

December 14, 2017

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Public Meeting on the U.T Budget for FY 2018-2019
held December 14, 2017
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
Rich Rolfe, Jail
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Harry Doughty, Dennysville
Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Council
Dean A. Preston, Unorganized Territories
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center
Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds
Mike Hinerman, Emergency Management Agency
Carlene M. Holmes, Registry of Probate
Reid Albee, County Wide**

Commissioner Gardner called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. on the proposed fiscal year 2018/2019 UT Budget.

U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston presented a 2018-19 UT Budget Analysis for the Commissioners information. (See attached) The analysis provides a line item breakdown for each account.

One line item that has increased significantly is the community Projects line, up 57.8%. Dean explained the increase is due to a facility improvements program. Dean stated the U.T. has some notable projects taking place and plan to continue the program throughout the U.T.

Another significant increase is the Highway maintenance line. Dean noted the increase is necessary to keep the U.T. roadways at an acceptable condition. Dean stated he anticipates an increase as winter maintenance contracts are renewed.

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Notable decreases were seen in the Animal Control line and the Shellfish Conservation line. Dean stated the decreases are due to the restructuring of the Animal Control Officer/Shellfish Warden position.

The total U.T. tax assessment has increased from \$1,008,408.00 for fiscal year 2017-18 to \$1,032,764.00 for 2018-19. That is an increase of \$24,356.00; a 2.4% increase from last year. Dean noted the increase is well within the allowable growth ceiling of 2.89%.

Dean stated his concern for the Bridge account. The contribution amount of \$5,000.00 annually to this account should be considerably more.

Dean stated the Unorganized Territories Fiscal Administrator has been provided with a draft of the budget. Dean requested the Commissioners accept the F/Y 2018-19 UT Budget as presented.

***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to accept the F/Y 2018/2019 UT Budget in the amount of \$1,032,764.00 as presented. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

Three original copies of the Budget were signed.

Adjournment 4:06 p.m.

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