

September 10, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Regular Meeting
held September 10, 2020
in the Superior Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
David Bibber, Charlotte
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Josh Rolfe, RCC Director
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator**

Executive Department business was called to order at 4:45 p.m.

Approval of the minutes for the Regular Commissioners' meeting held on August 13, 2020. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided written reports from EMA and the Treasurer's Office and were accepted under the gavel. (See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Change Notices

RCC Director Josh Rolfe announced the resignation of Laurence Hayward as part-time ECS effective 08/29/20. Larry has worked for the County since 1985. Commissioner Gardner stated Larry's retirement signifies the end of an era. By consensus, the Board of Commissioners regretfully accepted Larry's resignation and wished him well.

U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston recommended two new hires.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Stephen Seavey as part-time U.T. Animal Control Officer effective 09/08/20. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

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***MOTION* Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Jim Sosa as part-time Shellfish Warden effective 09/14/20.
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on six-month certificate

A six-month certificate for Patrick McDonald was signed as presented.

AGENDA ITEM: Appoint Betsy Fitzgerald to Board of Directors of Downeast Community Partners

Downeast Community Partners provides services to families and individuals in Hancock and Washington counties. DCP's mission is to improve the quality of life and reduce the impact of poverty in Downeast communities. The Board of Directors for the agency is composed of eighteen individuals, nine from each County. The County Commissioners appoint the government member of the Board. The Board of Directors of DCP voted to recommend to the County Commissioners the appointment of Betsy Fitzgerald to the Board of DCP for a three-year term.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to appoint Betsy Fitzgerald to the Board of Directors of Downeast Community Partners.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Award bid for Used Vehicle

A 2013 Ford Taurus was advertised to be sold in "as is condition". Four bids were submitted. It is the recommendation of the County Manager to award the bid to Maya Tirado with the highest bid of \$1,628.00.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the bid of \$1,628.00 for the 2013 Ford Taurus from Maya Tirado.
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

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AGENDA ITEM: Award bid for Patrol Vehicles

The Washington County Sheriff's Office requested bids for the purchase of six new patrol vehicles and the trade in of eight specified cruisers. Bid requests were sent to Ford vendors across the State of Maine. Two dealerships submitted bids. Darling's Ford submitted a

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total bid amount of \$169,816.00, and Quirk Auto Group submitted a total bid amount of \$191,083.00. Sheriff Curtis' recommendation is to accept the bid submitted by Darling's Ford. Summary bid forms are attached. Chief Deputy Crabtree noted the Sheriff's Office will be keeping one vehicle as a spare as they currently have none. Commissioner Gardner asked Sheriff Curtis if he has consulted with Treasurer Jill Holmes. Sheriff Curtis responded that he has spoken with the Treasurer and there are funds available.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the bid from Darling's Ford for six new patrol vehicles and the trade in of eight specified cruisers for the amount of \$169,816.00. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

Commissioner Gardner opened a discussion on the reformation of the District Attorney's coverage area, Prosecutorial District 7. Commissioner Gardner stated the question of remapping the D.A.'s district coverage across the State was an issue being addressed in the legislative session when the Legislature was shut down due to the 2020 Coronavirus. Commissioner Gardner stated that nothing more has been done on this issue. The District Attorney's district area has been the same since 1970 and the reformation would have included the separation of coverage areas for Washington and Hancock County. At this time, District Attorney Matthew Foster's district covers both Washington and Hancock counties. Commissioner Gardner suggested Washington County should be prepared to pick up this initiative on its own if it stalls in the Legislature. Commissioner Gardner recommended the County should proceed with a way to find out what percentage of citizens agree that Washington County should have its own District Attorney. Commissioner Gardner proposed undertaking a straw poll. It was discussed that a representative sample could be achieved by polling the voters on election day. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald questioned the issue of absentee voters. Commissioner Gardner stated

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the straw poll results would be that of voters that went to the polls. Commissioner Crowley asked if there would be any other way to find out this information. There were no other ideas presented.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to authorize County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to explore the implementation of a straw poll in the upcoming election to query the reformation of the D.A.'s office for District 7. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

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County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald reported the Budget Advisory Committee elected Lewis Pinkham of Milbridge to be Chair of the BAC. The BAC will plan on meeting with the Commissioners on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 1 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom in Machias.

ADJOURNMENT

5:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.