

December 8, 2022

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Public Meeting on the U.T Budget for FY 2023-2024
held December 8, 2022
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Carlene M. Holmes, Probate
Dean A. Preston, U.T Supervisor
Dennis Dorsey, WCSO
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Elizabeth Powers, Jonesboro
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Katie Freedman, Healthy Acadia
Regina Grabrovac, Healthy Acadia
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Heather Green, Deeds
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA
Stephen Rutto, Jonesboro**

Commissioner Gardner called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 UT Budget.

U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston presented the 2023-24 proposed UT Budget. Dean stated the total appropriation is \$1,885,050 with a tax assessment in the amount of \$1,520,950.

Dean noted \$250,000 has been budgeted for the Bridge Reserve account. Dean stated this is to support a three-year plan to rebuild the Mill Stream Bridge. There is an anticipated start date for this project to begin in 2024. Dean stated a request has been made to the MDOT for a 50/50 cost sharing for this project.

December 8, 2022

Dean noted the Highway maintenance line was increased by \$17,000. Dean explained the increase is attributed to deteriorating roads, an increase in more traffic due to the influx of residents in the U.T. and the increase in the cost of road pavement material.

Dean reported the Winter Highway Maintenance line has an increase of \$9,000. The increase is due to the increased cost of bulk salt this year. Dean noted the price increase is 24.8% over last years' price. Commissioner Gardner inquired about the quality of the bulk salt. Dean replied that the quality looks good but he will give a final quality report in March.

Commissioner Gardner asked for the percentage of the total budget increase. Dean stated the overall increase for the budget is 3.85%.

Dean requested the Commissioners accept the F/Y 2023-24 UT final budget of \$1,520,950 as presented.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to accept and approve the F/Y 2023-2024 UT Budget in the amount of \$1,520,950.00 as presented. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

Adjournment 4:07 p.m.

Attest: _____

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.