

January 6, 2011

Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
held January 6, 2011
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner
Commissioner Kevin L. Shorey
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Gail Popham, Administration
Donnie Smith, Sheriff
Mike St. Louis, Chief Deputy
Robert Gross, Jail Administrator
David Brown, Jail
Mary Zidalis, Jail
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Karen Redman, RCC
Diane Smith-Halkett, SCEC - TIF Administrator
Eleody Libby, WC: OC
Trevor Hold, Wesley
Nancy Oden, MVNO and CEF
Phil Duggan, DECP
Wayne & Sandra Jones, Trescott Twp.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the November Regular Commissioners Meeting
Minutes (November 4, 2010)

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to approve the November
Commissioners Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner
Gardner seconded the motion. Commissioner Crowley abstained
and the motion passed.

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AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the December Public Hearing Minutes on the FY 2011 County Budget (December 2, 2010)

MOTION Commissioner Shorey move to approve the December Public Hearing Minutes as presented. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion. Commissioner Gardner abstained and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided monthly reports in their meeting packets. (See attached)

Sheriff Smith highlighted that Deputy Tim Tabbutt and Chief Deputy Mike St. Louis were honored to be among the escorts of the "Wreathes Across America" convoy from Washington County to Washington, D.C.

Sheriff Smith then told the Commissioners that he had filed suit against the MDEA. Apparently, \$3,000 "buy" money went missing from the local field office and an officer paid it back. He tried to get more information and MDEA claimed it was confidential. They have 21 days to respond. Some discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of his actions.

AGENDA ITEM: Sign Six-Month Certificates

Six-Month Certificates were signed for Christopher Correll and Nathan Phelps.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Status Change Notices

It was agreed by consensus to sign the payroll change notices for Larry Hayward to be reclassified as an ECS and Joshua Rolfe to be promoted to Operational Supervisor in the RCC.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Karen Redman from temporary full-time ECS to permanent full-time ECS. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Ryan Murry from temporary full-time ECS to permanent full-time ECS. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

It was agreed by consensus to sign the payroll change notice for Mike Crabtree as he has resigned the Supervisor position with the MDEA.

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MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the resignation without prejudice of Deputy Dennis Dorsey. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Appointment of County Manager as Deputy Treasurer. Betsy explained that this was at the recommendation of Treasurer Jill Holmes and is meant to be used as a safety gap in the event Jill is unavailable.

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to appoint County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald as Deputy Treasurer. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discussion turned to the terminations of Brian Albee and Heather Gibson because of budgetary constraints. Commissioner Gardner wanted everyone to know that the Commissioners and the Budget Committee had agonized over this. He said the County needed to work leaner and both were being laid off because of the constraints. Both did a fine job while they were here and they will be given strong recommendations.

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to sign the payroll change notice terminating Brian Albee noting it was due to the budget. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to sign the payroll change notice terminating Heather Gibson noting it was due to the budget. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of naming "Baltic Island" in Barrows Lake in Alexander

After a short discussion, County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald suggested the Commissioners give the name their blessing by recognizing it in a motion.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to officially recognize the name "Baltic Island" in Barrows Lake in Alexander. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement Hearing

It was agreed to schedule the Tax Abatement Hearing for one hour before the next Commissioners' meeting to be held February 3, 2011.

AGENDA ITEM: MCCA County Survey

The County Manager explained that she had received a survey from the Maine County Commissioners Association asking 1) if the County had any interest in providing a number of services other entities now perform and if so, was the interest high, moderate, low or non-existent.

Rural Patrol: high, with funding.

Tax assessing: low interest.

Tax collecting: no interest.

General assistance: no interest.

Animal control: no interest.

Solid waste/recycling: high interest.

Human resources for municipalities: no interest.

Human services for the State: no interest.

Back office support for schools: no interest.

Snowplowing: moderate interest.

Road maintenance: moderate interest.

IT services for municipalities: would municipalities want such assistance?

LURC: high interest.

Code enforcement: moderate interest

Vital records: no interest.

Public Health: no interest.

The second part of the survey asked to what extent the County would be willing to become involved. The Commissioners agreed to reach out to municipal officials to gauge their interest and assign someone on county staff to explore it further. There was a limited discussion regarding participation in a pilot project.

Betsy noted that MCCA's next meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2011.

Financial Accountant, Judy Alexander, asked the Commissioners to set the overlay of \$23,919.00 to take the place of unpaid taxes.

***MOTION* Commissioner Gardner moved to set the overlay at \$23,919.00. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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At the end of the meeting, Commissioner Gardner took issue with the headline in the Downeast Coastal Press regarding the County's employees' insurance. Commissioner Crowley noted the pay scale here in Washington County is relatively low and Commissioner Shorey noted that people had to look at the entire package. Commissioner Gardner stated that the cost of wages has taxes attached to it where the insurance benefit does not. In the end, he noted the County has a lower operating budget than last year.

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405-A 6 A(3) regarding a personnel issue. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 5:10 p.m.

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

No discussion or motions were made after Executive Session.

Adjournment
5:40 p.m.

Attest:

Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.