

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
APRIL 4, 2006**

PRESENT: Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Charles G. Boetsch and Amy R. Fowler, Treasurer David A. Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Ward and County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer David Parkman reported the following:

REVENUE:

1. Deeds' revenue is up by 30%.
2. Probate's revenue is up by 40%.
3. Anticipated EMA revenue has not been received yet, and is late at this point. K. Ward stated that, according to the EMA Director, the State ran out of money. A. Fowler acknowledged that there was actually some revenue.

DISCUSSION OF DEEDS SURCHARGE LEGISLATURE:

L.D. 2063 was briefly discussed. Apparently, statements have been made alluding to misuse of Deeds Surcharge funding in relation to records preservation work being done at the County with the assistance of a hired archivist. The Commissioners assured D. Parkman that no new money is being used; only Old Deeds Preservation money and it had been spent on Deeds-related preservation work. D. Parkman said that he had learned from Register of Deeds Deloris Page that Waldo County has never done anything wrong. He asked her if she approves all invoices, etc. and she confirmed that she does.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. The total County budget has been 31% expended so far this year.
2. Inmate Board expenditures are high. One bill came in from December.
3. D. Parkman explained that signatures are required on the warrants before payment, with the exception of checks that have to go out quickly to avoid late fees.
4. D. Parkman remarked that he was having trouble getting the fixed assets information from the previous auditor. He is trying to get that as soon as possible. The Commissioners recommended that the Treasurer prepare a letter stating that the County would be withholding the final payment for the audit and if the fixed asset information has not arrived by 30 days, the County will notify the Bureau of Licensing and Regulations. (This did not have to be done, as the information arrived April 5, 2006.)

****G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

RESERVES:

D. Parkman read the expenditures from the Reserve Accounts.

****G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the Lord, Abbett & Co. Deferred Compensation matches for the February and March payrolls in the amount of \$230,534.82. Unanimous.**

****G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 3, 2006 Active/Restricted Reserve Account warrant in the amount of \$4,731.85. Unanimous.**

****G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 31, 2006 Regular warrant in the amount of \$101,087.47. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners were Sheriff Scott Story. The Sheriff reported the following:

1. S. Tory recommended the promotion of Corrections Corporal Robert Walker, with the approval of the Commissioners, to Corrections Sergeant, effective March 28, 2006. His pay will increase from \$15.75 to \$16.62 per hour. The Commissioners noted and approved this promotion and salary increase.

****A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded accepting the promotion of Robert Walker from Corrections Corporal to Corrections Sergeant, effective 3-28-06. Unanimous.**

2. S. Story reported that one of the corrections officers has had severe health issues and needs to be out beyond the accrued sick leave. Several co-workers have volunteered to donate their own sick leave to this employee. There was some discussion of how to handle this on the books, and some debate about whether this should be a policy or a one-time event. B. Arseneau reminded all that the attorney working with her on the Personnel Policy has cautioned against potentially discriminatory actions. There was heated debate about policy and whether policy can be "individually driven." The County Commissioners asked S. Story and B. Arseneau to bring the matter up at a Department Head/Safety Meeting in the near future, as the Commissioners felt that this should be considered as a management/policy issue. S. Story read a letter from an employee requesting the ability to do this and which included a management system.

****A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded authorizing the request to allow certain employees to donate some of their available sick leave to the afore-mentioned employee in need, but that this was an exception until a decision is made to adopt, or not adopt, a policy. Unanimous.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REPORT:

Present for this report was EMA Director Dale Rowley, who brought the following before the County Commissioners:

1. For National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, D. Rowley is establishing and Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) with assignments for various county staff. On April 22, 2006, there is a training session on a Saturday. D. Rowley will also offer training for those assigned to the EOC. There was brief discussion of compliance being a prerequisite for any Federal Funding. This training can be done by booklet or done online electronically, and must be completed by October of 2006. D. Rowley shared the list of EOC members with the County Commissioners.
2. The emergency shelter generator will be hooked up at the Troy Howard Middle School tomorrow.
3. As soon as THMS has been hooked up, electrician Ray Mansfield will go to Searsport and hook that one up.
4. The State has sent back the unused 2003 EMA funding that Waldo County had returned to the State in the amount of \$7,015.00, at the request of D. Rowley, who assured them the County did, in fact, need it. Supporting documentation of this request was also submitted to the Commissioners.

5. The Decontamination (Decon) Strike Team meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. It was requested that H.R./Payroll Director M. Adams be present for this portion of the meeting, and she came in. There was discussion of whether those people on that list would be on the Worker's Compensation coverage. The State will cover Worker's compensation and will cover the liability.
6. Homeland Security Grant status as of May 31, 2006 is as follows:
 - As reported, the 2003 EMA funding in the amount of \$7015.00 has been spent on the Fire North tower.
 - There is \$20,201.60 remaining in the 2004 Homeland Security Grant.
 - There is \$13,293.71 remaining in 2004 Homeland Security Grant funding for the City of Belfast.
 - There is \$2,663.79 remaining in 2004 Homeland Security grant funding for Searsport.
7. The State has covered the cost for purchasing a satellite telephone for EMA. It is from Global Star. It cost about \$650.00 and the service is about \$600.00 per year. It can also be used as a cell phone and has a limited GPS (Global Positioning System). It has added a lot of capability to the communications of the EMA.
8. The Homeland Security Information System/WebEOC is in place.
9. A work plan must be turned in, which requires the signatures of the County Commissioners. This is being submitted early, as it does not need to be in until June.
10. Waldo EMA now has an internet connection with MEMA. Information is funneled through the fusion center and disseminated.
11. D. Rowley reported that the towns of Prospect, Burnham and Swanville "are not really responding" to EMA direction and meetings.

The County Commissioners commended D. Rowley for his excellent work.

G. Boetsch inquired about the air-filling station, and mentioned that it has a 3-phase motor in it and Searsport has stated that they are not paying for it. D. Rowley explained that former Commissioner Jethro Pease had given up the County's interest in it and now it is 100% owned by the Waldo County Fire Fighters' Association. EMA originally paid for 1/3, the Sheriff's Office paid 1/3 and the Fire Fighters' Association paid 1/3. Now that the County's interest has been given up, it belongs to the Fire Fighters' Association. The money figure associated with this is \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00.

D. Rowley informed the Commissioners that he has tendered his resignation to the Thorndike Fire Department, effective June 1, 2006 in order to relieve some of the burden from his very busy schedule. He commented that he hated to stop serving, but it was now necessary.

MAINE STATE RETIREMENT ENROLLMENT DISCUSSION:

Present for this discussion was Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Adams. M. Adams informed the Commissioners that for the County to be re-enrolled with MSRS for July 1, 2006, the process needs to be started early. According to the MSRS representative, it is a fairly simple process. A letter is required stating the Commissioners desire for the County of Waldo to re-enroll with MSRS, detailing which plan and

who will be eligible. This would include allowing employees to buy back, at their own expense, any previous years' service credits.

****G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded that Waldo County re-enroll with Maine State Retirement System effective July 1, 2006 and that employees may purchase previous years of service at completely their own expense, back as far as 2001. Unanimous.**

B. Arseneau was instructed to draft a letter, with assistance from M. Adams, from the Commissioners to this affect, have an attorney review it and send it certified, return receipt so that this re-enrollment process would go into affect correctly and without any issues.

It was briefly mentioned that 2001 was the year the County un-enrolled with MSRS, although it had intended to do so back in 1996.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners Technology Consultant James Arseneau, who reported the following to the County Commissioners:

1. SPILLMAN CAD SYSTEM UPDATE: The hardware has been received as of yesterday. On Tuesday April 11, 2006, training will commence. The "go-live" goal is July for the Communications Center and August for Law Enforcement. The second component, the WAN/LAN, will need to be reviewed again as it is not certain that it is the same as the Spillman product. Attorney Michael Trainor is reviewing the lease contracts. Each department has been doing individual tape back-ups. Eventually the back-ups will go to one central location.
2. J. Arseneau reminded the Commissioners that during their last court session, he had asked the Commissioners for \$10,000.00-plus from the Technology reserve to put toward the lease. The operating budget amounts are less than expected so far. J. Arseneau submitted a proposed time-line for Technology planning, explaining that the Commissioners could "tweak" it as needed.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/BUSINESS:

1. MCCA Claims Adjuster Malcolm Ulmer called this morning to inform the Commissioners that they may cast their proxy votes for the Commissioners Association by telephone. This is to allow any of the Commissioners to be able to vote during MCCA meetings when the usual Commissioner Representative is absent.
2. G. Boetsch stated that he will be attending the upcoming Maine County Workforce Annual Meeting.
3. G. Boetsch reported that he had attended the Bath Iron Works meeting. This company will be down-sizing. About 50 citizens from Waldo County will be affected.
4. G. Boetsch informed the other Commissioners that Wendell Glidden, Waldo Town citizen, had telephoned. G. Boetsch went to visit with him. He felt that the situation was better understood and that a potential tax abatement hearing may not need to take place at this point.

5. G. Boetsch notified the other Commissioners that the former Robertson School was no longer available as potential County space, as it has been rented by the Sweetser group.
6. A. Fowler stated that she had attended a meeting with Belfast City Hall. She expressed her disappointment with the turnout. There was informal discussion about bulk buying. She further reported that she has attended several town meetings and will be attending the April 12, 2006 Maine County Commissioners Association meeting.
7. A. Fowler informed the Commissioners she would not be available for meetings from April 6 – 11, 2006.
8. J. Hyk stated that he was involved with negotiating the Lease Renewal next year with District Court.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

****G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded approving the minutes from the February 16, 2006 County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded approving the minutes from the February 16, 2006 West Chase Road Tax Abatement Hearing after an amendment is made correctly inserting the Town as "Jackson." Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present with the Commissioners (with the exception of J. Hyk, who had to leave) was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau who reported the following:

1. A brief synopsis of the Knox County Strip Search issue was given and the Commissioners briefly discussed whether the Risk Pool should still support Knox County or not.
2. A memo was received from Chief Deputy Robert Keating regarding an error in reporting Detective Bryant White's vacation time. A pay step was inadvertently left off and the vacation was loaded incorrectly as a result. 24 hours of vacation time was left off. The request was to give him 24 hours administrative adjustment. The Commissioners decided to consider this request and make a decision during the April 25, 2006 County Commissioners Court Session.
3. District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau sent notice that the back-up system that the District Attorney's prosecution software operates on must be replaced, as it has become an urgent problem. The cost to replace this is estimated at \$2,000.00. Because it is shared between four counties, each one's share would be \$500.00. G. Rushlau requested permission to order the new system "without delay." He anticipated that this would not cause a problem with his current budget.
****G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded approving this expenditure. Unanimous.**
4. The Town of Stockton Springs issued a letter of support for the continuation of Eugene Ellis as a representative for this area encompassing Stockton, Prospect, Frankfort and Winterport on the Waldo County Communications Committee. It was their understanding that there had been a suggestion that he be replaced by a selectman from Searsport. The Commissioners agreed to keep Eugene Ellis on the Board of Directors for the Communications Center. B. Arseneau was instructed to send a letter to that affect.

5. Grayson Hartley of Islesboro sent a letter informing the Commissioners that he is resigning from the Waldo County Jail Research Committee. He felt that he did not have time to continue serving, but expressed that it had been a pleasure to do so. The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to send a letter thanking him for his time, his work and for his wisdom and great decision to vote to purchase 100 acres of land.

6. The Commissioners have received a letter from Thomas Bamford of Northport stating that he would like to begin a process of changing Waldo County's name "because of the abysmal personal history of our namesake Samuel Waldo." He referenced Samuel Waldo's infamous slave trade business, which "resulted in the deaths of hundreds of innocent Africans." Mr. Bamford advocated for a name change to "any number of more suitable names, from Prospect, Freedom or Liberty County, to Passagassawakeag, Crosby or Anderson County, the last two being former governors of Maine." J. Hyk commented that this was "a sticky wicket" and there was brief discussion of how other people in the county might feel about this. J. Hyk commented that it would "cost a fortune to change the name." He offered to work with B. Arseneau in constructing a letter that indicated that the Commissioners felt that they should not be involved in this venture.

7. Vic Reinfelds of Kennebec Valley Council of Governments sent a letter asking that the Commissioners make and pass a formal motion indicating that they support KVCOG's annual request for continued funding through the Economic Development Administration.

****A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded to support KVCOG's request for continued funding from the EDA. Unanimous.**

SAFETY CONTEST PRIZE WINNERS:

The Commissioners presented a check to Dispatcher Michael Larrivee for winning first place in the safety poster contest and to Probate Clerk Judy Nealley for winning second prize.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER REPORT:

Present for this report was Communications Director Owen Smith. O. Smith informed the Commissioner that the second week of April is proclamation for National County Communicator's Week. A. Fowler read the proclamation and the Commissioners agreed to sign it.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT:

April 25, 2006:

- **Roof bids**
- **Boiler bids**
- **Any other business**

****A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded adjourning the meeting at 2:57 p.m. Passed by two.**

Respectfully submitted by *Barbara L. Arseneau*
Waldo County Clerk