

November 14, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held November 14, 2019  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
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, Administrative Assistant  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides  
Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Council  
Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds  
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories  
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center  
Paul Williamson, APEX  
Charles Rudelitch, SCEC, Harrington  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer**

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Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:35 p.m.

Prior to the start of the meeting, two tax abatement hearings and the Public Hearing for the F/Y 2020 Budget was held.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of October 15, 2019  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

Dean reported a temporary bridge has been installed over Kaylor Stream in Centerville. Ramps have been paved but proper signage still needs to be erected. Dean's report noted that although this bridge is temporary, it provides access for heating fuel and the school bus.

Dean projects a permanent replacement bridge will be built in the spring of 2020. Commissioner Gardner inquired what the impact would

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be to the budget. Dean stated the cost will impact a single line. Commissioner Gardner praised Dean for his swift action in putting a plan into motion for this serious situation.

Dean stated he plans to present the proposed Unorganized Territories FY 2020/2021 budget at the December meeting of the Commissioners.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton had two action items for the Commissioners' consideration.

Ms. Hatton stated she met with the co-owner of Big Lake Campground and RV Park, Wesla Renali. Ms. Renali reported that they completed a lot of groundwork over the summer months but were unable to complete as much of the ground work as they had expected due to the wet spring. Ms. Renali has asked for a six-month extension on their commitment since they will not be ready to use the loan money until the spring of 2020. The Loan Committee recommended approval of the extension request.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the six-month loan extension request for Mark and Wesla Ranali, DBA Big Lake RV Park and Campground, as recommended by the Loan Committee. (Crowley/Cassidy, 3-0)**

Ms. Hatton stated she met with Rachel Bell of Tide Mill Creamery. Ms. Bell reported that due to the decline in the local dairy industry combined with substantial increase in delivery costs, Tide Mill Creamery was faced with two options; they could change the direction of their business, or shut down the creamery for the winter and reopen in the spring. Their decision was to shift their business to agri-tourism. With this shift in their business plan, they will have Farm Stays through Air B&B. They will also be renting out the creamery by the hour as commercial kitchen space. In the process of making this shift, Rachel Bell is requesting that they be approved for interest

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only payments to get them through the winter. Commissioner Gardner asked if the Loan Committee has seen a business plan to move forward. Ms. Hatton responded that the Loan Committee has not seen a new business plan. Commissioner Gardner stated the Commissioners would like the Loan Committee to review a business plan first before their final recommendation. Commissioner Gardner recommended allowing

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interest only payments to begin once the Loan Committee has satisfactorily reviewed a new business plan. No collateral can be disposed of until the final approval at the December meeting of the Commissioners.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the six-month interest-only payments for Tide Mill Creamery, Loan #TMC-TIF-02-02-17, with the condition that the Loan Committee has satisfactorily reviewed and approved the new business plan. (Crowley/Cassidy, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

Commissioner Gardner recognized Dean Preston for his newest accomplishment as General in the Army National Guard. Commissioner Gardner stated Dean has served in the Army National Guard since 1990, serving two tours of duty both while employed by Washington County. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners are proud and happy to support Dean in his service to his country. Dean will be installed as General Dean Preston in January 2020. Congratulations to Dean on this amazing accomplishment.

**ADJOURNMENT  
4:50 p.m.**

**ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**