

November 12, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held November 12, 2020
in the Superior Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds
Carlene Holmes, Probate Court
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator**

Commissioner Christopher Gardner was not present.

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on October 8, 2020. (Cassidy / Crowley, 2-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided a written report from EMA, Sunrise County Economic Council and the Treasurer's Office. All reports were accepted under the gavel. (See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation of Jayme Myrick as part-time ECS effective 10/26/20. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to promote Patrick McDonald from part-time to full-time ECS effective 11/01/20. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

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AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Revised Personnel Policies

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented changes to the Personnel

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Policy Manual at the October Commissioners' meeting. Most of the changes in the policy consisted of updating language. The one major change was the addition to the policy on the new Paid Leave Law for all employees. The revised copy was distributed to all department heads and the Commissioners for their review.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the final draft for the Personnel Policy Manual as presented.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

The amended Personnel Policy is effective November 12, 2020 and supersedes all prior policies and amendments.

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Opioid Lawsuit

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald gave an update on the opioid lawsuit. Betsy noted that over a year ago the Commissioners approved the County's participation in the lawsuit. Betsy reported that many of the large companies have pled guilty. The settlement process is the next step in this litigation, and the proposal of how the funds will be divided up will still need to be decided.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion Regarding Meetings Held Remotely

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald ask the Commissioners for their input on holding the Commissioners meeting remotely. Betsy stated she has consulted with the County Attorney. The County Attorney stated that if the County Commissioners continue to hold meetings within the CDC limits, guidelines, and the meetings are accessible to the public there is no need to provide virtual meetings. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed that as long as meetings can be held safely and withing guidelines, they will continue to hold public meetings in person.

**ADJOURNMENT
4:12 p.m.**

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