

November 14, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County
Public Hearing on the F/Y 2020 Budget
held November 14, 2019
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge Town Manager
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**

Commissioner Gardner called the Public Hearing on the FY 2020 County Budget to order at 4:28 p.m.

Chair Lewis Pinkham took the floor. Lewis stated this was one of the easiest years the BAC has had for working on the proposed budget. Lewis stated the work the Commissioners, staff and department heads put into the budget before handing it over to the BAC was greatly appreciated. Lewis also thanked the BAC for their dedication to the process. Lewis stated there was an increase of 0.8336% over last years' budget; the total budget proposed is \$6,250,530.92. Treasurer Jill Holmes interjected that the increase was slightly less than Lewis quoted due to a decrease in insurance premiums that she was notified of after the BAC passed the budget. The increase is 0.7591%.

Commissioner Gardner stated the budget process is never an easy task. Commissioner Gardner noted the process went as smoothly as it could

November 14, 2019

have gone. Commissioner Gardner attributed some of the ease of this year's budget to the compromises made last year. Staggering in the additional patrol deputies for the Sheriff's Office worked well. Commissioner Gardner thanked the Sheriff for working with the Commissioners' and the BAC in that area. Commissioner Gardner acknowledged there are still concerns with coverage for law enforcement due to the Maine State Police cut-backs. Commissioner Gardner explained the Maine State Police have not raised their road contingent because the State of Maine could not budget funds for that coverage. Commissioner Gardner lamented municipalities are feeling the crunch.

Commissioner Gardner noted happily that Washington County Cooperative Extension as well as the other third-party requests were fully funded this year. Last year cuts were necessary in order to pass the budget.

Commissioner Gardner recommended the Board of Commissioners accept the F/Y 2020 budget returned by the BAC as presented.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the F/Y 2020 Budget as presented. (Crowley/Cassidy, 3-0)**

The approved F/Y 2020 budget is attached.

Commissioner Crowley thanked Lewis Pinkham for his leadership. Commissioner Cassidy thanked the BAC and the Chair and stated it had been enjoyable working them. Commissioner Gardner closed the meeting with thanking everyone for all their efforts to produce this final budget.

**ADJOURNMENT
4:35 p.m.**

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