

October 9, 2025

Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held October 9, 2025
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Courtney Hammond
Commissioner Billy Howard
Renée Gray, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Meredith Mawhar, SCEC
Paul Sylvain, MVNO
Tammy Gay, Deeds
Rachel Worcester, D.A.'s Office
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office
Robert Granger, District Attorney
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, WCSO/Jail Administrator
Catherine Carter, Northfield Resident
Marcia Hayward, Machiasport
Toff Toffolon, Columbia
Josh Rolfe, RCC/WCSO
Darlene Perry, Probate
Megan Huffman, Finance
Ben Edwards, Machias
Lisa Hanscom, EMA
Grace Falzarano, Provisional Treasurer
Dennis Perry, RCC
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Sondra Small, Finance
Mike Sargent, Milbridge
Commissioner Burns was not present.

Commissioner Burns called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m. After calling the meeting to order, Commissioner Burns had to leave. Commissioner Howard proceeded to conduct the meeting in Commissioner Burns absence. Prior to the regular meeting, there was a tax abatement hearing for Sarao vs. Town of Lubec.

Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of September 11, 2025
(Hammond / Howard, 2-0)

October 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Old Business

- None

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston's monthly report was submitted. (See attached)

Heron gave an updated on the East Stream Bridge replacement. He stated notification has been received that Maine DOT has officially begun the work. Heron noted the plan is to build the bridge next to the existing one then slide it into place. He noted the bridge should not be closed for long. Heron reported the closure may impact the Wilcox Road as it may be used as a detour during construction. He stated public input is now being accepted.

Heron reported Downeast EMS board has voted to increase the stipend for member towns from \$27.50 to \$32.50 per capita. He stated this is the first stipend increase since 2013. Heron also reported a new social medial campaign, including sign-on bonus offers to attract applicants for Downeast EMS, generated a lot of interest and resulted in five new hires.

Heron reviewed the timeline for the 2026-27 U.T. Budget. Heron noted the preliminary U.T. Budget has been provided to the Commissioners for their review. Heron stated the Public Hearing for the proposed U.T. 2026-27 Budget will be held in November. He noted the finalized budget must be submitted to the state no later than January 1st, 2026.

Heron stated he has discussed his ability to view online banking for his U.T. accounts with the County Manager Renée Gray and Provisional Treasurer Grace Falzarano. Grace agreed and made a recommendation for Heron to be able have view only access.

***MOTION* Commissioner Hammond moved to authorize U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston to have view only access to U.T. banking information. (Hammond / Howard, 2-0)**

Heron presented separate Fire Protection Agreements for the Commissioners' approval.

The first agreement is for Washington County Unorganized Territories to pay the Town of Springfield to provide fire coverage to the Townships of Kossuth, Sakom (north) and T6 R1 (north). The agreement is for four years for a flat rate of \$4,600 per year.

October 9, 2025

MOTION Commissioner Hammond moved to approve the Fire Protection agreement between Washington County Unorganized Territories and the Town of Springfield as presented.
(Hammond / Howard, 2-0)

The second Fire Protection agreement is for the Lubec Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire fighting services and accident/injury responding forces for Trescott Township. The Unorganized Territories agrees to pay \$3,750 per year for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030.

MOTION Commissioner Hammond moved to approve the Fire Protection agreement between Washington County Unorganized Territories and the Lubec Volunteer Fire Department as presented.
(Hammond / Howard, 2-0)

The third and final agreement presented is with the Danforth Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire coverage for Brookton Twp., Forest Twp., Forest City Twp., T8 R4, and T8 R#. Washington County U.T. agrees to pay \$5,850 each year for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030.

MOTION Commissioner Hammond moved to approve the Fire Protection agreement between Washington County Unorganized Territories and the Danforth Volunteer Fire Department as presented.
(Hammond / Howard, 2-0)

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

TIF Program Manager Meredith Mawhar stated there are no new major updates. She reported there are three loans in process now. Commissioner Howard asked what the process is for a TIF loan. Ms. Mawhar responded the process is the same as the bank.

County Manager Renée Gray recommended the Commissioners appoint the Provisional Treasurer to the TIF Grant Committee.

MOTION Commissioner Hammond moved to appoint Provisional Treasurer Grace Falzarano to the TIF Grant Committee.
(Hammond / Howard, 2-0)

October 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.



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UNORGANIZED TERRITORIES MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 9th, 2025

1. ROADWAY

- a. East Stream Bridge replacement (Trescott Twp)
 - i. MaineDOT has officially begun the East Stream Bridge replacement on County Rd (Route 189) in Trescott Twp
 - ii. The preliminary design and public comment period is taking place this fall and winter with a 2027 construction anticipated
 - iii. It is anticipated that MaineDOT will request permission from the UT to use the Wilcox Rd as a detour during construction although the length of time Route 189 will be closed is still unknown
 - iv. Residents can review and comment on the bridge replacement plan by online by searching: MaineDOT Public Involvement
- b. Roadside Mowing has been completed in Big Lake, Greenlaw Chopping and Trescott
- c. Right of Way Clearing has been completed in Trescott Twp
- d. Driveway culvert replacement and shoulder rehabilitation has been completed on Bunker Hill Rd in Edmunds

2. EMS

- a. Downeast EMS
 - i. The Downeast EMS board has voted to increase the stipend for member towns from \$27.50 to \$32.50 per capita. This is the first stipend increase since 2013.
 - ii. A new social media campaign has resulted in 5 new hires in the last two weeks.

3. 2026-27 UT BUDGET TIMELINE

- a. According to state statute (30-A, §7503):
 - i. The preliminary UT Budget must be provided to the county legislative delegation no later than Nov. 7th
 - ii. A public hearing must be held to provide an opportunity for public comment on the UT Budget at the same time as a public hearing is held on the regular county budget.
 - iii. The UT Budget must be finalized at the same time as the regular county budget
 - iv. The finalized UT Budget must be submitted to the state no later than January 1st, 2026

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Authorize UT Supervisor to view online UT bank account information
- b. Springfield Fire Contract
 - i. Provides Fire coverage to Kossuth Twp, Sakom Twp (N), and T6 R1 (N)
 - ii. 2025-29 (4 years) at \$4,600/year
- c. Lubec Fire Contract
 - i. Provide Fire coverage for Trescott Twp (East & South)
 - ii. 2025-30 (5 years) at \$3,750/year
- d. Danforth Fire Contract
 - i. Provide Fire coverage for T8 R4, T8 R3, Brookton, Forest, and Forest City Twps
 - ii. 2025-30 (5 years) at \$5,850/year