

September 8, 2022

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
Held September 8, 2022
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Tammy C. Gay, Deeds
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Joshua Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, WCSO
Michael Crabtree, WCSO**

Prior to the 4 p.m. meeting the Public Hearing was held for the proposed budget for FY 2023.

The regular meeting of the Unorganized Territories proceeded at 4:12 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. regular meeting minutes of August 11, 2022.
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

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

In Dean's absence, County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated Dean plans to discuss the options on abandoning or revitalizing and maintaining an unmaintained portion of a road in the Unorganized Territories. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners are not looking to give up any roadways.

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AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented a grant and loan request by Dennysville Snowmobile & ATV Club. The grant request is for \$50,000.00, and the loan request is for an additional \$50,000.00. The purpose of the funds is to assist with the purchase of a new trail groomer. Ms. Hatton stated the Club received a TIF loan in 2015 and received a TIF loan and grant in 2017. Ms. Hatton reported that both loans were paid off early. The County retains ownership of the 2002 Tucker previously financed with a loan and grant. The Club requests the same arrangement be made for this trail groomer. The Loan Committee recommended approval of this loan. The Grant Committee recommended the approval of this grant but at a lesser amount of \$30,000.00. Commissioner Gardner asked why the Grant Committee recommended less than the request of \$50,000.00. Ms. Hatton responded that the Grant Committee took into consideration that this group has already received quite a bit of funding. Commissioner Gardner stated the Dennysville Snowmobile & ATV Club has shown a lot of commitment to their organization and community. Derek Brown, President of the Club, was present. He was asked to give a brief statement in regards to the history and activity of the Club. Mr. Brown stated the Club has fulfilled its obligations, while also helping other organizations. Mr. Brown stated the Club takes pride in being more than just an ATV Club. The Club provides outdoor activities for all seasons, promotes tourism and creates business opportunities. The trail groomer is also used to keep the trail ready should local EMT's need to use a snowmobile in case of an emergency. Mr. Brown reported that ATV and snowmobile traffic has increased greatly over the past two years. More young people are joining the Club. Mr. Brown stated the Club holds lots of community events. Commissioner Crowley recommended the Club received the full \$50,000.00 grant request. Commissioner Gardner asked the Treasurer if funds are available for the full \$50,000.00. Treasurer Jill Holmes responded there is enough funds available.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Grant request, #2208-05-CM, for the full grant request amount of \$50,000 as submitted but not recommended by the Grant Committee with the same County/Club owned conditions as the previous TIF grant. (Crowley /Cassidy, 3-0.)**

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MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the TIF Loan request, #DSAC-TIF-08-22-22, in the amount of \$50,000 as presented. (Crowley /Cassidy, 3-0.)

Ms. Hatton noted a written report from Cobscook Institute is included in her report to the Commissioners. (See attached)

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.

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