

February 6, 2014

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held February 6, 2014
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

Attending the meeting were:

**Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner Vinton E. Cassidy
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Lora Whelan, Quoddy Tides
Joshua Rolfe, Regional Communications Center
Ken Daye, Sunrise County Economic Council
Mike Hinerman, Emergency Management Agency
Kelsey Porter, Jonesboro
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Shawn Donahue, Sheriff's Office
Bill Kitchen, Machias Valley News Observer**

Commissioner Gardner brought the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the January UT regular meeting
Minutes. (January 9, 2014) (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

The monthly report was submitted and is attached.

Interim U.T. Supervisor Heron Weston reported that the ATV Access signs have been installed in Centerville and provide continuity.

Eight applications have been received for the ACO / Shellfish Warden position. Heron and County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald will review applications and finalize interviews by February 7, 2014. Once interviews are complete, the finalists' names will be given to Dean Preston for his input.

February 6, 2014

Heron stated that the reimbursement process for the Ice Storm damage clean-up is still in the process. Information will be forwarded to FEMA as it is collected. Heron noted that excessive ice was the main component for the damage.

On a final note, Heron reported that the Town of Topsfield's fire department is officially closing. It has been defunct for some time. New providers will be sought for fire coverage in Kossuth Twp.

AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A report was submitted and is attached.

TIF Administrator Ken Daye presented the current balances of all TIF Program Related accounts and the amount to be allocated to the TIF program recommended by the TIF Committee. The total amount to be allocated to the TIF Program in 2014 is \$429,221.54. The TIF Committee recommended that two thirds of that total (\$286,147.70) be allocated to the TIF Loan fund to bolster the account and the remaining one third (\$143,073.85) be split equally between the Planning Grant category and the Capital Project fund (\$71,536.92 to each).

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the allocations recommended by the TIF Committee. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

For the purpose of transparency, Commissioner Gardner requested that Ken Daye review the final balances reflecting the addition of the allocations approved. The new balances of the five categories are as follows:

- Nature Based Tourism Grant \$115,365.26
- Economic Development Grant \$117,086.92
- TIF Loan fund \$344,275.18
- Capital Project fund \$467,454.33
- County matching Grant fund \$195,000.00

The total TIF Program fund available after the 2014 allocation is \$1,239,181.69.

Commissioner Gardner stated that the TIF Grant Committee did a decent job reflecting where the Commissioners want to go with this. The Commissioners would like to see the TIF Program and its funds stay fluid.

February 6, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNMENT

4:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.