

October 15, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held October 15, 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  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Dean Preston, UT  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Karl Pingree, East Machias  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator**

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Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:00 p.m.

Prior to the start of the meeting, a grievance hearing was held.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of September 12, 2019  
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

Dean reported the Mays Bridge replacement project on Route 189 in Lubec is complete. Dean stated the MDOT was a good partner in this effort.

Dean stated the U.T. office is waiting for a final decision from Community Services Division MDOT regarding the proposed turn back of

approximately 0.3 miles of paved roadway. Dean noted that, although he awaits a final decision, he anticipates the turn back will happen.

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Dean reported on the progress on the Kaylor Stream Bridge replacement in Centerville. Last month Dean reported that the MDOT Region Traffic Engineer notified the U.T Office of the need for the Kaylor Stream Bridge to be posted at 5 tons. The weight limit posting caused a serious situation. Dean acted immediately. Dean stated he secured the services of Calderwood Engineering of Richmond, Maine for construction of the new bridge. Dean has also located a portable bridge with a rated capacity of 45 ton. The plan is to use this portable, overlay bridge temporarily until construction can begin on a new bridge in 2020. Dean stated the bridge will allow one-way traffic for the winter season; no lights will be needed but there will be signs up to alert traffic. Dean stated the rental and delivery fees for the temporary bridge will total \$18,400.00 for 7 months. Dean noted that Hanscom Construction has been retained for the installation of this bridge upon arrival.

Dean stated he is preparing to inspect winter highway maintenance stockpiles for the upcoming winter season. The scheduled deadline to have all stockpiles inspected is October 31, 2019. Dean reported there is only one contractor, B&A Transport, that has expressed concern of completing the stockpile requirements by the set date. B&A Transport has been experiencing equipment breakdowns.

Dean presented a draft Food Sovereignty Ordinance for Washington County Territories for the Commissioners' review. (See attached) Dean stated the draft has been submitted to the County Attorney for review, but he has not yet incorporated the attorney's recommendations into the draft. Dean noted his biggest concern was the question from the County attorney in his review as to whether the Maine Food Sovereignty Act actually authorized the County to enact the ordinance for its unorganized territories. The review further stated that the U.T.'s authority is primarily to collect and expend funds to provide municipal services to the U.T. pursuant to 30-A MRSA 7501-7504; thus, the County does not have the authority to enact this ordinance for its unorganized territories. Dean stated he agrees with this assessment. The review then suggested two options; (1) press for a legislative change, or (2) "enact" it anyway and see if the State will honor it.

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The attorney's recommendation is to press for legislative clarification that specifically authorizes the County to enact the ordinance for the Unorganized Territories so that the ordinance may be properly enacted. Dean agreed with the recommendation. Commissioner Gardner recommended Dean contact State Representative Will Tuell to address this legislative change.

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Dean presented a snow removal agreement with Barry Gillis for snow and ice removal services from roadways in Twp. #8 R3 and Twp. #8 R4. This agreement is for the term of October 15, 2019 through May 15, 2022 for an annual compensation of \$26,296.88.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the snow removal agreement with Barry Gillis as presented.  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)

Dean presented an Election Services Agreement with Town of Dennysville for voting/election services for Edmunds, Marion and Cathance Townships. The agreement is a 3-year term from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022 for an annual flat fee of \$500.00 per election.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the agreement for the Town of Dennysville to provide Election Services for Edmunds, Marion and Cathance Townships as presented.  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)

**AGENDA ITEM:** TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

**AGENDA ITEM:** Public Comment

**ADJOURNMENT**

4:11 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.