

April 14, 2011

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held April 14, 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  
Dean Preston, UT Supervisor  
Gail Popham, Administration  
Ryan Pelletier, Local Workforce Investment Board  
Mike St. Louis, Chief Deputy  
Robert Gross, Jail Administrator  
Mary Zidalis, Jail  
Mike Hinerman, EMA  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant  
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds  
Darlene Wallace, Deeds  
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds  
Joshua Rolfe, RCC  
Samantha Young, Eastport  
Michael Congelosi, Machias  
Allen D. Rolfe, Jail  
Harold Clossey, SCEC  
Diane Smith-Halkett, SCEC - TIF Administrator  
Eleody Libby, WC:OC  
Nancy Oden, Clean Earth Farms  
Andrew W. Hatnik, Jr., Jonesport

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Commissioner Gardner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted that the first item on the agenda was a presentation on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to expand WorkReady Credential Training in Washington and Aroostook Counties. He turned the floor over to Ryan Pelletier, Executive Director of the Aroostook/Washington Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). Mr. Pelletier introduced himself and began his presentation by stating that the reason he was here was to inform the Commissioners that the LWIB was looking to expand in this region. Currently, there are only

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two training centers in Aroostook County, one in Fort Kent and one in Houlton. The Board wants to expand to have two more centers in Aroostook County and three centers in Washington County. He explained that WorkReady Credential Training provides adult education programs in "soft skills", or how-to skills, such as how to fill out a job application, how to write a resume and how to dress for a job interview. Funding is limited and there is no State funding available so the plan is to apply for a \$50,000 CDBG grant to fund such an expansion, with the cost to run a program at \$3,000 to \$4,000 per student. Mr. Pelletier was requesting that Washington County be a co-applicant on the application. Aroostook County would be the lead applicant. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed that Washington County should get involved in this multijurisdictional grant application.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to have Washington County be the co-applicant in conjunction with Aroostook County for a \$50,000 CDBG Public Service grant to expand the WorkReady Credential Training program with County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald authorized to sign as the County's agent. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The meeting continued with the UT portion of the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM:** Approval of the February 3, 2011 Amended UT Meeting Minutes

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to approve the February Amended Regular UT Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Crowley moved to approved the March Regular UT Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM:** Approval of the March Special UT Meeting Minutes (March 24, 2011)

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**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the March Special UT Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Gardner clarified that the #19 road discussed at the Special March meeting was a public road all along and not a private road as was reported in the newspaper.

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

(See attached) UT Supervisor Dean Preston noted the highlights of his monthly report. He stated that the budget had been reviewed in front on the Taxation Committee with no questions and no issues anticipated moving forward. The applicant hired last meeting had decided to turn down the position and he would be interviewing new applicants next Tuesday. The #19 road has been assessed and will be worked into the priority list. Regarding solid waste, Dean said he is still researching a course of action for the recycling plan. At the recent Shellfish Committee meeting the group decided to stay on their own in regards to the ordinance but might share warden services.

Going back to the issue of the #19 road, Dean explained that he had received a letter from DOT stating that because the bridges on the road were "low priority" there would be no funding for repairs.

Next, some discussion was had regarding the Counties in Maine taking over the Land Use Regulations Commission's (LURC) job. Commissioner Gardner noted that all but two counties had voted in favor of this idea at the recent MCCA meeting. Commissioner Gardner also noted he will be testifying in favor of this legislation at the public hearing.

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Loan Committee update**

(See attached proposals) Diane Smith-Halkett of SCEC told the Commissioners that the Grant Committee was recommending the following awards:

Proposal # 1103-04-CF: Tide Mill Farm wants to expand their organic, pastured chicken production. The demand has consistently exceeded supply.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Gardner moved to grant Tide Mill Farm \$26,400 from the Capital Improvement Fund for expansion of their organic, pastured chicken production. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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Proposal # 1103-05 ED: Tide Mill Farm wants to expand their poultry processing facilities, including a possible building project. This would be a planning grant in order to create a facility with a design that would meet USDA certifiable requirements and/or better, and be improved if production is increased as is proposed in 1103-04-CF.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to approve a \$7,000.00 Economic Development Planning grant to the Tide Mill Farm to expand their organic, pastured chicken production facility. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Proposal # 1103-08-CF: Coast of Maine Organic Products wants to construct a communications tower to secure reliable access to high-speed internet allowing for increased productivity and profitability of operations at their Marion location.

**\*MOTION\*** Commissioner Shorey moved to approve a \$15,000 Capital Improvement Fund grant to Coast of Maine Organic Products to install a communications tower at their facility in Marion. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Next, Diane told the Commissioners that she had an evaluation on the improvements to the Baskahegan Watershed project which she would make available to them. (see attached)

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

Nancy Oden wanted to speak regarding her proposal to the TIF Committee on making raised garden beds available to any UT resident who requested one. She was terribly disappointed that her proposal had been turned down and then addressed each concern upon which the Committee based their decision. Discussion continued and the Commissioners stated that there was a lack of sustainability to the project, no collaboration conducted with other organizations and no other funding had been investigated. The Commissioners concluded certain information had to be present in the application.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**5:08 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.