

December 8, 2011

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held December 8, 2011  
in the Commissioners Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

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**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  
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

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After the two Public Hearings, the regular UT portion of the meeting continued.

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

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to approved the November Regular UT Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion. Commissioner Gardner abstained as he had not been present. The motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

(See attached) UT supervisor Dean Preston had a prior commitment and left the meeting.

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**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Loan Committee update**

Ken Daye, TIF administrator of SCEC, stated that the Grant Committee is recommending two applications for final consideration by the Commissioners.

The first application is from Tide Mill Creamery which is a home-based business owned by Rachel Bell and Ethan Bien. Their cheese and yogurt production has gained popularity and recognition over the past year and demand is at or above current production capabilities. They would like to increase production and storage space, upgrade equipment and address workflow issues in order to expand and become profitable. The project budget is \$62,753.00 and the amount they are requesting is \$19,675.00. This money would fund a commercial pasteurizer, a commercial dish washer, improve sanitation and construction to expand. Commissioner Shorey asked where the source of the balance needed would come from. Ken replied that the owners would be personally investing their own money. Discussion followed regarding whether the Grant Committee was satisfied that the owners had the money and there was demand for the increased production. County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald assured the Commissioners that they did. Some concern was also raised by Commissioner Shorey as to whether the Commissioners were presented enough information to vote on the application.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Shorey moved to approve the grant, #1112-11CF, to Tide Mill Creamery from the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$19,675.00, contingent upon the Commissioners being provided more information prior to any funds being released. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The second application was from UT Supervisor Dean Preston. Dean would like to assess whether an animal shelter would be feasible to construct and provide services to the surrounding unorganized territories and municipalities. The Public Works garage property in Marion, already owned by the UT, would be the site of said facility. A significant amount of research and planning will determine if this concept can be economically viable. Discussion followed regarding whether this idea met TIF guidelines, it being a "government" job that would be potentially created.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Shorey moved to table this application until the next meeting as it was decided Dean needed to be here to**

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**explain it further. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

Judy East wondered if there was any movement on the idea of using TIF monies for municipalities other than unorganized territories. Commissioner Gardner responded no, that money raised in the UT had to be spent in the UT. He stated that Washington County is trying to be creative, noting the cell phone towers endeavor. He said that they all agree that if the money could be used county wide, a lot could be done.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:55 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.**