

August 5, 2010

**Minutes of the Washington County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
held August 5, 2010
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
Gail Popham, Administration
Donnie Smith, Sheriff
Robert Gross, Jail Administrator
Mary Zidalis, Jail
Mike Hinerman, EMA
Jill Holmes, Treasurer
Judy Alexander, Financial Accountant
Sharon Strout, Registrar of Deeds
Jim Lucas, Buildings & Grounds
Alicia Jonah, Buildings & Grounds
Carlene Holmes, Probate
Diane Smith-Halkett, SCEC - TIF Administrator
Nancy Oden, CEF & MVNO
Sharon Mack, Bangor Daily News
Fred Hastings, Down East Coastal Press
Shelbie Ross, East Machias
Donald Duplessis

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the July Regular Commissioners Meeting
Minutes (July 8, 2010)**

MOTION Commissioner Crowley moved to approve the July 8 Regular Commissioners Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The Commissioners were provided monthly reports in their meeting packets. (See attached) Sheriff Smith noted that the Town of Lubec had renewed a two year contract for law enforcement. He also

August 5, 2010

noted there have been improvements in collecting attorney fees for service.

AGENDA ITEM: Sign Six-Month Certificates

Six-Month Certificates were signed for Betsy Fitzgerald and Alicia Jonah.

AGENDA ITEM: Payroll status change notices

A payroll change notice was signed for Gregory Schorrs. He had been hired at the July meeting as a Temporary full-time Corrections Officer, however, a payroll change notice had not been generated.

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

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

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

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

It was agreed by consensus to accept the resignation of Leslie Smith as part-time Cook without prejudice. It was agreed by consensus to accept resignations without notification from Rebecca Ramsdell and Robin Stanwood.

AGENDA ITEM: Signature of JMG (Jobs for Maine Graduates) release
County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald explained that this program prepares students for real life by conducting mock job interviews, and allowing students to shadow real business people. This release states that there will not be an environmental impact from the program.

AGENDA ITEM: HUD f/y 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program

(See attached) Judy East of WCCOG explained that this grant is to support multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers communities to consider (and address) interdependent challenges. She stated this is a big project and would include both Washington and

August 5, 2010

Aroostook Counties. Since the Port of Eastport may benefit from the grant, Commissioner Gardner recused himself from the discussion.

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to have Washington County be a consortium member on the Memo of Understanding for the Washington-Aroostook Regional Plan for Sustainable Development Planning Grant Program. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion. Commissioner Gardner abstained. The motion passed. It was agreed by consensus to authorize County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald to sign the MOU on behalf of the County.

AGENDA ITEM: Registry of Deeds update

Registrar Sharon Strout reported that the bulk copies issue is on the back burner for now as the Legislature has not set a figure yet. Regarding the Simpson lawsuit, she is still in contact with Attorney Pelligrini as to its status and hopes to learn of the court date soon.

AGENDA ITEM: Used Cruiser bid approval

Sheriff Smith reported that there were 3 bids for the used 2008 Ford Crown Victoria surplus cruiser. They were:

1. Paul Holmes \$577.00
2. Mike Berzinis \$2,153.70
3. A & Silver Auto Sales \$5,258.00

MOTION Commissioner Shorey moved to award the cruiser bid to A & Silver Auto Sales at \$5,258.00. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

It was noted that this money will go into the County's general fund.

AGENDA ITEM: Reschedule Tax Abatement hearings.

It was agreed by consensus to schedule the hearings on the next meeting day, September 2, 2010 at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Gardner noted that taxpayers needed to get a written denial from their town with the reasons for the denial.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on Jail Consolidation

Commissioner Gardner started the discussion by stating that the Jail Consolidation Law on paper has merit but because of deviations, Washington County is agreeing with most of the other counties in the State that it is not working. Commissioner Crowley stated that he believed the Counties were lied to and were not even given any authority to reject budgets prepared for them.

August 5, 2010

Sheriff Smith complained that even though counties were responsible for collecting taxes, after they are sent to the State, the counties have no say in how that money is spent. It could go to another county or to the State to help balance its budget. Commissioner Gardner stated that County Commissioners in effect, had abdicated their authority. Sheriff Smith also noted that the State has capped some funds, in effect leaving the counties to pick up the tab in some areas like transporting inmates.

Commissioner Gardner stated that by resolve, Washington County needs to take the position to push for substantial change in the current Jail Consolidation Law, if not absolutely repeal and replace it. Commissioners Shorey and Crowley both concurred.

At this time, County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald returned from the BAC meeting and stated that Lewis Pinkham had been elected Chair and that they had scheduled two meetings for 8/10/10 and 8/31/10, both from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Returning to the Jail Consolidation discussion, Jail Administrator Bob Gross stated that the State had just made its 1st quarterly payment to the County and would also be making a 2nd quarterly payment. After that, it is his understanding that they would then start making monthly payments. His further understanding is that if the County looks like it doesn't need a payment, they won't get it, in effect encouraging the County to spend money possibly wastefully. Sheriff Smith concluded that the State, in their effort to streamline, had actually added another layer, in effect creating more management. There being no further discussion,

***MOTION* Commissioner Gardner moved to adjourn. Commissioner Shorey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

5:45 p.m

ATTEST:

Gail Popham, Administrative Asst.