

September 12, 2024

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held September 12, 2024  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Renée Gray, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant  
Rich Rolfe, Jail  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Susan Sullivan, D.A.'s Office  
David Bibber, Charlotte  
Dennis Perry, Machias  
Sondra Small, Jonesport  
Darlene Perry, Probate  
Toni Bridges, WCSO  
Ryan Allen, WCSO  
Lisa Hanscom, WC EMA  
Marianne Moore, Calais (State Senate)  
Chris Simpson, WCSO / F.O.P.  
Paul Sylvain, MVNO  
Reid Albee, County Wide  
David Davis, Alexander  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO  
Cynthia Beauvais, Jonesport Economic Development Committee  
Bryan Hardison, Orono Fire Department  
Heather Green, Deeds**

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The regular meeting of the Unorganized Territories was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of August 8, 2024  
(Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0)**

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**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report for September was submitted. (See attached)

Commissioner Gardner acknowledged Dean Preston's resignation as Unorganized Territories Supervisor. Commissioner Gardner recognized Dean's service to Washington County for 24 years. He noted Dean's leadership and noted the Board of Commissioners often sought his guidance. Commissioner Gardner stated Dean's resume is extensive and he will be hard to replace. Dean will remain part-time during the transition period.

Commissioner Gardner reported the Fiscal Administrator of the Unorganized Territories, Nancy Bodine, recently passed away. The Board of Commissioners give their condolences to her family and friends.

**AGENDA ITEM: Hire Unorganized Territories Supervisor**

Dean stated the hiring process has taken place. He stated several candidates were interviewed. Dean noted there was a strong pool of candidates with favorable expertise. Dean's recommendation for hire is Heron Weston. It was noted that Heron has worked with Dean and has served as his replacement during Dean's military service. Dean stated Heron had the most work experience for the U.T. office. With Dean's recommendation;

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Cassidy moved to hire Heron Weston as the Unorganized Territories Supervisor effective 09/30/24. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0.)**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton reported Sue's Cobscook Bay Café business has picked up but she is finding it hard to find reliable help.

Commissioner Gardner asked Ms. Hatton for an updated on the collection matter with Michael Griffin. Ms. Hatton stated the collection process is on-going.

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Commissioner Gardner asked if Dean Preston is on the TIF Loan Committee. Ms. Hatton stated Dean is not on the loan committee. By consensus, the Commissioners give their fullest recommendation for Dean to serve on the TIF Loan Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM: Signatures on Agreement for Special Services with Sunrise County Economic Council**

An Agreement for Special Services was presented to the Commissioner's for their approval. This agreement is a renewal for services performed by Sunrise County Economic Council. The following services are provided:

- Administer all activities and programming of the Washington County Unorganized Territories Tax Increment Finance District grant and loan programs;
- Carry out Economic Development Activities on behalf of the County of Washington TIF District of the U.T.;
- Represent and advocate for U.T. economic districts as appropriate at local, state and federal levels, and;
- Other duties as assigned by the County Manager and/or Commissioners.

The agreement is for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2024 for an amount of \$67,076.16 annually.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve and sign the Agreement for Special Services with SCEC as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Fire Equipment for U.T. - Fire Chief Cecil Gray**

Fire Chief Cecil Gray, representing Epping Fire District, requested financial support to replace a type 6 fire engine. The request for funds is in the amount of between \$260,000.00 and \$300,000. Dean Preston noted the U.T. does have a fire protection coverage contract with Epping Fire Department. Dean stated the U.T. has contracts with 13 fire departments. The contract with Epping covers fire protection for Twp. 18, 19, 24, 25 and Centerville Twp. Dean stated that other than TIF funds, there is no bucket of money available. Commissioner Gardner noted the Board of Commissioners hear the Epping Fire District's concerns. Commissioner Gardner recommended Mr. Gray

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connect with Dean to examine where there may be funds available for fire protection and to help Epping Fire District with their need.

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**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:49 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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

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