

November 12, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held November 12, 2024
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Paul Sylvain, MVNO
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator, WCSO
Leigh MacKeen, Whitneyville
Chris Simpson, WCSO, FOP
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Brian Schuth, Eastport
Darlene Perry, Probate
Dave Burns, Whiting
Josh Rolfe, RCC, WCSO
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA**

Executive Department business was called to order at 1:12 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on October 9, 2024. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

County Manager Renée Gray reported on phone line issues. She explained that several years ago copper lines were converted to VoIP lines. On the weekend of November 9th and 10th, nine lines went down causing major issues for the RCC and incoming emergency phone calls; calls were coming in but the dispatchers were unable to hear anyone on the other end of the line. Josh Rolfe stated the VoIP lines need to be converted back to copper lines. Lisa Hanscom noted all contact information should be reviewed as well. One of the issues in getting support and fixing the issue was that Consolidated Communications was needing to verify the Washington County contact person(s), and that

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information was outdated.

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AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to promote Ethan Stevens to Corporal in the Sheriff's Patrol effective 11/03/24. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

By consensus, the Commissioners signify and recognize the reclassification of Toni Bridges from full-time to part-time Patrol Deputy effective 11/05/24.

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-month Certificate

Six-month certificates were signed as presented for:

- Jonathan Cole
- Allen Corey
- Adam Imhof
- Patrick McDonald

AGENDA ITEM: Maine Paid Family Medical Leave Discussion

County Manager Renée Gray stated certain requirements for Maine's Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Program begin in January 2025. Renée explained that contribution rates are determined by the number of employees. The contribution premium for Washington County will be 1.00% of wages; the County has the option of withholding 0.5% from the employee's wages. By consensus, the Commissioners made the decision to withhold 0.5% from employees.

AGENDA ITEM: Building Committee Update

County Manager Renée Gray reported the slate roof repair is complete. She stated Armor Roof will return to complete the jail roof repair. Renée noted complete payment has not been made as the contract work is not complete.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to authorize County Manager to withhold payment to Armor Roof until she is satisfied there is a plan for a complete job. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

Renée gave an update on the new safety building.

- The windows for the building have been delivered.

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- The parking lot is being prepared for paving for the purpose of snow removal.

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- The water pipe repair at the D.A.'s Office is complete. The sprinkler system installation is to be scheduled.

AGENDA ITEM: Commissioner Issues and Comments

Commissioner Gardner stated the budget process is still on-going. He noted there is still a gap to overcome. Commissioner Gardner stated the majority of the increase is due to public safety expense. He suggested services may need to be cut in order to lower the budget increase. Commissioner Gardner expressed the need to make the public aware of the public safety needs. He reiterated it will be the public that should decide what services they are willing to cut and what services they are willing to pay for through their tax dollars. Commissioner Gardner announced the Budget Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, November 21st at 9 a.m. in Courtroom 3, second floor.

MOTION Commissioner Cassidy moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 1:31 p.m.

MOTION The Commissioners declared themselves to have closed the Executive Session. It was 1:46 p.m.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to authorize the County Commissioner Chair or his designee to settle in the Human Rights Commission litigation. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

There was no action taken on the Personnel Issue pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (D).

ADJOURNMENT

1:47 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

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Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.