

May 8, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held May 8, 2014  
in the Commissioners' Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:**  
**Commissioner Christopher Gardner**  
**Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.**  
**Commissioner Vinton Cassidy**  
**Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager**  
**Carla Manchester, Administration**  
**Nancy Oden, Jonesboro**  
**Joseph McPhail, Dennysville ATV Club, Edmunds Twp.**  
**Josh Rolfe, RCC**  
**Ken Daye, SCEC**  
**Will Tuell, Downeast Coastal Press**  
**Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds**  
**Michael F. Hinerman, EMA**  
**Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer**  
**Judith Alexander, Treasurer's Office**  
**Charles Rudelitch, SCEC, Harrington**

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Commissioner Gardner called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

**Approval of the April U.T. meeting minutes  
(April 10, 2014) (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

The monthly report was submitted and is attached.

A draft of the Animal Control Agreement with the Town of Cooper was submitted for the Commissioners to review. Interim U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston gave a brief summary of the agreement. Once the Commissioners give it their initial approval, the agreement will be sent to the Town of Cooper to be signed by their Selectmen. Commissioner Gardner inquired as to who would be responsible for any animals that may need care. Heron stated that it would be the responsibility of the Town to arrange care. The U.T. would hire, equip, and supervise an ACO. Commissioner Gardner asked that the Risk Pool review the contract for any legal/liability issues.

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Heron reported that the annual Shellfish Conservation Committee made a lot of progress at their meeting that took place May 1<sup>st</sup>. A large group was in attendance including Heron, U.T. Shellfish Warden Tom Fredette and Denis Nault from Department of Marine Resources.

Heron informed the Commissioners that the U.T. office has been negotiating with the Dennysville ATV club to open certain county roads to ATV access. He provided a map showing the current access roads and the roads that have been proposed to be open for access. Mr. McPhail of the Dennysville ATV club was present to give his support of the proposal. Commissioner Gardner stated that the proposed roads seem to be a natural extension of what is already there. The Sheriff has stated in previous meetings that ATV access on county roads has not caused problems. Commissioner Gardner also recognized that ATV clubs police themselves quite well. Mr. McPhail noted that there is a two-mile section in disrepair that could be included in work done by a grant that the ATV club is planning to submit. Commissioner Gardner agreed that partnering with the Trail Club is mutually beneficial to all but the County must be careful to not turn roads into trails. Heron stated that he will work on signage needed. Commissioner Gardner requested that Heron check the legalities to ensure that the County is not surrendering county roads when opening them up for ATV access.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the ATV access roads and open them in accordance to State law. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion passing 3-0.**

Heron reported that negotiations are continuing with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for a dry hydrant installation at the Cathance Lake Boad landing. A staff of engineers and local fire officials will be meeting in several weeks to exchange preliminary sketches. The project development overall has been very positive.

The U.T. office is negotiating with Springfield Fire Department to assume fire coverage for Kossuth Township on Route 6. The Topsfield Fire Department had been covering Kossuth for fire coverage but has official dissolved. An agreement is anticipated within the next few weeks.

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**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached. There were no action items for consideration. U.T. TIF Administrator Ken Daye reported that there are a substantial number of promising TIF applications to come in the near future. He stated that the outreach mailing has helped. Nancy Oden inquired as to whether there were currently any applications involving agriculture. Ken Daye replied that an agricultural project is on the table. Ms. Oden voiced her concern again regarding administration of TIF funds, recruitment of projects involving agriculture, and more specifically money for local people to start raised-bed gardens. Ken Daye stated that he appreciated Ms. Oden's concerns and welcomed her to meet with him anytime. Ms. Oden was also encouraged to work with SCEC Executive Director Charles Rudelitch. Commissioner Gardner reiterated that the County has continued to better define the TIF loan and grant application guidelines. The ultimate goal is to create self-sustaining business and growth in Washington County. Going forward, the Commissioners will look for the best ideas to make this happen, not necessarily the best credit scores. The Commissioners will continue to leave it up to the Loan Committee to continue to screen applications for good ideas. Commissioner Cassidy agreed that the Commissioners will need to be flexible in order to create every job possible. Commissioner Crowley stated that the primary goal has been, and continues to be, to increase work within the County.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**5:15 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**