

August 11, 2011

Minutes of the Public Hearing
On the Fiscal 2012 County Budget
held August 11, 2011
in the District Court Room
Machias, Maine

Attending the hearing 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
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant
Darlene Wallace, Deeds
Carlene Holmes, Register of Probate
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Joshua Murray, Hampden
Joshua Rolfe, RCC
Judy East, WCCOG
Harold Clossey, SCEC
Diane Smith-Halket, SCEC
Eleody Libby, WC:OC
Sara McConnell, WC:OC
Dianne Tilton, Representative delegate to Budget Committee
David Turner, Perry, Budget Committee
Dave Morang, Eastport, Budget Committee
Linda S. Pagels-Wentworth, Baileyville, Budget Committee
Lewis Pinkham, Milbridge, Budget Committee
Meghan Dennison, Machias, Budget Committee
Cathy Footer, Budget Committee
Brian Beal, Downeast Institute of Applied Marine Research
Nate Pennell, WCS&WD and DERC&D
Laurie Fogelman, The Next Step
Alan Furth, CCLC and Cobscook Bay Co.
Jeff Johnson, Cobscook Bay Co.
John Phinney, Trescott

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Sharon Mack, BDN
Phillip Duggan, DECP

Commissioner Gardner called the hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. and called for introductions. Each Commissioner introduced himself and described his home district. The Budget Committee members who were present were introduced. Commissioner Gardner noted that this was a perfunctory budget and that the Budget Committee would be going through each item during their deliberations.

The Third Party Requests were asked to give a short overview of their entity's need for funds:

1. Washington County Fire Fighters Association, no member present. Mike Hinerman noted that their request is to help pay for insurance and equipment for the Association.
2. Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education, Brian Beal, present. Brian stated that their request was to help leverage other funds for the Institute's many projects. A new project he noted was to grow European Oysters as they grow faster and better than American oysters in Maine waters.
3. The Next Step, Laurie Fogelman, present. Laurie noted that The Next Step has been serving victims of domestic violence in Washington and Hancock counties since 2004. Their request would be used directly for services and to leverage other funds. The Next Step has added an attorney and a crime victim advocate. She also noted that they hope to get their own building soon.
4. Downeast Hospice, no member present.
5. Washington County Council of Governments, Judy East, present. It was stated that funds for WCCOG would now fall under County Administration as would the University of Maine Extension Service.

Commissioner Gardner stated that the budget process is beginning early again this year. He noted that people want tax relief and the County will again try to find efficiencies while providing all the services people need and want.

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Commissioner Shorey noted that it will be a challenge and he also thanked the Budget Committee members in advance for the work they will be doing.

Commissioner Crowley concurred.

With that, the Budget Committee members and County Manager, Betsy Fitzgerald adjourned to the Commissioners' conference room to elect a chair and establish dates and times of their next meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:20 p.m.

Attest:

Gail Popham, Admin. Asst.