

December 2, 2010

**Minutes of the Public Hearing
Regarding the F/Y 2011 County Budget
held December 2, 2010
in the Commissioners' Conference Room
Machias, Maine**

The hearing convened at 4:08 p.m.

Attending the hearing were:

Commissioner Kevin L. Shorey
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager
Gail Popham, Administration
Dean Preston, UT Supervisor
Donnie Smith, Sheriff
Mike St. Louis, Chief Deputy
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds
Sharon D. Strout, Register of Deeds
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge, Budget Committee
Diane Smith-Halkett, SCEC - TIF Administrator
Eleody Libby, WC:OC
Ann Hayward, DA's Office
Deb Eckard, Cooperative Extension Office
Nate Pennell, WC Soil & Water & DE RC&D
Trevor Hold, Wesley
Kathleen Caso, Calais
Richard Clock, Calais
Lora Whelan, The Quoddy Tides

Commissioner Gardner was unable to attend.

Commissioner Shorey opened the hearing at 4:08 p.m. His opening comments summarize the 2011 budget development work. It had been very difficult this year and a challenge. He thanked the Budget Advisory Committee and the Treasurer's office for all their hard

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work. He went on to list the negatives and positives, one highlight mentioned was the agencies in the County provide millions of dollars of services to the people of Washington County.

When asked for public comment, Kathleen Caso asked why there was a shortfall, how it would be covered and when would the public be informed. Commissioner Shorey responded that there is a shortfall because of a loss of revenue from the State, adding two new positions in dispatch because of the Calais closure and surplus monies from the years before had been used to buy two buildings and a lot. He said it would have to be covered by raising taxes and the new State valuation numbers would be available from the State by the end of January, 2011. Citizens could find out this information from their town. Ms. Caso then asked why TIF money couldn't be used to which Commissioner Shorey replied that those monies are directed by law and only in the UT.

With nothing further,

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to accept and sign the F/Y 2011 County Budget. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

4:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.