

September 14, 2017

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held September 14, 2017  
in the Washington County Probate 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, Administration  
Reid Albee, County Wide  
Brad Warner, Lil' Buddy Farm, Cathance Twp.  
Joyce Maker, Calais  
Michael Hinerman, Emergency Management Agency  
Sharon D. Strout, Registry of Deeds  
Gretchen Cherry, Washington County Cooperative Extension  
Robert Judd, Lubec  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator  
Susan Hatton, Sunrise County Economic Development  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Josh Rolfe, Regional Communications Center  
Matt Foster, District Attorney  
Barry Curtis, Sheriff  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Carlene Holmes, Registry of Probate**

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Prior to the start of the Unorganized Territories meeting, the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for Washington County for F/Y 2018 was held. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald and the Budget Advisory Committee members convened to elect a chairperson and schedule BAC meetings to be held. Upon Betsy Fitzgerald's return, the Unorganized Territories meeting was called to order at 4:37.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of August 10, 2017  
(Crowley/Cassidy, 2-0-1)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

Unorganized Territories Supervisor Dean Preston's monthly report was submitted and accepted under the gavel. (See attached)

September 14, 2017

In Dean's absence County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald presented a fire protection agreement for the Commissioners' approval. The agreement is for fire protection services in Kossuth Twp. provided by the Springfield Volunteer Fire Department. The agreement is a three-year agreement beginning date effective June 10, 2017 with an annual compensation amount of \$4500.00.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement as presented. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

Betsy pointed out several key points Dean wanted her to share with the Commissioners.

- The U.T. office has been contacted by the Town of Topsfield for possible coverage for Animal Control. Dean plans to reach out to Topsfield for a possible agreement. U.T. currently provides Cooper with this service and will continue to take any opportunity to grow this service.
- Seasonal cemetery maintenance has come to a close. Each cemetery is prepared for the winter season.
- The U.T. office is expanding the current solid waste permit program. The program allows Dean to track volume at each of the nine transfer stations that U.T. currently utilizes. Dean has recently had detailed discussions with the Marion Transfer Station concerning the amount of money the organization has in revenues compared to its expenses. At their board meeting Dean made suggestions to the Marion Transfer Station regarding strategic planning, earmarking money for specific purposes and create a series of reserve accounts to hold such funds. He suggested a process to reduce the tipping fees as a matter of good business while still allowing a margin of revenue that would be plenty to invest in identified capital projects in the future. Commissioner Gardner expanded on this issue by stating Marion Transfer Station has a large amount in the bank right now. By consensus, the Commissioners agree that Marion Transfer Station needs to consider lowering the rates they are charging the citizens of the U.T.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Grant Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached. Grant updates were provided and accepted under the gavel.

September 14, 2017

Program Manager Susan Hatton presented a TIF loan request from Brad Warner, Lil' Buddy Farm. The purpose of the loan is to replace the farm water supply by drilling a well and installing a new pump. Ms. Hatton explained that one of the farms' shallow wells went dry last summer and the deep well can no longer keep up the water demand. The requested loan amount is for \$11,000.00. The loan term is five years. Ms. Hatton stated there are two collateral options. One option is for the County to hold 2<sup>nd</sup> position collateral on a 2010 Polar Craft pleasure/sport boat and business assets valuing \$9,000.00. The other option would be to modify the current TIF loan which Mr. Warner received in 2014 with an outstanding amount of \$4,000.00. The Commissioners agreed that either option is acceptable.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve TIF Loan #BW-TIF-09-06-17 for Brad Warner, Lil' Buddy Farm, as presented.  
Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

The Commissioners reviewed the two grant updates submitted in the TIF report.

Commissioner Gardner asked why the progress on Mike Griffin's trap shop is lingering. Ms. Hatton stated the work is progressing and reminded the Commissioners they had given Mr. Griffin an extension on the completion date set.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:50 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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