

December 8, 2011

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners
Public Hearing on the F/Y 2012 County Budget
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
Carlene Holmes, Register of Probate
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge, BAC
Ken Daye, SCEC
Judy East, WCCOG
Bob Tyler, Indian Twp.
Deb Eckart, Extension Service
Val Atwood, Archives Committee
Michael F. Prenier, Pembroke
Nancy Oden, CEF
Lora Whalen, Quoddy Tides
Phil Duggan, DECP

Commissioner Gardner called the hearing to order at 4:17 p.m. and noted this was a Public Hearing on the proposed F/Y 2012 County Budget.

Commissioner Gardner thanked Lewis Pinkham for acting as Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). He noted that the Commissioners had always accepted the Budget as recommended by the BAC.

Lewis thanked the Commissioners for attending the BAC meetings and noted that the process was painstaking but that he was pleased with everyone's efforts.

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Commissioner Gardner noted that the Commissioners were proud of the BAC. He said the County will do its best to provide services but 2012 will be a tight year. Commissioner Shorey stated that the BAC had had a daunting task and he thanked Lewis Pinkham, Chair of the BAC, for his efforts. Commissioner Crowley echoed the sentiments and thanked Lewis for his leadership and guidance.

With that,

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to set the overlay at ½% in the amount of \$21,132,00. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

More discussion was had regarding the economy, the services the County provides to its citizens, the employees who work for the County, the health insurance costs and what the future might hold. Commissioner Shorey noted that it will probably be tight for a few years. With that,

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to accept the F/Y 2012 County Budget in the amount of \$5,727,601.75 with the amount of \$4,847,239.75 to be raised through taxation. This would include the overlay of ½%. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The hearing was closed at 4:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

4:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.