabtree and Lt. Tabbutt in their shared mission. Chris also acknowledged the Sheriff's Office staff that has given operational support on the front line. Specifically acknowledged for their instrumental part in the proactive enforcement strategies were: Sgt. Ryan Allen, Cpl. Eric McLaughlin, Deputy Tyler Dunbar, Deputy Taylor

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LeBlanc and Deputy Anna Strout. Chris stating the Washington County Sheriff's Office has been an invaluable partner. Chris concluded his presentation by noting "with continued support, shared purpose and dedication of all involved, we're confident that our joint efforts will lead to even greater results in the future." Commissioner Burns gave thanks for the great work done by both agencies. Chris responded

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that MDEA does not get this level of cooperation statewide. Bailey Grant of Centerville stated he is a retired Game Warden. He praised the WCSO for their efforts, and noted their efforts are more important than ever with the absence of the Maine State Police patrols. In addition, Sgt. Ryan Allen stated there was one deputy he would like to recognize on behalf of the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Washington County. Deputy Dunbar was given an award for Recognition for Excellence. This was an award for his exceptional collaborative work with MDEA. Deputy Dunbar noted he is part of a great team and gave praise to those he works with.

AGENDA ITEM: Down East Restorative Harvest Update - Regina Grabrovac and Jasmine Haines

Regina Grabrovac thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to introduce a new staff member of the DERH. Regina stated Jasmine Haines is the new Food Programs Manager and will be supporting the DERH farm and other Healthy Acadia efforts. Jasmine noted she has made a connection with Jail Administrator Rich Rolfe and is ready to start work at the Community Garden.

AGENDA ITEM: County Manager's Report

County Manager Renée Gray submitted a written report. There were no questions and was accepted under the gavel. (See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Commissioner Issues and Comments

➤ Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) Update

Commissioner Burns stated there were no new updates regarding LPC. He noted most bills have passed through to the Appropriations and Affairs Committee. Commissioner Burns noted the legislative bills still on the table that are important to Washington County are regarding rural patrol, the jail funding. Jail Administrator Rich Rolfe stated he found a grossly inaccurate financial error on a jail expenditures spreadsheet provided to the county managers at an MCCA meeting. The

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spreadsheet was provided by Tim Curtis. Rich stated he has contacted Tim Curtis to point out the error. Rich reported the jail has 16 inmates over capacity at this time.

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➤ MCCA Risk Pool Update

None.

ADJOURNMENT

5:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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