

October 8, 2020

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
Held October 8, 2020  
in the Washington County Superior Courtroom  
Machias, Maine**

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**Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher Gardner  
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Carla Manchester, Administrative Assistant  
Susan Hatton, SCEC  
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories  
Lynn Dwelley, WNEMA  
Jill C. Holmes, Treasurer  
Carly DelSignore, Edmunds Twp.  
Aaron Bell, Edmunds Twp.  
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy  
Josh Rolfe, RCC Director  
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator**

**Commissioner John Crowley was not present.**

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Budget Advisory Committee met at 1 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom. Commissioner Gardner reported the BAC set the budget as it was presented to them. The budget will officially be presented back to the Commissioners at their November meeting.

**Approval of the U.T. meeting minutes of September 10, 2020  
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

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

Dean stated the new U.T. Fiscal Administrator is Nancy Bodine.

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Dean noted the proposed U.T. budget for FY 2021-22 will be presented to the Commissioners for their review at the November Commissioners' meeting. The Public Hearing for the proposed budget will be held at the December Commissioners' meeting.

Dean reported that the Animal Control Officer has been busy but the activity is standard for this time of year.

Dean reported on the current highway maintenance operations. Dean stated the Mitten Mountain Road bridging project in Centerville Twp. is ongoing and good progress is being made. Dean also listed the current paving operations throughout the U.T. Those paving projects are on Tide Mill Road in Edmunds Twp. and on Timber Cove Road, Crows Neck Road, and Wilcox Road in Trescott Twp.

Dean reported the U.T. Office continues to prepare the Application for Septage Land Site for approval for the Marion Site. Dean stated the process has been a challenge to work through due to COVID-19. Dean reported the Cathance Site is open and functioning for the 2020 season with no issues.

Dean reported signing a Versant Power Authorization form for a property in the Unorganized Territories. This form is needed when power is being established on a property and it confirms that the property does not sit in a subdivision.

Dean stated he has five fire protection agreements and seven snow removal contracts for the Commissioners consideration.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with East Machias Fire Department for fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces to serve the municipalities of Berry Twp., T19 ED and Marion Twp. (Gardner's Lake side) for a term beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025 for the annual compensation of \$2000.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

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**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with Whiting Fire Department for fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces to serve the municipalities of Trescott Twp. (west Wilcox Road) and Edmunds Twp. (Tide Mill Road) for a term beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025 for the annual compensation of

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\$2000.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with Lubec Fire Department for fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces to serve the municipality of Trescott Twp. for a term beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025 for the annual compensation of \$3000.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with Dennys River Volunteer Fire Department for fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces to serve the municipalities of Cathance Twp., Edmunds Twp., Marion Twp. and Twp. 19 ED for a term beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025 for the annual compensation of \$13,500.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

Commissioner Gardner asked why the annual compensation for the Dennys River Volunteer Fire Department agreement was considerably more than the rest. Dean responded that the agreement with Dennys River Volunteer Fire Department has been the same for the past twenty years and has a much larger coverage area.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with Grand Lake Stream Fire Department for fire-fighting services and accident/injury responding forces to serve the municipalities of Greenlaw Chopping Twp. (Musquash Stream north), T6 ND, T6 R1, T43 MD, T42 MD, Sakom Twp., T36 MD (Studmill Road north), and T37 MD (Studmill Road north) for a term beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025 for the annual compensation of \$1,500.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

The following motions are for Snow Removal Contracts. All contracts

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descriptions include snow removal, and to properly sand and control ice that accumulates from sleet, freezing rain and snowfall on designated sections of roadways.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for Snow Removal Contract #1 to Hallowell Construction to serve the municipality of Trescott Twp. for a term beginning October 15, 2020 and ending May 15, 2024 for the annual compensation of \$82,600.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

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**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for Snow Removal Contract #2 to Brown's Logging and Construction to serve the municipalities of Marion Twp., Cathance Twp. and Berry Twp. for a term beginning October 15, 2020 and ending May 15, 2024 for the annual compensation of \$48,125.00.  
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for Snow Removal Contract #3 to Brown's Logging and Construction to serve the municipalities of Edmunds Twp., Marion Twp., and Cathance Twp. for a term beginning October 15, 2020 and ending May 15, 2024 for the annual compensation of \$54,075.00.  
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

The one and only bid for Snow Removal Contract #4 was originally rejected because the bid was too costly. The Commissioners authorized Dean to solicit and negotiate for a better price. Dean was able to negotiate with the same bidder for a much more reasonable bid. The first bid was for \$92,250.00 and was decreased to \$67,925.00.

**MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for Snow Removal Contract #4 to Christopher White to serve the municipalities of Brookton Twp., Forest City Twp. and Forest Twp. for a term beginning October 15, 2020 and ending May 15, 2024 for the annual compensation of \$67,925.00.  
(Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

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**MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for Snow Removal Contract #7 to Dan Bailey to serve the municipality of Greenlaw Chopping Twp. for a term beginning October 15, 2020 and ending May 15, 2024 for the annual compensation of \$13,000.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

**MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for Snow Removal Contract #8 to Russell's Snow Removal to serve the municipality of Lambert Lake Twp. for a term beginning October 15, 2020 and ending May 15, 2024 for the annual compensation of \$6,148.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

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**MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to award the bid for Snow Removal Contract #10 to County Concrete & Asphalt to serve the municipality of Centerville Twp. for a term beginning October 15, 2020 and ending May 15, 2024 for the annual compensation of \$26,000.00. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Committee Update**

A report was submitted and is attached.

Ms. Hatton presented a loan request for Aaron Bell and Carly DelSignore, DBA Tide Mill Organic Farm, LLC. The purpose of the revolving loan will be to upgrade their current chicken processing facility, to repair existing forestry equipment and to use funds for working capital. Thirteen people are currently employed by Tide Mill Organic Farms to work at the chicken processing facility. They have 65 wholesale accounts and have three contract growers who provide live chickens for processing and selling. Needing to meet the demand for product, Aaron and Carly are requesting \$40,000.00 to build and improve their production facilities so they will be able to raise more chickens. Aaron has taken over the management of the forestry plan for Tide Mill Farms. Aaron currently has about 3,000 cords of wood that need to be cut and knows other landowners in need of wood harvesting to satisfy their management plans. Aaron is requesting \$70,000.00 for the repair of forestry equipment. The amount of \$11,000.00 is being requested for working capital. The collateral for the loan includes 2<sup>nd</sup> security interest in real estate, 1<sup>st</sup> security interest on the wood harvester, and the collateral that was used for

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the first loan. Commissioner Gardner stated Aaron Bell and Carly DelSignore have done well so far and expects they will continue to do well within the constraints of the TIF program.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the revolving loan request, #TMO-TIF-09-15-20, for Tide Mill Organic Farm, LLC in the amount of \$121,000.00 as presented. (Cassidy / Gardner, 2-0-1.)

Ms. Hatton reported on the Dennysville Snowmobile & ATV Club. Ms. Hatton stated the Club has been extremely busy and has had a great year. The Club has sponsored many fund-raisers and activities that has brought business into Washington County. The Club has been able to pay the loan off for the UTV four years early.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:15 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.