

July 9, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held July 9, 2020  
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Commissioner John Crowley  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Lillian Bowen, Downeast Lakes Land Trust  
Mike Crabtree, Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Curtis, Sheriff's Office  
Josh Rolfe, RCC  
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Sheriff's Office  
Rich Rolfe, Jail  
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA  
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories  
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer**

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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 June 11, 2020.  
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

Dean reported that he is actively seeking to fill two positions; one for the part-time Shellfish Warden position for 32 hours a week and the other for an on-call part-time Animal Control Officer position. These positions have been publicized, and all applications must be received no later than August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**47**

Dean reported on summer highway maintenance projects in progress:

- The Mitten Mountain Road Bridge Project in Centerville Township;
- Street naming and confirmation of addresses (E911)

July 9, 2020

- Paving operations throughout the U.T.

Dean stated seven snow removal contracts expired this spring. The contracts that will be put out to bid are:

- Contract #2: Marion Twp.
- Contract #3: Edmunds Twp.
- Contract #4: Brookton Twp.
- Contract #8: Lambert Lake Twp.

The UT will advertise for bids for these four contracts with a bid opening scheduled for August 12, 2020. Each contract will be officially awarded at the Commissioners' meeting on August 13, 2020.

Dean presented a Fire Protection Agreement for the Commissioners' approval. Under the agreement, the Wesley Fire Department would provide fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces to the municipalities of Day Block Twp., T26 ED, T30 MD, T37 MD, T36 MD, T24 MD (Rt. 9), and T25 MD. The term of the agreement is a five-year term covering the period of July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2024 for an annual compensation of \$1,000.00.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement between Wesley Fire Department and the Unorganized Territories as presented. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Program Administrator Susan Hatton presented a grant request from Downeast Lakes Land Trust for \$15,000.00. Lillian Bowen of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust was present to explain the funds will be used to install a bridge at the Getchell Pugs crossing. The bridge will ensure access to necessary natural resources that many local residents rely on for their businesses. Commissioner Gardner asked if the bridge use would cause any liability for the County. Dean Preston

48

responded that the County would have no ownership and assured the Commissioners there would be no issues concerning liability for the County.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the TIF grant request, grant # 2006-04-NBT, in the amount of \$15,000 for Downeast**

July 9, 2020

**Lakes Land Trust as presented. (Cassidy / Crowley, 3-0.)**

Ms. Hatton presented the recommendations from the Grant Committee regarding the Economic Development Implementation Grant Program and proof of residency. The first recommendation is to:

1. Eliminate the Economic Development Implementation Grant Program. This is the grant program that awards a \$10,000.00 grant (forgivable loan) to new or existing businesses in the U.T.

Commissioner Gardener commented that this recommendation made sense. Commissioner Crowley made a motion to adopt the recommendation and Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion. The motion was then withdrawn so as to make one decision on all recommendations combined.

2. Proof of residency. To establish residency, two documents that display the applicant's name and current complete physical address must be provided and may include but are not limited to:
  - Tax return, W-2 form, or paycheck stub
  - An unexpired Maine License or ID card with physical address
  - Tax bill
  - Utility bill or letter from a utility company showing application for service
  - Contract in applicant's name - mortgage agreement, lease/rental agreement, insurance policy, insurance ID card, SR22 (time limitations may apply)
  - Certain documents issued by government entities
  - Maine resident hunting and/or fishing license
3. Businesses must be located in the U.T. If a business moves or closes, the loan must be repaid. Long-haul truckers and fishermen may use their established UT residence as the location of their business.

**49**

Ms. Hatton stated the committee felt these guidelines should be sufficient. Dean Preston added that the model of Real ID for Maine was used. Dean stated the part-time residency is not a concern as long as the business is in the U.T. If the business moves or closes, the loan must be repaid in full. Commissioner Gardner stated that was fair and reasonable.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept and adopt the recommendations presented regarding the Economic Development**

July 9, 2020

**Implementation Grant Program and Proof of Residency as  
presented in its entirety.  
(Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

The Commissioners recognize the recommendations to these guidelines are a work in progress and will revisit the guidelines if necessary. Commissioner Gardner stated it is good to see as many businesses be able to get a start as possible.

Ms. Hatton requested the Commissioners review the application from Benjamin Robinson for a \$40,000.00 loan to purchase a fishing vessel, and an economic development implementation forgivable loan for \$10,000.00 to purchase a lobster boat, traps and gear. Ms. Hatton noted this request was presented at the last meeting but was tabled until the guidelines for residency could be established. Ms. Hatton stated that since those guidelines have been established and approved by the Commissioners today, she asked the Commissioners to reconsider Mr. Robinson's request. Ms. Hatton stated Mr. Robinson has provided what is needed to prove his residency in Edmunds; a pay stub and a truck and trailer registration. Dean Preston questioned whether Mr. Robinson would qualify for the EDI Grant for \$10,000.00 since a change to that program has just been adopted. Commissioner Gardner suggested that Mr. Robinson would be eligible to increase the loan request to \$50,000.00 in recognition of the fact that his request has been in limbo. Ms. Hatton asked that the Commissioners authorized a pre-approval of the loan for up to \$50,000.00 as long as the value of the vessel and equipment is there. Commissioner Gardner stated the Board of Commissioners need to know the value of the vessel. Commissioner Crowley suggested a survey be required if the purchase price of the vessel is above \$25,000.00; for a purchase price under \$25,000.00, an appraisal would suffice.

50

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the loan request for Ben Robinson, loan #BR-TIF-04-26-20, for up to \$50,000.00 with the stipulation that a survey is required if the purchase price of the vessel is over \$25,000; an opinion/appraisal will be satisfactory for a purchase price under \$25,000.00. (Crowley / Cassidy, 3-0.)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

July 9, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:30 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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