

February 3, 2011

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
held February 3, 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
Donnie Smith, Sheriff
Mike St. Louis, Chief Deputy
Robert Gross, Jail Administrator
Mary Zidalis, Jail
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Richard Moore, RCC
Dennis Perry, RCC
Eileen Alley, Jail
Crystal Sanborn, Cutler
Diane Smith-Halkett, SCEC - TIF Administrator
Phil Duggan, DECP
Sharon Mack, BDN

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the January Regular Commissioners Meeting Minutes (January 6, 2011)

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to approve the January Commissioners Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided monthly reports in their meeting packets. (See attached)

February 3, 2011

EMA Director Mike Hinerman wanted to notify the Commissioners that the disaster declaration for the December storms had been granted and that an initial briefing by FEMA would be February 10, 2011 at the 28 Center Street conference room.

Commissioner Gardner noted that he would be writing a letter to Governor LePage thanking him for his intervention on behalf of Washington County as the County had first been denied. He said the people's representatives had done an excellent job to help turn this around so Washington County could get the assistance it needed.

AGENDA ITEM: Sign Six-Month Certificates

Six-Month Certificates were signed for Ryan Murry, Karen Redman, Mary Lou Huntley and Albert Alley.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Status Change Notices

It was agreed by consensus to sign the payroll change notice for Edward Southard without prejudice as he had resigned. Commissioner Gardner noted that the County wishes him well. He also noted that the amount of sick time paid may need to be revisited to check Union contract limitations

It was agreed by consensus to sign the payroll change notice for R. Lester Seeley as he is retiring. Commissioner Gardner noted that Lester served the County well for decades and would be missed and the Commissioners wished him well.

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Eileen Alley from part-time to full-time Corrections Officer. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Crystal Sanborn as a part-time Cook. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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

***MOTION* Commissioner Shorey moved to hire Richard Moore and Dennis Perry from regular ECSSs to Shift Supervisors (on opposite shifts) in the RCC. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

February 3, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of changing Commissioners Meeting dates

A request had been made to change the Commissioner's meeting dates to the second Thursday of the month. It was agreed by consensus to move the meetings to the second Thursday of each month, the next two noted would be March 10 and April 14, 2011. The Commissioners asked that the information please be posted on the website.

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement Hearing

As the Grievance hearing held this day at 3:00 p.m. had not been completed and was tabled, it was agreed to reconvene it one hour prior to the next regular meeting at 3:00 p.m., March 10, 2011. It was agreed to schedule the two Tax Abatement Hearings prior to that Grievance hearing, one at 1:00 p.m. and one at 2:00 p.m. March 10, 2011.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of County Tax Assessment and 2011 interest rate

Some discussion was had regarding the State valuation, the impact a 7% interest rate may or may not have, State valuations since 2003 (more than doubled in some towns) and its effects on school subsidies.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to set the mil rate for County taxes at .001355181. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to set the interest rate on County taxes at 6%. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of carryover accounts from 2010 to 2011

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve all carryover and capital outlays as delineated in the total amount of \$476,354.34. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRS § 405-A 6 A(3) regarding a personnel issue. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 5:26 p.m.

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

February 3, 2011

No discussion or motions were made after Executive Session.

Adjournment
6:00 p.m.

Attest:

Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.