

October 13, 2011

Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
held October 13, 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  
Dean Preston, UT Supervisor  
Gail Popham, Administration  
Donnie Smith, Sheriff  
Robert Gross, Jail Administrator  
Mary Zidalis, Jail  
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds  
Darlene Wallace, Deeds  
Carlene Holmes, Probate  
Mike Hinerman, EMA  
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant  
Carletta Bassano, District Attorney  
Joelle Pratt, DA's Office  
Susan Spencer, DA's Office  
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds  
Sara McConnell, WC:OC  
Harold Clossey, SCEC  
Kenny Daye, SCEC  
Phil Duggan, DECP  
Sharon Mack, BDN  
Mike Crabtree, MDEA  
Ben Fritz, East Machias  
Emily Sanders, Machiasport  
Andy Hutnik, Jonesport  
Donald C. Woodward, Jonesport

---

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the September Regular Commissioners Meeting  
Minutes (September 8, 2011)

\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the September Regular  
Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Shorey seconded  
the motion which passed unanimously.

October 13, 2011

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports**

The Commissioners were provided monthly reports in their meeting packets. (See attached) No Department Head had anything to add.

**AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Status Change Notices**

The resignation of Alicia Sprowl was accepted by consensus.

The resignation of Michael Crabtree was accepted by consensus with prejudice. Commissioner Gardner retracted and tabled this item.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Susan Spencer as a full-time Administrative Assistant in the Machias DA's office. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Dylan Troiani, Emily Sanders and Ben Fritz as part-time Correctons Officers. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

It was noted that they are not to work more than 32 hours per week except during training or in an emergency.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to grant Dave Brown's request for an Unpaid Leave of Absence until January 6, 2012. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: Certification/Acceptance of the National Correctional Employees Union and the Fraternal Order of Police as bargaining units for Corrections, Dispatch and Patrol Deputies**

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to certify and accept the NCEU and FOP as the new bargaining units for employees in those departments. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: Schedule one tax abatement hearing**

The Commissioners agreed to schedule a tax abatement hearing on the date of their next scheduled meeting, November 10, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM: Discussion regarding the steps in front of the Sheriff's Office**

October 13, 2011

The Commissioners were informed that the steps in front of the Sheriff's Office are falling away from the building. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated there may be some funding available. Commissioner Crowley stated that the County should get estimates and Commissioner Gardner noted the need to reach out for expertise. Hugh French's name was suggested. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to have Betsy investigate the matter.

**AGENDA ITEM: Award Propane and Heating Oil bid**

Two bids were received out of six solicited. They were from Dead River Co. and R. H. Foster. As per the County Manager's recommendation,

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to award the propane bid to Dead River Co. at District Landed cost + Margin \$2.0773 per gallon. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to award the heating oil bid to R. H. Foster at the fixed price of \$3.085 per gallon. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: Electrifying discussion**

The Commissioners were provided a chart showing the costs of electricity produced by both Freedom Energy Logistics (FEL) and Bangor Hydro Electric (BHE). FEL is able to produce electricity at a lower cost. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to have FEL produce the electricity for the Courthouse complex and still have BHE deliver the electricity.

The reference materials were noted. Betsy noted that the Northern Border Environmental Impact Statement is a document that would preclude the need for full environmental impact studies when further work was done along the border.

Commissioner Gardner addressed the audience on a proposal from Augusta to close the Down East Corrections Facility (DECF) in Bucks Harbor. Discussion was had regarding the State's efforts to consolidate the Department of Corrections' facilities. The consensus was that Augusta is not making good choices where rural Maine is concerned. All three Commissioners, the Sheriff and Jail Administrator were against this proposal.

October 13, 2011

\*MOTION\* Commissioner Shorey moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405-A 6 (3) to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 5:04 p.m.

\*MOTION\* Commissioner Gardner moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 5:34 p.m.

\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to terminate Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Jim Lucas effective immediately. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adjournment 5:35 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.