

August 11, 2011

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
held August 11, 2011
in the District Court Room
Machias, Maine**

**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
Donnie Smith, Sheriff
Mike St. Louis, Chief Deputy
Robert Gross, Jail Administrator
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Josh Rolfe, RCC
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds
Eleody Libby, WC:OC
Sara McConnell, WC:OC
Diane Smith-Halkett, SCEC
Harold Clossey, SCEC
Joshua Murray, Hampden
Phil Duggan, DECP
Sharon Mack, BDN**

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the July Regular Commissioners Meeting
Minutes (July 14, 2011)**

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

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided monthly reports in their meeting packets. (See attached) County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald stated

August 11, 2011

that Registrar of Deeds Sharon Strout wanted to let the Commissioners know that MaineLandRecords.com has been updated. A search is now free and a digital image is \$.50.

EMA Director Mike Hinerman informed the Commissioners that the BIDP project has chosen a company named BAE Systems with a project manager coming from Connecticut. They are working on the contract language. The grant amount is \$3,963,000 and work will be done in five Maine counties. Washington County is receiving \$1.4 million and will be in charge of administrating the grant.

AGENDA ITEM: Sign Six-Month Certificates

Six-Month Certificates were signed for Joshua Rolfe, Eileen (Alley) Mills, and Crystal Sanborn.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll Status Change Notices

The verbal resignations of Heather Ball, Gary Brown, Carolan Grover, John Leahy and Stephanie Smith-Graham as part-time corrections officers were accepted by consensus and without prejudice.

A letter was presented to the Commissioners from attorney John Chapman requesting that Thomas Chambers be granted an extended leave of absence. The Sheriff has requested that he be terminated.

***MOTION* Commissioner Gardner moved to table this matter until Executive Session. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

***MOTION* Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Joshua Murray as a part-time Corrections Officer. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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

AGENDA ITEM: Sign Tax Abatement Decisions

Two Tax Abatement Decisions were signed. Dale Kilbreth vs. Town of Jonesboro was denied and John Cummings vs. Town of Marshfield was denied.

AGENDA ITEM: Schedule Tax Abatement Hearing

One Tax Abatement hearing was scheduled for September 8, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

August 11, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Blueberry Festival's request to use the parking lot

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to allow the Blueberry Festival to use the parking lot. It was noted that the front parking lot will be barricaded as usual. Also noted that this would be the first Festival without Norm Nelson.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on lowering the County's energy costs

Commissioner Gardner explained that the County could be buying power off the grid and this could save money. He stated that they are doing that at the Eastport Port Authority. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to have the County Manager research the possibility.

REFERENCE MATERIALS NOTED:

1. Letter from Sen. Raye appointing Betsy Fitzgerald to the Working Group dealing with the State Planning Office.
2. Memo of commendation to Mike St. Louis from Maine Forest Service.
3. Compensation survey results.
4. Letter from Rep. Mike Michaud regarding SBA federal injury disaster loans.
5. Minutes from MCCA August 10, 2011 meeting.

Betsy announced that the Budget Advisory Committee had elected Lewis Pinkham as chair and they had scheduled meetings for September 12th at 10:00 a.m., 19th at 9:00 a.m. and 26th at 10:00 a.m. to be held in the conference room at Center Street. No Department Heads will be requested to be at the first meeting on September 12.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA § 405-A 6 (3) to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 5:25 p.m.

MOTION Commissioner Gardner moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was 6:00 p.m.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to terminate Patrol Sergeant Thomas Chambers for his failure to return to work. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to hire Caleb Ross from part-time to full-time Information Technician (IT).

August 11, 2011

Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to authorize County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to act as agent for the County to recover funds owed by employees current and past. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adjournment 6:10 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.