

December 8, 2011

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
held December 8, 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
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Mary Zidalis, Jail
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Judy East, WCCOG
Bob Tyler, Indian Twp.
Ken Daye, SCEC
Val Atwood, Archives Committee
Nancy Oden, CEF
Lora Whalen, Quoddy Tides
Phil Duggan, DECP

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of November Regular Commissioners Meeting
Minutes (November 10, 2011)**

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the November Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion. Commissioner Gardner abstained as he had not been there. The motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided monthly reports in their meeting packets. (See attached) Mary Zidalis was in attendance for Jail Administrator Bob Gross. She asked permission to request bids for a new van for the Jail. The Commissioners agreed to this by consensus.

At this time, Commissioner Gardner advised that he was going to move to agenda item "g.", CDBG grant sponsorship request. Bob Tyler, representing the Passamaquoddy Tribe stated that the Tribe wanted to

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apply for a CDBG grant to construct a sand/salt shed next to the Transfer Station on Route 1 in Indian Twp. He noted that the Tribe had given \$1.2 million to the DOT this year. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Commissioners have always supported grants for the Tribe in the past.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to formally support the Passamaquoddy Tribe in their application for a CDBG grant to construct a sand/salt shed next to the transfer station on Route 1 in Indian Twp.

It was asked if they needed a Letter of Intent to which Mr. Tyler responded that yes, they would need a signature.

Commissioner Gardner added a friendly amendment noting that the County Manager was authorized to sign said Letter of Intent. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of EMA Mutual Aid Agreement Renewal (5 year)

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the Renewal of the EMA Mutual Aid Agreement for 5 years. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Sign Six Month Certificate

A Six Month Certificate was signed for Evan Ackley.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Status Change Notices

The resignations of Dylan Trioni and Duane McLellan as part-time Corrections Officers and Jennie Stoddard as part-time Cook were accepted by consensus and without prejudice.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley move to hire Mike Prenier as a full-time Maintenance/Custodial Worker. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to promote Philip Ray from Corrections Officer to Corporal Corrections Officer.

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AGENDA ITEM: Sign Tax Abatement Decision

In the matter of Fred and Cynthia Hirning vs. the Town of Roque Bluffs, the petition is denied and the decision signed.

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation of draft Non-Fraternization Policy

The Commissioners agreed to discuss this next month.

AGENDA ITEM: Further discussion - County Board of Assessment Review

The County Manager presented the Commissioners with information for their consideration regarding establishment of a County Board of Assessment Review. This Board would take over the Commissioners' duty of holding tax abatement hearings. Commissioner Shorey had expressed interest and he also said that Commissioner Gardner had also expressed interest. After consideration, Commissioner Shorey now stated that he thought this was part of a Commissioner's job. Commissioner Crowley noted that he wondered who would the board members possibly be. It was decided to table the matter.

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule 2012 Commissioners' meeting dates

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to hold the regular meetings the second Thursday of each month.

Commissioner Gardner added that he would like to have a list of what committees each Commissioner is a member of by the January 12, 2012 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Authorization to purchase large document scanner

Val Atwood, Chair of the Archives Committee, told the Commissioners that a grant had been awarded to the Machias Historical Society for the purchase of a large document scanner. The scanner would be housed at the Courthouse and as soon as it is ready, will be used to preserve the "Eastport Sentinel" newspapers. The scanner will also be available for the Deeds Office to use. Commissioner Gardner asked Registrar of Deeds, Sharon Strout, if her office would be able to maintain the machine. Sharon replied that she wasn't sure but would find out.

***MOTION* Commissioner Shorey moved to accept and award the bid of \$19,632.00 to AMS Imaging for a large document scanner. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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Commissioner Gardner noted that two items of reference material were included in the Commissioners packets. One was a letter addressed to the Passamaquoddy Tribe's attorney addressing the Tribe's unpaid invoices for county services. The second was an estimate from G. Drake Masonry for the repair of the steps in front of the Courthouse and Sheriff's Office. The bid being fairly high, the Commissioners advised County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to continue researching the matter.

Commissioner Gardner let the audience know that the LURC Reform Commission had concluded their meetings and would be reporting to the Legislature on December 15, 2011 their recommendations that the Agency remain in place but change the make-up of its board members.

***MOTION* Commissioner Shorey moved to adjourn the meeting.
Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed
unanimously.**

Adjournment 5:22 p.m.

**Attest: _____
Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.**