

November 9, 2023

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held November 9, 2023
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA
Scott Hanscom, Roque Bluffs
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Reid Albee, County Wide
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Paul Sylvain, MVNO
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office
Megan Huffman, Finance Office
Michael Crabtree, WCSO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Ricky Holmes, East Machias
Dean Preston, U.T.
Heather Green, Deeds
Darlene Perry, Probate
Josh Rolfe, RCC/WCSO**

Commissioner John Crowley, Sr. was absent.

Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Gardner noted the Budget Advisory Committee met today and will return the final budget for FY 2024 back to the Commissioners at the December Commissioners' meeting.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of October 12, 2023
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

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AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

Dean reported the first draft of the 2024-25 Washington County Territories Budget has been submitted to the Office of the State Auditor. The local Public Hearing will be held at the Courthouse in Machias prior to the Commissioners' meeting in December. Dean stated the final signed 2024-25 U.T. budget will be submitted to the Fiscal Administrator no later than January 1, 2024.

Dean stated the U.T. website is in the final stage of development. Dean plans to review the sites functionality and content prior to the website's official kickoff scheduled for December 1, 2023. Dean stated he plans to show the website during the December Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Gardner asked if tax maps will be on the website. Dean responded that there will be tax maps on the website.

Dean reported that DMR is requiring the submission of a Shellfish Management Plan for U.T. Dean noted every municipality that has a shellfish ordinance is required to submit this document. Dean stated the purpose of the Shellfish Management Plan is to set goals for the municipality's shellfish plan and develop plans to meet those goals. The U.T. Office will convene a shellfish committee meeting to discuss and develop the framework for a management plan.

Dean stated stock piles for the winter road maintenance are up and ready.

Dean reported the test results of water and soil at the septage spreading site at 455 Cathance Road in Marion Twp. have come back. The purpose of DEP's investigation is to identify sites statewide that are impacted by PFAS; identifying drinking water supplies that are impacted above Maine's Interim Drinking Water Standard for PFAS. The soil results do not currently exceed the Remedial Action Guidelines for residential use and do not represent a direct contact risk. Dean stated no remediation is required at this time. On a separate note, Dean stated he is still waiting to receive the current license for this site. The application was submitted in 2022.

Dean stated the U.T. continues to express interest in several

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initiatives to build out broadband to rural areas in Washington County. Most recently the U.T. Office has submitted letters of interest to partner with Sunrise County Economic Council and Matrix.

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Commissioner Cassidy stated there was a letter to the editor in The Calais Advertiser that expressed appreciation to the Unorganized Supervisor Dean Preston and the Washington County Commissioners for improvements done to the roads in Big Lake Township. Commissioner Cassidy commended Dean for the work and noted it is good to have positive feedback.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton stated there were no action items.

Commissioner Gardner asked if Ms. Hatton had new information to report on Michael Griffin's delinquency matter. Ms. Hatton stated she has nothing new to report but will have an update at the end of this month.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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