

February 24, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held February 24, 2020  
in the Washington County Superior Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Rich Rolfe, WCSO  
Charles Rudelitch, SCEC  
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA  
Robert Simpson, Whiting  
Jen Peters, SCEC  
Rick Heller, The Quoddy Tides  
Marge Peacock, Whiting  
Wendell McLaughlin, Whiting  
Julie Brown, Lubec  
Bob Brown, Lubec**

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Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:58 p.m.

**Approval of the Public Hearing minutes for the Washington County Downeast Wind Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District of January 9, 2020. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of January 9, 2020. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

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Dean stated a meeting was scheduled on February 13, 2020 with Shane White, Fiscal Administrator of the UT, Office of the State Auditor. The meeting was rescheduled due to a snow storm. A new meeting date

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has not been set at this time.

Dean presented a set of construction plans and specifications for review of the Centerville Middle Branch Bridge over Kaylor Brook Project. The bids are scheduled to be opened on March 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Center Street Conference Room. The official bid award will take place at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Gardner inquired if there are any precautions for not accepting the apparent low bidder. Dean replied that the bids will be measured against the engineers estimate. Estimates much lower than the engineers estimate would raise a red flag.

Dean informed the Commissioners of a regional effort he has initiated to guarantee public access to 2 lakes in the Unorganized Territories' area of Forest City. The land conflict of a year ago that caused concern about public access to Baskehegan Lake and Spednic Lake is no longer an immediate concern. Dean has spoken with the new Executive Director of Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, Colin Brown. Dean plans to partner with the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust in initiating this regional effort. Dean stated there are TIF funds available to help with the effort. Commissioner Cassidy asked if there is an automatic right-of-way to lake frontage with a certain number of acres. Dean stated there is access but it is hard to get to for use as a boat landing. Dean is looking at building off of the County way and creating secure access for future guiding businesses and tourism. By consensus, the Commissioners gave their support to Dean to proceed with this effort.

As a matter of the record, Commissioner Gardner inquired what the obligation of the State Police is to cover the rural areas of the Unorganized Territories. Commissioner Gardner asked Dean to pose the question to the Fiscal Administrator when he meets with him.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

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Ms. Hatton had one action item for the Commissioners' consideration.

Ms. Hatton presented the historical view of fund allocations and awards and the recommendation for the 2020 allocation of new funds. The total new fund amount is \$215,349.00. The allocation recommendation is as follows:

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ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/19	2020 RECOMMENDATION		NEW ACCOUNT BALANCE
TIF-EDI	\$238,426	16%	\$21,336	\$259,762
TIF-EDP	\$153,643	16%	\$21,336	\$174,978
TIP-NBT	\$105,930	16%	\$21,336	\$127,226
TIF-LOAN	\$805,414	52%	\$69,341	\$874,756
COUNTY MATCH	\$229,185		\$25,000	\$254,185
ADMINISTRATION	\$157,605		\$57,000	\$214,605

*EDI - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION*

*EDP - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING*

*NBT - NATURE-BASED TOURISM*

*LOAN - REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM*

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the 2020 recommended allocations for the Unorganized Territories TIF Program as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

Commissioner Gardner commented that if there were any transfer of funds needed for the Forest City guaranteed access initiative Dean has begun, the Board of Commissioners will address the need for a transfer of funds at that time.

**AGENDA ITEM: Agreement for Construction Overlimit Permit for Kossuth Twp.**

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented an Agreement for Construction Overlimit Permit for the Township of Kossuth for the Commissioners' approval and signatures. The agreement from the Maine Department of Transportation notifies the Commissioners as acting

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municipal officers for Kossuth Twp. of a cyclical pavement resurfacing project and a construction area has been established. The agreement stipulates that the municipality will issue a permit for the transportation of construction equipment that exceed legal weight limits over municipal roads. The agreement acknowledges the municipality's right to require a bond from the contractor to "guarantee suitable repair or payment of damages".

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Agreement for**

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Construction Overlimit Permit for Kossuth Twp. as presented.  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)

**AGENDA ITEM:** Public Comment

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

5:12 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.