

December 9, 2021

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Public Meeting on the U.T Budget for FY 2022-2023
held December 9, 2021
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
David Bibber, Town of Charlotte
Brenda Jones, Town of Charlotte
Bill Jones, Town of Charlotte
Dean Preston, U.T. Supervisor
Dana Kadey, Big Lake Township
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, WCSO
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Lisa M. Hanscom, EMA
Robert A. Simpson, Whiting
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Darlene Perry, Probate**

Commissioner Gardner called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 UT Budget.

U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston presented the 2022-23 UT Budget. Dean stated the total appropriation is \$1,828,443 with a tax assessment in the amount of \$1,464,443. Dean noted this budget is well within the allowable maximum capped tax assessment of \$1.6 million. This budget is an increase of 4.25% over the previous fiscal year budget.

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Dean stated much of the increase is due to the amount built into the Bridges Reserve account for an anticipated replacement of Mill Stream Bridge in Centerville in 2024. Dean noted a request has been made to Maine Department of Transportation to share the cost of the build, but Washington County U.T. needs to prepare to pay the entire cost in case

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the request to share the cost is refused.

Dean noted the Highway maintenance line has an increase of 27%. 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 inflation in the cost of construction. Dean stated there would have been no increase in the total budget without the cost of roads and bridges. Commissioner Cassidy agreed that the cost of roads and bridges must be considered. Commissioner Gardner also agreed and stated he appreciated knowing that the spiked increase was tied to a specific cost. Dean noted the U.T. is unable to borrow money so the expense must be budgeted for over a period of time.

Dana Kadey of Big Lake Township voiced his concern regarding road improvements. Mr. Kadey stated that he has been unable to get anyone to come and look at a particular road in his community that he feels is in need of repair. Dean stated that he has returned Mr. Kadey's calls and has agreed to meet with him to inspect the road issue. Mr. Kadey pressed Dean and the Commissioners for a plan to repair the road in question. Dean assured Mr. Kadey the repairs to the road in Big Lake Township is on the top of the list for highway maintenance in the spring.

Dean requested the Commissioners accept the F/Y 2022-23 UT final budget of \$1,464,443 as presented.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to accept and approve the F/Y 2022-2023 UT Budget in the amount of \$1,464,443.00 as presented. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

Two original copies of the Budget were signed.

Adjournment 4:20 p.m.

Attest: _____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.