

October 9, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Regular Meeting  
held October 9, 2024  
in the 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  
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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Executive Department business was called to order at 4:25 p.m.

**Approval of the Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2025 County Budget minutes held on September 12, 2024. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

**Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on September 12, 2024. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports**

Written reports were submitted by the Treasurer's Office and Sunrise County Economic Council. (See attached)

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**AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices**

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to reclassify Heron Weston from part-time U.T. to full-time U.T. Supervisor effective 09/30/24. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to reclassify Dean Preston from full-time U.T. Supervisor to part-time U.T. effective 10/04/24. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

Commissioner Cassidy noted keeping Dean on as part-time will be good during the transition period.

Jail Administrator requested the demotion of Tyler Look be addressed during Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire John Peterson as full-time Patrol Deputy effective 10/13/24. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Craig Holder as part-time Patrol Deputy effective 10/13/24. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Six-month Certificate**

A Six-month certificate for Brett Newman was signed as presented.

**AGENDA ITEM: Maine's Public Land Ownership Issue - Jon Reisman**

John Reisman was present to bring an item of concern before the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Reisman stated the Climate Council is updating the state's climate action plan. He explained that one of the goals is to have 30% of the State in public ownership/conservation/carbon sequestration. The percentage of Washington County that is already in such ownership is 30%. Mr. Reisman stated this percentage is likely to climb over 50% if land acquisition patterns and trends continue as they have for the last 30 years. Mr. Reisman is having legislation put in the next session to cap public ownership at 50% in any County. Mr. Reisman asked the Board of Commissioners for suggestions, support and help. Commissioner Cassidy stated the legislation Mr. Reisman is suggesting could succeed if other counties are made aware and will

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vote in favor of the cap. Commissioner Cassidy inquired as to how interest can be generated.

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Mr. Reisman suggested a coalition be formed. He stated he has spoken to many people and an article will be published in the local papers regarding this issue. (See attached) Commissioner Cassidy agreed that people need to be educated on the issue. Josh Rolfe recommended the issue be discussed with the County Commissioners' Association. Commissioner Cassidy stated the Board of Commissioners will support Mr. Reisman's endeavors.

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on National Correctional Employees Union Contract**

County Manager Renée Gray presented a contract between Washington County and the NCEU representing the employees of the Washington County Jail and Regional Communications Center. Renée stated negotiations have been completed and offered a list of proposed agreed upon changes. This contract's term is from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to ratify and sign the NCEU Contract as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Fraternal Order of Police Contract**

County Manager Renée Gray presented a contract between Washington County and the F.O.P. representing the Sheriff's deputies. She stated negotiations are complete and the contract is being presented for the Commissioners' approval and signatures.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to ratify and sign the FOP Contract as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: County Manager's Report**

County Manager Renée Gray submitted a written report and is attached.

Renée reports:

- Armor Roof plans to return in October to finish the roofing project on the old Sheriff's building portion. Armor roofing had to pick up slates in Vermont because a different size slate was

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needed for the Sheriff's Office.

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- The Sheriff's safety building is still within budget. The project is a little behind schedule due to factors that are beyond control. The project manager has been replaced and is now under the Sheridan's business owner Dan Wildes.
- The Safety Committee is reviewing all safety policies.
- Teamsters Union negotiations begin on October 29th.
- The first Budget Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Renée thanked the courts for lending a space for the BAC meetings to be held.

Commissioner Cassidy acknowledged Renée's first year as County Manager. Commissioner Cassidy stated there are so many things Renée has had to do. Renée noted all accomplishments have been due to a great team effort.

**AGENDA ITEM: Commissioner Issues and Comments**

None.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 2-0. It was 4:45 p.m.

**\*MOTION\*** The Commissioners declared themselves to have closed the Executive Session. It was 4:50 p.m.  
(Cassidy / Crowley, 2-0)

With the recommendation of Jail Administrator Rich Rolfe,

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the demotion of Tyler Look from full-time Corporal in the Corrections Division to Corrections Officer with a five-day suspension without pay effective 10/09/24. (Crowley / Cassidy, 2-0)

It was noted the employee was afforded an opportunity to attend the

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meeting but declined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:52 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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

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