

July 14, 2011

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners  
Unorganized Territories Regular Meeting  
held July 14, 2011  
in the Commissioners' Conference Room  
Machias, Maine**

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Attending the meeting were:  
Commissioner Christopher M. Gardner  
Commissioner John B. Crowley, Sr.  
Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager  
Dean Preston, UT Supervisor  
Gail Popham, Administration  
Donnie Smith, Sheriff  
Mike Hinerman, EMA  
Josh Rolfe, RCC  
Mary Zidalis, Jail  
Jill Holmes, Treasurer  
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant  
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds  
Darlene Wallace, Deeds  
Carlene Holmes, Probate  
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds  
Neil Kiely, First Wind  
Joan Fortin, Bernstein Shur/First Wind  
Eleody Libby, WC:OC  
Diane Smith-Halkett, SCEC  
Nancy Oden, Clean Earth Farms  
Phil Duggan, DECP  
Sharon Mack, BDN  
Will Tuell, East Machias

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Commissioner Shorey was unable to attend.

**AGENDA ITEM: Update from Neil Kiely of First Wind on the Bowers  
Mountain project**

Commissioner Gardner opened the meeting and turned the floor over to Neil Kiely of First Wind. Mr. Kiely began by stating that he was here to answer any questions or address any issues regarding First Wind's Bowers Mountain project and accompanying TIF program. Commissioner Gardner noted that the County is finding limitations at the State level for possible projects and it has been challenging to get the TIF

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money out to the public. He asked Joan Fortin of Bernstein Shur, attorneys for First Wind, how Washington County could remedy the situation. Her response was that the TIF laws could be amended which would call for a public hearing. Mr. Kiely noted that he anticipated a formal vote on the project by LURC in October and construction would begin at the beginning of the new year. A discussion on the distribution of the taxes First Wind will be paying on this project followed. The current TIF account still being quite full, it was explained that money would not go into the TIF account but rather back to the UT taxes therefore lowering taxes for UT residents.

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Public Hearing Minutes on the Economic Development Program CDBG grant provided to Cobscook Bay Company**

**MOTION: Commissioner Crowley moved to approved the Public Hearing Minutes as presented. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed.**

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the June Regular UT Meeting Minutes (June 9, 2011)**

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

**AGENDA ITEM: Monthly Report**

(See attached) UT Supervisor Dean Preston noted the highlights of his monthly report. He stated that he would soon be closing the UT's 2010-11 books and opening the 2011-12 books. He noted that the #19 road options were being discussed. FEMA money had been received to repair the Timber Cove Road in Trescott and Gardners Lake Road in Marion. More FEMA money is expected for the #19 Road. He noted that cemetery maintenance was becoming more of an issue.

Dean had two action items: one was to approve funding for broadband service from a ConnectME grant matched 50/50 with TIF funds. Axiom Technologies would be the provider. The service would focus on the Brookton/Forest City area. The other item was to award the bid for the new UT truck.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved for Dean to proceed with Axiom on securing the ConnectME grant and TIF funds to provide**

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**broadband service for the Brookton/Forest City areas.  
Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed.**

There were 5 bids for the new UT truck.

**\*MOTION\* Commissioner Crowley moved to award the truck bid to  
Darling Ford in the amount of \$22,920.00. Commissioner  
Gardner seconded the motion which passed.**

**AGENDA ITEM: TIF Loan Committee update**

(See attached) Diane Smith-Halkett, TIF administrator of SCEC explained there was no TIF committee meeting last month. because of no applications being submitted. She noted that there are several projects in the works but none had reached the Committee. She also noted that Mr. Jones had obtained his tractor trailer awarded in last month's request.

The DECD ruled against the Raised Bed Gardens project. Nancy Oden vowed that she would work with the DECD to amend the rules and/or legislation to make her project work. Commissioner Gardner wished her best of luck.

**AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment**

Bob Costa had an issue he wanted to discuss about taxes being assessed in Machiasport. Commissioner Gardner stated that the Commissioners do not set value or levy taxes and that he should start his appeal at the municipal level.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**4:40 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.**