

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr., Amy Fowler, and at 8:15, John M. Hyk (Chairman). Also present were Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Communications Director Owen Smith, Technology Consultant James Arseneau and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

**REVIEW OF YEAR 2008 BUDGET REQUESTS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS CENTER 2008 BUDGET (1076):**

O. Smith reported the following to the County Commissioners, and indicated that he had put together two versions of the budget:

One budget reflected hiring two (2) additional dispatchers. Right now the Comm. Center has a float shift. They had lost some employees because of that odd shift. O. Smith submitted a dispatch work schedule for the Commissioners to follow along with. He explained that if the Center continues with twelve (12) dispatchers, O. Smith would need to find \$120,000.00 to cover vacation, comp., sick, etc. By adding two people, he can cover half, if not more, of vacation, comp, and sick leave. If they fill these shifts with a part-timer, it costs a little over \$6,000.00. With the current union contract, full-time employees have first refusal on overtime, etc. to fill these shifts. This means a lot of overtime. O. Smith believed the interest in working overtime is due to the cost of living increase, and he believed more will want to do this. He reminded the Commissioners that with two additional full-time employees, the Commissioners would need to add 25% of the salary for each as an estimate of the cost to increase their Employee Benefits budget. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that this had already been factored in, as she had been aware of the possible addition of two full-time employees.

O. Smith further explained the costs. The Comm. Center would have 38-40 shifts open each month. Lately, full-time employees take about 30-32 shifts. He acknowledged that he cannot eliminate all of it, but felt it would save the County money by about half. "We've been lucky with part-time, but we don't have them any more. We don't get applications – part-time employees are becoming hard to find for weekends and overnights. If we hire two (2) fulltime on a 'flexible float,' the supervisors will finally be a true supervisor – able to take over difficult calls as an extra person as needed," he explained.

O. Smith commented that training/education is the only other concern. "We have twenty (20) people we have to train, plus all are mandated for certain training."

J. Hyk asked if O. Smith was worried that he may not have enough money. O. Smith replied that he thought he had asked for enough in that line, but acknowledged that the Board of Directors always wanted to keep that line "down."

A. Fowler relayed a recent experience she had with the Communication Center, in which a dispatcher went out of her way and used technological expertise to get in touch with A. Fowler to let her know of a medical crisis in her family. O. Smith further explained that when a dispatcher is on an EMD call, one of the other dispatchers is involved in getting the ambulance out there, etc. because the first dispatcher is tied up with that EMD call. "Now that EMD is mandated it has really changed the dynamics of things," he remarked.

D. Parkman stated that the town of China has to pay \$47,000.00 more to Kennebec County now that the County is not running the dispatch center in Kennebec County

J. Hyk asked what would happen if O. Smith runs out of money. He stated that he did not want the County to be sued because services weren't provided. He would rather spend money on the services.

D. Parkman said that last year seven of the departments were overdrawn and nobody said anything. He didn't think it would be an issue. He added, "This is the most important department in the County."

O. Smith also reported that Kennebec County "jumped the gun" and the Super Center may take over the Communications Center.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Communications Center budget as presented. Unanimous.**

### **TECHNOLOGY 2008 BUDGET (1020 – 7000)**

Present with the County Commissioners was Technology Consultant James Arseneau.

J. Arseneau explained that there was a substantial increase in the budget for the following reasons:

- Various software licenses need to be obtained.
- Security monitors for Corrections are needed and could not be done last year at about \$5,500.00.
- "Tough Books" laptops for the Sheriff's Office need to be replaced, as they are starting to develop time-consuming and costly problems.
- Spillman Training is required and there will be an upgrade that requires training at about \$20,000.00.
- A Video Arrangement System has been requested that will allow inmates to be arraigned electronically.
- Wireless data cards for the Sheriff's Office. Figures had been gathered and it had been estimated that 12 trips (three (3) officers per shift) both shifts, back to office would be saved. This would allow deputies to stay on the street and in the field, which translates to approximately \$18,000.00 worth of gasoline that could be saved. J. Arseneau stated that the deputies would really like it – combining patrolling and doing paperwork without having to constantly return to the office. Currently, to gain internet access, in one town they have to be sitting close behind the school house, which means that they cannot be doing radar at same time.
- Software and devices were broken out separately.
- Noted for the Reserve Account: The past few years, about \$60,000.00 had been budgeted per year when it really needs to be closer to \$82,000.00.

J. Arseneau wondered if too much detail was causing confusion for the Budget Committee and the Commissioners thought it was best to continue to present it. J. Arseneau said that it would be important for the Sheriff and the Deputy District Attorney to be present to speak to the importance of their portion of the Technology budget.

J. Arseneau stated that he was looking at different cell phone service via government plans. Specifically, he was looking at Verizon and U.S. Cellular. He stated that he had told the Sheriff a long time ago that Unicef wasn't the way to go around this area.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Technology budget as presented. Unanimous.**

**UNIVERSITY OF ME COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 2008 BUDGET (2005):**

Present for this budget presentation were Richard Kersbergen and Extension President Barbara Gould.

Highlights from the presentation were as follows:

- Total budget is a 3% reduction from last year.
- Last year, a new phone system was installed and reduced the manpower.
- Supplies requested have been reduced \$1,000.00 because they are not printing as much but are doing more electronically.
- Capital outlay was briefly discussed.
- Handicap access to the building absolutely needs to be addressed, particularly the ramp leading from the parking lot to the building.
- The outside of the building needs to be re-stained (the Facilities Manager is aware of this).
- It was noted that having the Facilities Manager doing more work on the building and putting those costs in the County's Facilities budget has resulted in a reduction in the Extension Offices maintenance costs, which has been "really helpful."
- There will be some maintenance issues in the future.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, J. Hyk seconded to accept the Extension budget as presented. Unanimous.**

**REGISTRY OF PROBATE 2008 BUDGET (1070):**

Register of Probate Joanne Crowley and Deputy Register Sharon Peavey presented the Registry of Probate budget. The following were briefly discussed:

- Personnel lines
- Contractual has been flat-lined, including Court Appointments, the same as 2007
- Restitution fees have been received at a little over \$7,000.00 so far this year

A. Fowler asked if J. Crowley felt enough had been budgeted in the Court Appointments line. J. Crowley explained that it depends, as it will vary from year to year.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept Probate budget as presented. Unanimous.**

**WALDO COUNTY SOIL & WATER 2008 BUDGET (2035):** Kym Sanderson presented the Soil and Water budget and stated that the budget had not increased because they are "managing" well and had done more grant writing, etc.

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept Soil & Water budget as presented. Unanimous.**

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT 2008 BUDGET (1030):**

Present with the Commissioners was Facilities Manager Keith Overlock. K. Overlock explained that there were a lot of Capital expenditures. A. Fowler asked if the University of Maine Cooperative Extension handicap ramp project was funded in this budget request and was told no. There was brief discussion regarding the County waiting to hear if Eastern Maine Development Corporation had been able to obtain grant funds for this project with a match grant of about \$20,000.00.

Jail:

K. Overlock went on to explain that he had budgeted for drainage work to be done at the Jail. He said it didn't have to be done this year, but should certainly be done at some point. He explained that the Jail gets flooded every winter. He has been using two sump pumps and really has to watch them. He added that the insurance people do not care for this set-up. He said the worst impact was always to the EMA, as it "puts them out of business" when there is water in the basement where they are located.

Superior Courthouse:

K. Overlock also stated that he had budgeted for painting the hallway of the Superior Courthouse in the downstairs area at about \$12,000.00. It would take three coats of paint for the wood grain portion of the wall and would require an expert to do it.

\$55,000.00 has been budgeted to replace the boiler. F. W. Webb, a heating expert, and said conservatively, this would be about a 33% savings. Currently, about \$12,000.00 per year is spent on fuel. K. Overlock explained that every Friday he had to adjust manually the radiators. There were issues with employees adjusting the knobs on the radiators and not turning them back later. The Commissioners felt that this should be done.

District Courthouse:

K. Overlock explained that the District Courtroom and lobby upstairs in the District Courthouse need to be painted.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded accepting the Facilities Management Budget for 2008 as presented. Unanimous.**

A. Fowler informed all that the Belfast District Court system is now on the State's list of projects for building.

### **COUNTY COMMISISONERS CORRESPONDENCE:**

Reporting correspondence with the County Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau, as follows:

1. District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau sent a memo dated September 14, 2007 to the Commissioners in Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Waldo Counties notifying them of technology issues affecting the D.A.'s Office. The D.A.'s existing technology program will see increased costs. The small office at the Kennebec County Courthouse called "D.A. Central" is now inadequate for the work being done and the effort needed to make Justice Data Broker successful. The monthly fee for that office has been \$125.00. D.A. Central will be relocating to leased office space in downtown Augusta and the increase in rent will now be approximately \$700.00 per county each year. Consulting expenses will also increase due to increased participation in J.D.B. planning and training, resulting in an increased request from \$5,000.00 per county per year to \$7,000.00 per county in the 2008 budgets. G. Rushlau noted that it may be less, and they would continue to seek grant funding to offset some of the expenses.
2. G. Rushlau also sent another memo dated September 14, 2007 notifying the Commissioners in all four counties that Accudata, the technology consultant working with seven of the eight District Attorneys, has recommended that they begin making bulk purchases of personal computers, which are less expensive per unit. This would also reduce the cost of preparation each P.C. required after purchase to enable it to work within the D.A.'s networks. The first bulk purchase is now in progress and single unites for Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties are being purchased for about \$1,170.00,

which is considerably less than they have been paying in the past. It is anticipated that the next bulk purchase will be in February, 2008. G. Rushlau noted that the consultant had brought forth a more urgent concern, that being the matter of the two servers that operate the network for the D.A.'s district. The recommendation is, rather than purchase an extended service contract at the end of the three-year contract, is for replacement. The hardware and operating software would be up-to-date and possibly cheaper. The consultant was able to purchase four servers at the significantly reduced price of \$1,900.00 as compared with the typical price of \$3,000.00. G. Rushlau believed it was important to purchase the replacement server immediately to benefit from the discounted cost as well as to avoid risking the integrity of the system. He acknowledged that this might cause the capital line in a particular county to be over-expended in 2007, but did not believe the overall D.A.'s budget in each county would be exceeded. He would budget for another replacement server in 2008 and stated that a county which has a capital reserve for technology purchases, such as Sagadahoc, will be in the best position to absorb this cost. In a follow-up memo dated September 18, 2007, G. Rushlau stated that shortly after he had submitted the 2008 District Attorney's budget request he learned that one server needed to be replaced immediately and the other in 2008. He was writing separately to request an amendment to the 2008 budget. \$750.00 needs to be budgeted as Waldo County's ¼ share of the cost of the server replacement in 2008. He noted that they were able to replace the server this year at a significant discount because of the bulk purchase price; but may not be able to do that in 2008, so he recommended budgeting the usual cost of \$3,000.00, of which Waldo County pays ¼.

3. EMA Director Dale Rowley sent an Email message to the County Commissioners informing them that he and Comm. Center Director O. Smith are currently looking into a grant called "Public Safety Interoperability Grant" which has over \$7 million coming to the State of Maine for communications; 80% of which has to be passed on to the locals. This grant is a 20% local match grant. D. Rowley and O. Smith are applying with the goal of replacing the 80' Aborn Tower with a new 200' radio tower. D. Rowley attached a photo of the crumbling tower footing and pronounced "the old tower's days are numbered and it is overcrowded with antennas." He stated that a new 200' tower would open up a lot more space and provide the County with another 30 years of tower life, with a possibility of leasing space on it for revenue. He has approached MEMA about letting the State have space on this new tower in return for splitting the matching funds. MEMA is using this concept as an example of local government and State working together on a project. D. Rowley's best guess was that the project would cost about \$80,000.00. The federal government would pay for \$64,000.00 and the State and County might each pay about \$8,000.00. He acknowledged that this was still very early in the concept phase and hoped to apply for this grant in 2008. The County Commissioners were very pleased with this idea and decided to fund the money in the "Grant Matching" reserve account.
4. D. Rowley also sent word that the EMA Disaster Recovery Reserve should be increased by \$1,500.00 each year to reach the target of \$9,000.00. He also inquired about possible funding for a Waldo County HAZMAT Team.
5. Grayson Hartley has sent notice that the next Jail Study Meeting will be held September 20, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in the Communications Center conference room to review and discuss the status of the County's proposal to the State for the Waldo County Jail.

6. B. Arseneau related a question she had been asked by one of the Brooks Selectmen. The Selectman wanted to know if the Commissioners were going to assess Clifford Bennett the costs related to holding the road petition hearing requested by him, since they denied the appeal. The Commissioners stated that they would not be assessing costs to Mr. Bennett.
7. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) requested that the County Commissioners once again participate by issuing a Proclamation – “Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children” on September 24, 2007. She told the Commissioners the last time they had issued a proclamation was in 2005.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to sign and issue the Proclamation – “Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children” dated September 24, 2007. Unanimous.**

8. Swanville Citizen Kimberly Corley sent a completed form requesting that the Commissioners hear her to appeal the decision of the Swanville Selectmen regarding her request for abatement on her property taxes. After reviewing the request, the County Commissioners decided to grant a hearing, to be scheduled at the October 9, 2007 County Commissioners Court Session.

**WALDO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERS (WCAP) 2008 BUDGET (1080 – 4715):**

Edward Murphy presented the 2008 WCAP budget to the County Commissioners.

E. Murphy started by explaining that he had been absent during the previous year’s Public Hearing of the 2008 Budget due to health issues and expressed his disappointment that the Commissioners and Budget Committee had not funded the rent request for WCAP last year. He explained that over \$6,000.00 of matching funds were lost with a total of \$9,500.00 lost as a result of this lack of funding by the County. He acknowledged that they had experienced a “good town meeting year, thankfully.” He further went on to report:

- Any senior who is not on Maine Care, there is no funding available for transportation.
- There are 1408 different clients and this doesn’t include large groups.
- 65,804 trips were made in 11 months.
- Mileage totaled 1.896 million in 11 months.
- Everyone in this room is eligible to use this, as it is a Public System.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded accepting Waldo Community Action Partners’ budget as presented. Unanimous.**

**EMA 2008 BUDGET (1010):**

Dale Rowley was present with the County Commissioners. Before discussing the 2008 EMA Budget Request, D. Rowley discussed the following:

**GRANT APPLICATION FOR NEW ABORN HILL TOWER:**

D. Rowley expressed that he thought \$8,000.00 was high for match a match for the grant for a new tower on Aborn Hill. J. Hyk said that the Budget Committee received the 2008 Budget Proposals in October and that a letter would be drafted to the Budget Committee saying that the Commissioners reserve the right to change numbers as more concrete figures become available. D. Rowley said that the State Director is using this as an example for others and that it is not far fetched; it is likely the State will pay 80%.

**2008 EMA BUDGET REQUEST:**

D. Rowley explained that Personnel line is the only thing that went up; the rest went down \$50.00. J. Hyk said he would like to interrupt briefly to ask about what the Commissioners thought of paying an employee a certain amount of spouse/family premium if the employee were to obtain health insurance elsewhere. There was brief discussion with no decision made.

D. Rowley stated that he obtained a grant to put a bigger building on a pad and that the pad will be paved. He then went on to say that there are now pagers for all municipal directors at \$11.00 a month per pager. The County pays for the service. D. Rowley said that these pagers were used extensively during the two rain storms this year, and added that he had called the State and other counties to get disaster assessments as follows:

1. First storm – St. Patrick’s Day Storm - \$320,000 in damages.
2. Second storm – Patriot’s Day Storm - \$815,000 in damages so far (there are still 5 or 6 towns who have not reported damages yet.) The total damages were about \$1.2 million from those two storms. Waldo County will be reimbursed for work done after these storms.

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the EMA budget as presented. Unanimous.**

The Commissioners asked for a firm figure for grant-matching of possible new Aborn Tower as soon as that could be available.

#### ITEMS RECEIVED DURING RECENT EXERCISE:

D. Rowley said that while obtaining materials for a recent exercise, he had learned that the County could purchase ten tents cheaper than renting them and the State approved it. The County can keep and use for crime scenes as needed. Also obtained were a smoke machine, ammunition and 30 life vests. He thought some items can be distributed between Fire & EMS along the coast. There will be a 1-800 number for media, public or anyone to use.

#### EMPLOYEES BENEFITS 2008 BUDGET (2025):

Present to review this budget request with the Commissioners were Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

MRSR Group Life factoring was briefly explained.

J. Hyk inquired about the budget request for Health Insurance and was told that it had been estimated at an increase of 15%, plus two (2) additional employees and that the County was waiting for counsel to advise us on how to proceed while in union negotiations.

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the Health Insurance line as presented. Unanimous.**

#### REGISTRY OF DEEDS 2008 BUDGET (1065):

Present for this budget presentation was Register of Deeds Deloris Page. A. Fowler asked about the \$2,500.00 for a part-time employee that the Budget Committee had allocated in 2007. D. Page stated that she had not used it this year, as the Registry was not as busy as anticipated. She was requesting for less in 2008.

- Having records available on the Internet is going well and is making money!
- \$750.00 a month must be paid. This is the fee ACS charges to maintain images, etc. \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 per month is brought in for revenue with copy fees.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the 2008 Deeds budget as presented. Unanimous.**

**COMMISSIONERS 2008 BUDGET (1020):**

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau presented the Commissioners’ budget with the following recommendations to the County Commissioners .

- Raise the County Attorney portion of the Professional Services line to \$32,000.00
- Remove the “48.5 cents” from the mileage description, as that can be subject to change

Regarding whether or not the County would re-enroll with the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Commissioners instructed the County Clerk to check with Penobscot and other counties enrolled in NACo’s prescription drug discount card program to see how this was going for those counties. D. Berry said he would assist with this.

**\*\* A Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Commissioners 2008 Budget request with the change to the attorney portion of the Professional Services line. Unanimous.**

**RECORDS PRESERVATION 2008 BUDGET (2040):**

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the 2008 Record Preservation budget as presented. Unanimous.**

The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to bring the old and updated information for the October meeting.

**GRANT WRITING (2050):**

B. Arseneau explained that the Budget Committee had not funded this during 2007 because the opinion was that Eastern Maine Development Corporation could handle grant writing for the County. The Commissioners discussed this and the fact that, to date, EMDC had not brought any grant money into the County during 2007. J. Hyk felt that the Commissioners should ask for the same amount in the Grant Writing Budget that they had requested the previous year. A. Fowler said that she felt good about what the department heads who look for grants are trying to do. “Do I think we could use someone to look for grants? Yes. Do we need \$11,000.00? Probably not,” she stated. J. Hyk expressed his concern that if this request was not put in, the Commissioners would be showing that grant writing is not important to the County and he felt that was not the message they meant to send.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to approve the 2008 Grant Writing budget at \$11,000.00. Unanimous.**

The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to break out all grants that had been obtained via DRG Specialty Services in 2006 and 2007.

**(NEW) 2008 GRANT MATCHING BUDGET (2055):**

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to approve the 2008 Grant Matching Budget at \$40,000.00. Unanimous.**

**RESERVES (2045):**

Six Years Ago the Target Numbers were:

\$20 - 30,000.00	Courthouses
\$20 - 30,000.00	Sheriff/Jail

	Probate/Deeds/D.A. – fine
\$20 - 30,000.00	Facilities – all other
\$10,000.00	Emergency Shelter
\$10 – 16,000.00	Vehicle Emergency Replacement

There was brief discussion about how much to target for the EMA Disaster Recovery Reserve. B. Arseneau was instructed to call EMA Director Dale Rowley during the session to see if that figure could be obtained. B. Arseneau contacted D. Rowley and was told that the target should be \$10,000.00.

J. Hyk recommended funding it at \$5,000.00 for 2008 with the target goal of \$10,000.00.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Reserve 2008 Budget 2045 at \$439,000.00. Unanimous.**

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to break for lunch at 11:19 A.M. Unanimous.**  
(After lunch break)

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to re-convene the meeting at 1:07 p.m. Unanimous.**

**TIME & TIDE RC&D 2008 BUDGET (1080-4718):**

Present with the Commissioners to present this budget was Carl Perry. C. Perry started by recalling projects that Time & Tide takes on and does for projects. He submitted documents to the County Commissioners detailing 2007 Time & Tide Projects directly benefitting Waldo County.

He figured that that the request for \$3,670.00 would cost \$0.31 per taxpayer, which he stated was “quite affordable,” and this would be a funding increase of \$171.00/County or an overall budget increase of 4.63%.

In 2006-07 Time & Tide was nominated and awarded top RC&D for New England; also awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place as a Council in New England.

J. Hyk stated that he felt this was a “very worthwhile program.” “I support it –I always have,” he said.

A. Fowler added that she, too, supported the program and appreciate all Time & Tide does.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Time & Tide budget as requested. Unanimous.**

**EASTERN MAINE DEVELOPMENT CORP. BUDGET (1080-4716):**

Chris Shrum (via telephone) presented the E.M.D.C. budget.

C. Shrum entertained the specific question about grant money generated for 2007 that had been generated, particularly related to funds for the handicap ramp project at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. He stated that the handicap accessible grant is “hostage to grant deadlines.” He said felt confident that EMDC will do well with a grant, but unfortunately cannot generate it until January 2008. In addition to this project, C. Shrum said he had met with other department heads to discuss finding grant funds for the following:

- Records management

- Fire/Emergency Medical Services

He added that EMDC is “aggressively marketing the former MBNA building.” He asked if the Commissioners had any additional questions. They had none.

**\*\* A. Flower moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the E.M.D.C. budget as requested. Unanimous.**

#### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUDGET (1015):**

Present for the review of this budget was District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau and Deputy District Attorney Leane Zainea.

J. Hyk noted that there were “no big changes,” but inquired about the technology issues the D.A. had sent correspondence to them about. G. Rushlau explained that the 2008 budget request needed to be amended because the Accudata servers need to be replaced. The bulk purchase license has expired for 2007 (\$458.00). J. Hyk asked if this was in the District Attorney’s budget. G. Rushlau replied that it was not, but the overall budget is going to be able to absorb the cost. “Good – no problem, then,” J. Hyk commented.

G. Rushlau reviewed Line 4015 (Consulting) and explained State increases, the need for expertise with trials and stated that some was for technology consulting. He went on to review salaries. The Part-time Child Advocate is shared between Knox and Waldo Counties. A State grant pays the bulk; the remaining is divided 50/50 between Knox and Waldo Counties. G. Rushlau recommended making this position solely a part-time Waldo County position. The State grant would not cover much, but some. If Knox doesn’t agree, they would have to go back to what they’ve been doing. He said he would not know until he had spoken with the Knox County Administrator.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the District Attorney’s budget with the requested change in Capital Outlay. Unanimous.**

#### **SHERIFF’S 2008 BUDGET (1075):**

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Deputy Robert Keating. S. Story detailed the following regarding the budget request:

- Fuel was estimated at \$3.50 per gallon. There was brief discussion regarding fuel already reflecting anticipated cost savings if wireless cards are purchased.
- Commodities have been reduced and S. Story remarked that they have not had to develop as much film.

A. Fowler: Inquired about the \$600.00 stipend related to the canine. S. Story explained that the canine would be housed with one of the deputies and what that stipend would go toward.

J. Hyk asked that S. Story be present for discussions related to the drainage issues at the Jail during the Facilities Management budget review, and also that he attend discussions of the Reserve accounts; particularly the Future Land & Building Reserve.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Sheriff’s 2008 budget request as presented. Unanimous.**

#### **JAIL 2008 BUDGET (1050):**

S. Story said he had prepared several different jail budgets. For example, if the Governor’s plan for the State to take over the Jail, the Commissioners may want Inmate Board to be separate.

J. Hyk commented, "There are too many 'what ifs'."

S. Story replied, "This may not be the worst case scenario. If the Governor takes jail, we may have to provide a booking facility, which would be another half a million dollars."

R. Keating said that every time a drunk driver needs to be booked, they have to drive to Wiscasset. Then, two (2) hours later, they have to do another.

J. Hyk inquired about Inmate Board expenditures at this point. S. Story responded that the previous year, the numbers were down, so he offered a \$150,000.00 reduction. "That was my mistake. We will be way over this year," he said

J. Hyk said he did not intend to spend Contingency money on Board overdraft. "It was not unknown. We knew it could have been that high," he stated. S. Story replied that he had to share culpability with that. B. Arseneau commented that the Sheriff had offered his best guess with the information he had at that time.

J. Hyk asked what would happen if the County paid November and December invoices out of 2008 funds. D. Berry thought they might be able to do that. J. Hyk asked S. Story what he estimated for 2007 - \$685,000.00 or \$700,000.00? He recommended budgeting more in 2008 to cover the end-of-2007 invoices. S. Story wondered if this were a legal matter.

"We have no other choice. We don't have the money," J. Hyk explained. (The Commissioners asked K. Trussell to provide board figures to date, and these were reviewed along with an estimate of what remained to be paid at the end of the year.)

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to change the Board line (4030) to \$1,100,00.00. Unanimous.**

S. Story lamented, "This is depressing. I'm afraid the rest of the County will be 'cannibalized' in order to pay for this. My fear is we will end up having to lose personnel."

A. Fowler asked when the variance expired for the current number of inmates and was told it was October 31, 2007.

J. Hyk felt that it is a bigger problem than just the Jail. "It's bigger than Waldo County. It's about the inability of our own citizens to govern themselves."

The Commissioners thanked S. Story for meeting with them.

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn meeting at 3:26 p.m. Unanimous.**

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