

October 11, 2018

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Meeting
Held October 11, 2018
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Richard Rolfe, Jail
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Michael Crabtree, Sheriff's Office
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories
Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Council
Mike Hinerman, Machiasport
Lynn Dwelley, Emergency Management Agency
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds**

Commissioner John Crowley, Sr. was not present

Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of September 13, 2018
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

Dean reported the budget process has begun for the F/Y 2019/20 budget. The biggest change in the budget will be assuming responsibility of municipal services for the citizens of Codyville Plantation as of July 1, 2019. Dean plans to have the draft budget prepared for

presentation to the Commissioners at the November meeting. The annual public hearing for the F/Y 2019/20 budget will be held in December.

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Dean continues to work on the land dispute in Forest City Twp. Dean has contacted Mary Jane Good to develop a letter that best outlines the way forward for the parties involved. Dean stated the Commissioners and the parties involved in the dispute will be provided a copy of said letter when it has been completed.

Dean stated the current contractor of Snow Removal Contract #4, Chris White, has agreed to honor the remainder of the current contract. The current contract term covers through the 2020 season. Chris had notified Dean of his plans to give up the contract for various reasons. One outstanding issue with the contract has to do with the requirements for snow removal at the border crossing. Dean reported he has scheduled a meeting with the Border Patrol/Customs in November to discuss specific questions.

Dean stated there are still concerns for enough space to dump septic waste county wide. This issue developed when the Batson site in Addison closed. Dean has met with Nate Pennell of the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District and David Rocque, the Maine State Soil Scientist, at a potential septic spreading site on Route 86. An initial evaluation of the site to pass soil requirements looked promising. Dean will be provided a detailed analysis. Dean will use the information provided to develop a packet for DEP. This information will also be provided to the Commissioners.

Dean presented a snow removal contract for .75 miles in the Gardner's Lake area in Marion Twp. The contract was put out to bid but all bids received were rejected during the previous Commissioners' meeting. The lowest bid received during the bid process represented an increase of 152%. Dean was authorized by the Commissioners to solicit and negotiate a contract that could be in place before the winter season began. Dean recommended the Commissioners approve the contract with Jerry Wood & Son, LLC for Snow Removal Contract #11 for a four-year term with an annual stipend of \$5,000.00. Commissioner Gardner asked how this offer compares to the previous contract. Dean stated the previous contract compensation was \$3,900.00. The lowest

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bid previously received and rejected was for \$9,800.00. With the recommendation of U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston,

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to accept the bid from Jerry Wood & Son, LLC for contract #11 as presented.
(Cassidy/Gardner, 2-0.)**

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AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented a request for a TIF loan in the amount of \$55,000.00 from Merrill & Crystal Hallowell, DBA Hallowell Construction. The purpose of the loan is to purchase a second, larger excavator for their business operations. Having a second excavator would save time and money. Pending approval of the loan to purchase a larger excavator, the Hallowell's plan to pay off the existing loan. The collateral for the new loan would then be the excavator and two business vehicles. Commissioner Gardner stated this is how the TIF program should work.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve loan #MH-TIF-08-28-18 in the amount of \$55,000.00 for Merrill & Crystal Hallowell, DBA Hallowell Construction, as recommended by the TIF Loan Committee. (Cassidy/Gardner, 2-0.)**

A grant update was received from Downeast Broadband utility.
(See attached)

Ms. Hatton presented a final grant update from Richard Curtis of Belyea Farm. All grant requirements have been met.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT

1:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

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