

March 11, 2021

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held March 11, 2021  
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  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Darren Paul, Passamaquoddy Wild Blueberry Company  
Carlene Holmes, Probate  
Josh Rolfe, RCC Director  
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator  
Dean Preston, U.T Supervisor**

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Commissioner Gardner called the meeting of the Unorganized Territories to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of January 14, 2021.  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report was submitted and is attached.

Dean reviewed the on-going highway maintenance projects. Dean reported that the bridging project is still suspended due to weather/temperatures. The contractor, Hanscom Construction, has agreed to take over the bridge rental for the remainder of the project work. The project work is scheduled to begin on April 15<sup>th</sup> and has a completion date of May 15, 2021.

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Dean stated there has been ROW grinding in Trescott Twp. and Big Lake Twp. Dean has received a complaint about how the finished results look. Dean stated the way the work is being done the result does not

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look pretty but it is effective. Dean noted there is a balance of price, quantity of work and the accomplished intent.

Dean reported on the ongoing construction on the 19 Road. Dean stated there have been so many rocks removed that they may use a process in which the rocks are crushed and then used to top and finish the road.

Dean noted this is the time of the year that there are issues with thawing roads when wood harvesting operations begin moving wood. Dean has posted roads for non-use during the thawing season.

Dean reported the UT has been awarded a Stream Crossing Public Infrastructure Improvements grant for the DEP to upgrade the stream crossing on the East Ridge Road. The project will replace the existing corrugated pipe culvert with an open-bottom stream smart crossing to improve aquatic habitat connectivity. Dean stated this was an effort of four to five different entities. The grant award is for \$125,000 per project with a maximum award of 2 per municipality. Dean stated match money is needed. Dean will be looking to leverage match money through the TIF fund and approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 from his maintenance account. By consensus, the Commissioners support the maximum amount of support needed from the TIF funds.

Dean presented a Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance. Commissioner Gardner stated this ordinance has been under some discussion in previous months. Commissioner Gardner queried if the ordinance suits the need. Dean responded that the ordinance does suit the need. Dean stated he consulted with the County Attorney. The ordinance encourages and protects direct service from the provider to consumer. (See attached.) Three original copies of the Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance 2021 were adopted and signed by the Board of Commissioners.

Dean shared a letter of accolades from the District Attorney regarding the professionalism of Stephen Seavey acting as the U.T. Animal Control Officer. Dean noted that Stephen is doing a wonderful job and he is proud of him and his efforts.

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**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Committee Update**

Ms. Hatton's monthly report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented a loan request for Passamaquoddy Wild Blueberry Company. General Manager Darren Paul was present to represent PWBC.

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Ms. Hatton stated that PWBC is requesting a loan for the purpose of purchasing two harvester heads and replace a tractor trailer truck. Ms. Hatton stated that the PWBC owns 2,063.7 acres of wild blueberry fields, of which 2,000.7 are in the Washington County U.T. In the past PWBC have hired third-party mechanical harvesters, but believe they could realize a significant savings if they purchased their own harvesters. PWBC will be contributing \$55,000.00 cash. First security interest on two harvester heads and the tractor trailer truck will be held as collateral. The Loan Committee recommended approval of this loan request with a 5-0-0 vote.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the revolving loan request, Loan #PWBC-TIF-01-19-21, by Passamaquoddy Wild Blueberry Company in the amount of \$142,464.00. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0.)**

Ms. Hatton gave an update on the status of Michael Griffin's Chapter 12 filing. Ms. Hatton stated Mr. Griffin does not have a plan yet how to structure repayment of all debts. Rudman & Winchell has been obtained for legal services.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:15 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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