

October 9, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held October 9, 2024  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Renée Gray, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant  
Jon Reisman, Cooper  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator, WCSO  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Paul Sylvain, MVNO  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Reid Albee, County Wide  
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office  
Josh Rolfe, RCC / WCSO  
Tammy Gay, Deeds  
Chris Simpson, F.O.P.  
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA  
Heather Green, Deeds  
Carlene Holmes, Probate-Retired**

**Commissioner Christopher Gardner was absent.**

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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

Galen Williamson was in attendance to give an update on the Northeastern Workforce Development Board.

Mr. Williamson stated that due to the change of the Board of Commissioners in 2025, Washington County will need to elect a new member for the NEWD Board. Commissioner Gardner was elected to the NEWD Board in 2024. Mr. Williamson noted he will be glad to give an orientation of responsibilities to the Commissioner that is elected to the NEWD Board for 2025.

Mr. Williamson stated the NEWD Board has quarterly meetings.

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Mr. Williamson stated NEWD covers five counties: Aroostook, Penobscot, Hancock, Washington and Piscataquis. NEWD works in collaboration with Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC).

Mr. Williamson summarized the mission of NEWD. He stated this organization works with the employers and employees to promote a good economy and employment opportunities through education, training and support services. He reported NEWD has had great success in job placement for single mothers and those that have been incarcerated. There are many different resources to support those looking for employment. These resources come through the career center, vocational rehabilitation, job shadowing and on-the-job training. NEWD continues to make connection with correctional facilities to offer release support. Support is also provided to those that have gone through the drug treatment court by integrating participants into the workforce. NEWD also has a youth program that offers career exploration. NEWD works in partnership with local businesses to offer apprenticeship work and to connect youth to a trade. Mr. Williamson explained the goal is to get the youth "up-skilled" so they will obtain jobs that are not just to pay the bills but to help them have a successful career. Commissioner Cassidy asked Mr. Williamson if NEWD is still working at the Career Center at Washington County Community College. Mr. Williamson responded NEWD is at a location at Lowell Street one day a week, but will be moving back to the Community College.

The regular meeting of the Unorganized Territories was called to order at 4:12 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of September 12, 2024  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Heron Weston's monthly report for October was submitted. (See attached) Heron noted there will be action items presented for Snow Removal Contracts and Animal Control Service agreements.

Heron stated the Draft 2025-26 UT Budget will be submitted for the Commissioners' review at the November meeting. Heron noted the budget

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will be presented for approval at the December Commissioners' meeting.

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Heron reported that 12 towns will be receiving Animal Control Service coverage with the U.T. with the approval of the agreements presented for Whiting and Dennysville at today's meeting. Heron stated Cutler has expressed interest in ACO coverage as well.

Heron gave an update on the Mill Stream Bridge project in Centerville Twp. He stated the new bridge designs are complete. The existing road will be left where it is. Heron noted cost estimates from 2021 have been re-evaluated and updated. Heron stated the next steps in the process is to negotiate the right-of-way. Heron anticipates the bid packet to be out in the Fall of 2025.

The following Washington County U.T. Snow Removal Contracts for 2024 were presented for approval:

- Contract #1 for Trescott Twp. awarded to Hallowell Construction for a four-year term for an annual rate of \$86,730.00;
- Contract #2 for Route 191 awarded to B&A Transport for a four-year term for an annual rate of \$66,000.00;
- Contract #3 for Route 86 awarded to B&A Transport for a four-year term for an annual rate of \$97,793.00;
- Contract #4 for Forest City Twp. awarded to Christopher White for a four-year term for an annual rate of \$70,500.00;
- Contract #7 for Greenlaw Chopping Twp. awarded to Dan Bailey for a four-year contract for an annual rate of \$13,900.00;
- Contract #8 for Lambert Lake Twp. awarded to Russell's Snow Removal for a four-year contract for an annual rate of \$6,455.00;
- Contract #9 for Big Lake Twp. awarded to the Town of Princeton for a three-year contract for an annual rate of \$18,224.00; and
- Contract #10 for Centerville Twp. awarded to County Concrete for a four-year contract for an annual rate of \$27,300.00.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to award the bids for all contracts as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0.)**

The following Animal Control Service Agreements were presented for approval:

- Agreement between Washington County U.T. and the Town of Whiting for Animal Control Services for a period of July 1, 2024 to June

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30, 2027. The town agrees to pay a training stipend of \$250.00 annually plus individual call rates as follows:

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- o ACO Salary: \$18.00 per hour
  - o Benefits, Insurance, Bond: \$9.00 per hour
  - o Mileage Reimbursement: \$0.670 per mile
- Agreement between Washington County U.T. and the Town of Dennysville for Animal Control Services for a period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. The town agrees to pay a training stipend of \$250.00 annually plus individual call rates as follows
    - o ACO Salary: \$18.00 per hour
    - o Benefits, Insurance, Bond: \$9.00 per hour
    - o Mileage Reimbursement: \$0.670 per mile

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Animal Control Service Agreements for both Whiting and Dennysville as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0.)**

Commissioner Cassidy expressed to Heron the Board of Commissioners are glad to have him back. Heron stated he is happy to be back and noted Dean Preston has been a great help. Heron noted there are a lot of on-going projects and he is glad to have Dean's guidance.

Chief Deputy Crabtree requested Heron provide RCC with the information for all the Snow Removal Contracts and Animal Control Services as it would be helpful for the Emergency Communications Specialists. Heron stated that was a good point and he will definitely share that information. He stated he is very vested in providing accurate information.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton reported Big Lake RV Park & Campground has had a good year with many great reviews. The owners are beginning work on two sites for cabins for rent. The ground work is complete and the construction of the cabins will begin next year.

Ms. Hatton gave an update on Michael Griffin's loan settlement. Ms. Hatton stated there has been a closing on the sale of the property.

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She reported a large amount is being held in escrow. The escrow is expected to be released in November. Ms. Hatton stated she anticipated the loan will be paid off in December.

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**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:25 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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

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