

December 12, 2019

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners'
Public Meeting on the U.T Budget for FY 2020-2021
held December 12, 2019
in the Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine**

**Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher Gardner
Commissioner John Crowley, Sr.
Commissioner Vinton Cassidy
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Carla Manchester, Administration
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Susan Hatton, SCEC
Eileen Simpson, RCC
Dean Preston, Unorganized Territories
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
David Bibber, Charlotte
Bill Jones, Charlotte
Michael Brooks, Jail**

Commissioner Gardner called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. on the proposed fiscal year 2020/21 UT Budget.

U.T. Supervisor Dean Preston presented a 2020-21 UT Budget Analysis for the Commissioners information. (See attached) The analysis provides a line item breakdown for each account.

Dean stated there is an increase in the FY 20-21 budget. The percentage by which it increases is going to be impacted by the replacement of the Kaylor Stream Bridge. Estimates for the Kaylor Bridge replacement was \$22,400 for engineering and \$350,000.00 to build the bridge. The UT budget increase without the replacement cost of the bridge is 3.3%. The increase with the total cost being absorbed in one year will be 29%. Commissioner Gardner's concern was what the impact on the taxes would be if the bridge was funded in one fiscal year. Dean stated funds from the Capital Account would need to be used; authorization would be needed to move the funds from the Highways line to the Bridge Reserve line. Commissioner Gardner inquired about the

Municipal Cost and the State Cost and again pondered if it would be best to spread that cost out over three years. Dean stated he would

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prefer to fund the cost for the one year and be done with it.

Commissioner Cassidy asked what the trend was for yearly budget increases or decreases. Dean stated the budget is fairly solid from year to year. Dean did point out that there has been an increase in services and there will be more going forward. Dean noted specifically the increased Animal Control Officer services.

Dean stated the proposed budget will be forwarded to the Unorganized Territories Fiscal Administrator. In February it will go before the Legislature. At that point Dean will give a brief presentation and defend his budget. Dean stated he will then bring the budget back to the Commissioners if there are any changes needed. Dean requested the Commissioners accept the F/Y 2020-21 UT Budget as presented.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the F/Y 2020/2021 UT Budget in the amount of \$1,348,371.00 as presented. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.**

Three original copies of the Budget were signed.

Adjournment 4:10 p.m.

**Attest: _____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.**