

November 14, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
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 Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides
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**

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:50 p.m.

**Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on
October 15, 2019. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided written reports from EMA and the Treasurer's Office and the reports were accepted under the gavel.
(See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of Maine 200 Celebration and Parade

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated a celebration for Maine's 200th anniversary is being organized. Part of the celebration includes a parade that will take place in Lewiston in May. All Maine's counties are being encouraged to participate. Betsy asked the Commissioners if they would like to participate or if they would be willing to support the County in participating. Commissioner Gardner stated county

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government should not necessarily be the participant but be the conduit to represent Washington County. Commissioner Gardner suggested reaching out to the local businesses and community.

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Commissioner Gardner noted Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreaths would be a good candidate to represent Washington County.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Letter of Agreement for Hazardous Materials Response Plan

Washington County Emergency Management Agency Director Lynn Dwelley submitted a written request for the Commissioners to ratify an agreement with Bradley Nuding to update the Washington County Hazardous Materials Response Plan. In her written request, Lynn stated the plan as is does not meet the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) guidelines and needs to be updated. The Washington County Local Emergency Response Committee voted to use LEPC funds to hire Mr. Nuding to write the new plan. Mr. Nuding wrote the Hazardous Materials Plan for Hancock County in 2018 and was successful in getting it through the State Emergency Response Commission approval process. Mr. Nuding will charge a flat fee of \$2400.00 to write the plan but will not submit his bill for services until the plan is approved by SERC. SERC will meet in Augusta for their quarterly meeting on January 14, 2020. Mr. Nuding plans to have the plan complete and ready for submission at the January 14th meeting.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to ratify the Letter of Agreement with Bradley Nuding for the purpose of updating the Washington County Hazardous Materials Response Plan not to exceed a flat fee of \$2400.00. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

Commissioner Gardner initiated a brief discussion about Washington County remaining as an MCCA member. It has been discussed and debated at the most recent MCCA meeting as to whether Counties must remain as a member in order to qualify to have the Risk Pool insurance coverage. It is still unclear if the inter-governmental agreement between MCCA and the Risk Pool that states you must be a member to qualify still stands. The members have different opinions and many of the members have concerns of splintering the group. The MCCA wants to keep the agreement in place. Commissioner Gardner stated discussions will continue but Washington County remains a member under protest.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0. It was 5:00 p.m.**

***MOTION* The Commissioners declared themselves to have closed**

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the Executive Session. It was 5:30 p.m.

There was no motion.

ADJOURNMENT

5:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.