

May 9, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting
held May 9, 2019
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Judy East, WCCOG/Calais
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Welsa Ranalli, Big Lake Twp.
Mark Ranalli, Big Lake Twp.
Adam Viera, Jail
Richard Rolfe, Jail
Sharon D. Strout, Deeds
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Michael Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Johanna Billings, Ellsworth American
Josh Rolfe, RCC**

Commissioner Christopher Gardner was not present.

The meeting for Unorganized Territories business was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of April 11, 2019.
(Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston submitted a written report. (See attached)

Dean reported the UT budget was delivered to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation on May 6th. There were no questions or concerns expressed regarding the Washington County UT budget.

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Dean reported the annual shellfish committee meeting was held on April 30th. The ordinance was reviewed during the meeting and reseeding sites were discussed.

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Dean provided a list of Summer highway maintenance work needed on his written report. Dean noted the frost caused a lot of damage.

Dean reviewed the snow removal contracts that he will be updating for winter highway maintenance.

Dean stated the UT office continues to set up meetings with transfer stations to implement the UT permit plan with a goal to have more permit programs to begin July 1, 2019.

Dean presented a Fire Protection Agreement for the Commissioners' consideration. The agreement will provide fire-fighting services to Centerville Twp., T18 MD, T19 MD, T24 MD and T25 MD. The services will be provided by Epping Volunteer Fire District for an annual stipend of \$1,800.00 plus fire personnel and equipment rates per call. The term of the agreement is for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement between Epping Volunteer Fire District and the UT areas of Centerville Twp., T18 MD, T19 MD, T24 MD and T25 MD as presented. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

Dean presented an Animal Control Service Agreement for the Commissioners' consideration. The agreement will provide ACO Services for Grand Lake Stream Plantation by Washington County Territories. The annual stipend is \$200.00 plus per call rates of an additional \$20.50 per incident and mileage reimbursement of \$0.44 per mile. The agreement term is for July 1, 2018 through June 20, 2021.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Animal Control Service Agreement between Washington County Territories and Grand Lake Stream Plantation as presented. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

Dean noted Grand Lake Stream Plantation is now the sixth municipality with a contract for Animal Control Services with the UT.

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AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update

A monthly report was submitted and is attached.

TIF Administrator Susan Hatton had several action items and provided updates on two grants.

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Susan reintroduced the discussion of an Economic Development Planning Grant application that was tabled at the April Commissioners' meeting. The application from Washington County Council of Government is for a grant to conduct research and analyze the status and impact of the dams throughout the St. Croix watershed. During the April meeting the Commissioners asked that WCCOG Executive Director Judy East meet with Dean and apprise him of the project. Judy stated she and Dean Preston have talked. Dean is familiar with the proposed project and the purpose of the funds.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Economic Development Planning grant, #1903-02-EDP, request from Washington County Council of Governments for \$10,000.00 as presented. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

Susan presented a grant and loan request by Mark and Wesla Ranalli. The loan request is for \$100,000.00 and the grant request is for \$10,000.00. The Ranalli's own Big Lake RV Park and Campground. In 2014, the Ranalli's received a \$10,000.00 TIF planning grant to research the possibility of developing the RV park and campground on their farm in Big Lake Twp. The study showed favorable results. The Ranalli's have already invested approximately \$140,000.00 to date on equipment, site improvement, engineering, surveying, soil studies and permitting. They expect to have all permits in place by June of this year. More work is needed on the park but it will be ready for campers by the 2020 season. Commissioner Cassidy inquired what collateral will be held to secure the loan. Susan stated the County would hold collateral with 1st interest in machinery, equipment and real estate located in Big lake Twp. with a valuation of \$102,243.00. Since the Ranalli's do not expect to have the park up and running until 2020, they have requested to have payments deferred for one year. Susan noted the Loan Committee recommended approval of this loan with an interest-only payment for up to 18 months. The Grant Committee reviewed the grant application and recommended approval.

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***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the loan request, Loan #BLRVP-TIF-04-23-19, for Mark and Wesla Ranalli, DBA Big Lake RV Park and Campground, in the amount of \$100,000.00 as recommended by the Loan Committee. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the grant request, Grant #1904-02-NBT, for Mark and Wesla Ranalli, DBA Big Lake RV Park and Campground, in the amount of \$10,000.00 as**

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recommended by the Grant Committee. (Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0)

Susan Hatton gave the Commissioners an update on Harry Doughty, Woods & Waters Gunsmithing and Store (formerly Bold Coast Gunsmithing). Susan reports Mr. Doughty's business is gradually increasing and doing well.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT

4:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.