

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2008**

PRESENT: Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Donald P. Berry, Sr. and Amy R. Fowler. Also present were Attorney Linda McGill and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Present for this report were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

APPROPRIATIONS: D. Parkman reported that, over all, the County is in very good shape. The budget could have been 78% expended but the total budget sits at 68% expended. J. Hyk asked how this seemed to be that several departments were low in expenditures. K. Trussell reminded the Commissioners that several groups of employees have not received a wage increase while unit contracts are being negotiated. There was brief discussion about how long this might continue into the year and how this would need to be explained to the Budget Committee.

J. Hyk noted that the Professional services line in the Commissioners budget is severely overdrawn already and asked the Treasurer how to pay for this. D. Parkman said this could be discussed later as the budget came closer to being in the red. Contingency was mentioned as a possibility, under the circumstances.

D. Parkman also noted that the Advertising Personnel line in the Commissioners budget is also overdrawn by quite a bit.

D. Parkman commented that the Inmate Board line in the Jail budget is in excellent shape and the Court Appointments in the Probate budget are looking good.

D. Parkman asked if the Commissioners intended to pay the invoice for Eastern Maine Development Corporation at the end of the year, even though the grant-writing had "fallen through" with them. The Commissioners reminded the Treasurer that Mr. Shrum of EMDC had been in agreement with the Commissioners that he had not been able to bring in grant funds as he had assured them he would, and had said he understood if the County did not pay its allocation.

REVENUE: D. Parkman reported that 98% of the anticipated revenue has been received.

RESERVE ACCOUNTS:

D. Parkman read various expenditures from the Reserve Accounts for September and October thus far. He then presented the warrants.

ASSESSORS RETURNS PAYMENTS:

D. Parkman reported that fifteen of the twenty-six municipalities have paid in full and the City of Belfast has paid in part. Out of the fifteen, twelve have received thank you notes for paying early. Freedom was the first town this year to pay. He briefly ran through the list of those who have paid in-part or in-full as follows: Belfast, Burnham, Freedom, Jackson, Knox, Morrill, Northport, Liberty, Montville, Searsmont, Swanville, Thorndike, Troy, Unity, Waldo and Winterport

Belmont, Brooks, Frankfort, Islesboro, Lincolnville, Monroe, Palermo, Prospect, Searsport and Stockton Springs have not yet submitted property taxes to the County.

TAN NOTE UPDATE:

\$37,074.00 is the accrued interest so far. The County has paid \$2,050,000.00 on the T.A.N. as of this week.

D. Parkman read from and submitted a copy of a letter from Aroostook County Administrator Douglas Beaulieu to M.C.C.A. President George Jabar stating Aroostook County's opposition to hiring and funding an Executive Director and part-time staff to support MACo at a price tag in excess of \$155,000.00, indicating his belief that this proposal will promote redundancy and create confusion if it is adopted. After brief discussion, the Waldo County Commissioners made the following motion:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to send a letter to M.C.C.A. or the other counties stating that the Waldo County Commissioners are in opposition to the full-time hire of this position. D. Berry amended the motion to read "AND all the counties". Unanimous.**

DISPOSITION OF RECORDS:

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that a number of 1999, 2000 and 2001 records are scheduled for disposition, in accordance to the Rules for Disposition of Local Government Records. The Commissioners authorized disposition of those records.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded accepting the Financial Report as presented. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment on the Payrolls from January through September 2008 as a recorded warrant in the amount of \$2,439,352.20. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment on the September 26 Capital, Active and Restricted Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$31,653.78. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment on the September 26 Regular Warrant in the amount of \$148,225.68 . Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment on the October 14, 2008 Restricted Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$20,135.10. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment on the October 14, 2008 Regular Warrant in the amount of \$2,220,101.07. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the October 2, 2008 Payroll and Stipends in the amount of \$150,616.63. Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded entering Executive Session at 9:08 a.m. according to Title 1, subsection 401(g) for Legal/Personnel Matters. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded exiting Executive Session at 10:17 a.m. Unanimous. No action was taken.**

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Present for with the Commissioners was Communications Director Owen Smith, who reported the following:

1. O. Smith inquired about a letter that had been submitted to the Commissioners regarding health insurance for retirees who had worked for the County for minimum of five (5) years, left in good standing, and would pay the entire premium. The Commissioners reviewed this at a previous meeting and had tabled it. O. Smith wondered if the Commissioners had given more thought to it and suggested that they bring it before Malcolm Ulmer since he was meeting with them later today. It would not cost the County anything. This is very similar to the current COBRA arrangement, only it would just continue. The Commissioners agreed to bring this before Malcolm Ulmer later in the meeting.

A. Fowler asked why the Communications Center budget was overdrawn in educational stipends. O. Smith explained that there were some classes that came along that people realized they needed. This line will be increased for next year.

2. O. Smith explained that he wished to ask a question and did not intend to rile everyone up, but he did not understand the Budget Committee's authority on the budget. Since the Committee has authority on the "bottom line," according to statute, why do they deal with each department separately? There was brief discussion about what the actual authority is and what can be done with the individual lines of the budget. The Commissioners said that this question had come up recently, and the Commissioners were researching this. The actual written documentation and statutes regarding this need to be examined closely before the Commissioners could answer that question. O. Smith mentioned that another county peer had asked him if Waldo County had a fund that could be dipped into if a tower went down.

3. A. Fowler inquired about the amount of money spent in the over-time and part-time line, now that two additional full-time persons have been added. O. Smith said that every year, there has been some sort of crisis. This year, there was another full-time employee out for several months on Family Medical Leave, who had enough leave to cover the salary and whose shift had to be covered, which involved both the over-time and part-time lines.

EMA REPORT:

Present for this report were EMA Director Dale Rowley, Communications Director Owen Smith and later Architect Robert Fenney.

1. D. Rowley said that the County was not awarded the Emergency Operations Center grant this year. While Waldo County had the number one rating for New England, they are only awarding one per region. So the EMA will not be able to have a building go up in 2009.

2. **ABORN HILL TOWER GRANT PROJECT:** D. Rowley submitted a draft Request for Proposal to replace the Aborn Hill Radio Communications Tower in Knox, Maine to the Commissioners for their review. He stated that it would be helpful to work with a designer on this project. The Commissioners had put money aside for matching in the 2008 budget, if the EOC grant comes through. The State covered the matches for the Public Safety Grants. The Commissioners instructed Architect Robert Fenney, who was now also present, to look into the design and to run it by an attorney. This project will build a whole new foundation, the tower, etc. The foundation and structure of the current tower on Aborn Hill, which is 40 years old, is crumbling, rusted and now holding three-times more weight than it should be. Plus, the new tower would be 80' whereas the current tower is only 40'. The contractor will submit two packages – a

proposal and qualifications. The County would not open the proposal until opening the qualifications package first. J. Hyk asked if there was some special accounting procedure for the grant funds. D. Rowley replied that each County is operating differently. Most grants come into the State funding account and then go back out. D. Rowley recommended that, due to the size of this grant, it come through the Treasurer's office. The County has to pay up front and then be reimbursed later. J. Hyk instructed D. Rowley to send out a press release and get this good news out.

3. D. Rowley will be performing a week of training with the Air National Guard at a training site in Mississippi the first week of November.

4. The EMA Communications Vehicle is at the State Prison being painted.

5. D. Rowley inquired about when funds would be added to the Disaster Recovery Reserve Account and the Emergency Shelter Reserve and was told that this usually is done after undesignated funds have been identified by the auditor in the following year, or sometimes it is funded through budget request.

6. Corey Morse is willing to fill the vacant EMT position on the Waldo County Regional Communications Center Board of Directors.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to appoint Corey Morse from Searsport Ambulance to fill the position vacated by William Zito on the Waldo County Regional Communications Center Board of Directors. Unanimous.**

7. D. Rowley submitted the Waldo County Hazardous Materials Reconnaissance Team (HazMat Recce) Development Plan, which was updated September 25, 2008. The HAZMAT Recce Team is in need of \$5,100.00 from the HAZMAT/LEPC Reserve Account to continue to progress in forming. The State came up with the idea of sending out a few people from the LEPC team to evaluation a scene, rather than the whole team. With this development, Waldo County could serve as part of this team. It would make for a more rapid response. The State is working out a process on spillers that involves DEP, the HAZMAT Team and then bills the spillers via the DEP.

8. D. Rowley invited Commissioners Fowler and Hyk to the Waldo County Firefighter's Association Candidate's Night, as they are both running for re-election this fall. Each candidate may speak for three minutes. He included Commissioner Berry, if he was interested. D. Rowley would be moderating.

9. Two other Grants were received to upgrade radios and to also have training for the new tower.

10. D. Rowley informed the Commissioners that today he is submitting an application for Homeland Security Grant Program grant, which is due November 1st.

The Commissioners asked B. Arseneau to put D. Rowley on the next agenda for the County Commissioners' Court Session.

FACILITIES REPORT:

Present for this report was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley and Architect Robert Fenney.

1. **HANDICAP RAMP PROJECT AT UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:**

K. Nealley reported that this ramp project is almost done. R. Fenney said it had been slow getting the work done. The handicap sign and steel handrails need to be installed within two weeks or the contractor will start losing money to the tune of \$100.00 per day. R. Fenney stated that the ramp will be serviceable and should meet the needs. The folks who work in the building are requesting that parking be changed and be closer to the building, since the ramp has changed the location of some of the spaces. The landscaping has to be considered, as well, as some top soil will be needed, but they are not asking for anything elaborate. If the parking spaces are added, a figure for gravel will need to be added. J. Hyk commented that these are "lovely people who never ask for anything" and recommended that the gravel be added and that they "be taken care of." R. Fenney would mark off the areas with stakes for the top soil.

2. K. Nealley submitted a report from Carpenter Associates for consulting regarding the furnace at the Superior Courthouse. The chimney may be lined, but a quote will be necessary. A. Fowler mentioned that she is on the committee regarding the courthouses and heard another courthouse received assistance from the State of Maine to replace a furnace and wondered if Waldo County should try to get some assistance, as well. J. Hyk instructed K. Nealley to get a quote for the furnace work and to send it to the Chief Justice. J. Hyk also reminded all that the Commissioners are required, by statute, to provide a courthouse for Superior Court, a building for the D.A., Deeds, etc. J. Hyk expressed his concern that there is no place to move these departments, as well as Archive Records. If the State is willing to pay for some, all or none of it, it is certainly worth requesting it. K. Nealley mentioned that the original consulting report stated that the furnace was originally a coal-fired unit and was considered very inefficient. The Commissioners instructed K. Nealley and R. Fenney to draft a letter indicating the pertinent information regarding this furnace and the need to replace it and send it to the State of Maine. K. Nealley reported that during routine maintenance, the contractor who installed the boiler was able to show him and the Facilities Technician how it actually works. With this knowledge, adjusting how the heat has been running should bring about some positive changes in the building this winter.

3. K. Nealley reminded the Commissioners that during the budget process, it was discovered that the building maintenance for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension was never absorbed into the Facilities Budget. Those areas have now been placed in the Facilities Budget. The deed had been examined and the County owns the building and is responsible for its maintenance. R. Fenney mentioned that the building has reached the age that some long-term work needs to be scheduled and performed. K. Nealley confirmed that these people have been excellent to work with.

4. JANITORIAL BIDS: K. Nealley explained that the due date for the bids was yesterday, which was an error on his and B. Arseneau's part, as it turned out to be a holiday. There was discussion about how to handle this. The Commissioners debated whether or not to open and accept the bids.

PROPOSALS RECEIVED:

| <u>BIDDERS:</u> | <u>PROPOSAL TOTAL:</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Lynn's Cleaning Service & Floor Care | \$65,000 per year |
| Central Maine Cleaning & Supplies | \$39,000 per year (Includes Comm. Ctr.) |
| Mainely Green | \$29,280 for 2009, \$30,156 for 2010 |
| Community Cleaning | \$40,427.90 per year |

K. Nealley stated that he had been looking at the feasibility of hiring a full-time person to do janitorial work as a County employee. B. Arseneau said her first reaction was that it would probably be less expensive to

continue to contract this out, but was surprised to learn that the day may soon come when this is a “wash” with the wage that K. Nealley was thinking. K. Nealley said that the Extension Office has not been included in cleaning, and the Sheriff is now thinking that those offices need cleaning beyond inmate labor. K. Nealley asked for time to check references for all the bidders. The bids will be reviewed and will come back to the County Commissioners.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded tabling the decision on the Janitorial bids until the November regular Commissioners Court Session.**

5. The courtyard at the District Courthouse has been painted, and had to be hired out by the hour, so it went over-budget.

6. K. Nealley regretted to report that Dan Grass, the electrician the County has been using, unexpectedly passed away recently. The Commissioners expressed their sympathy in the loss of this gentleman.

BIDS RECEIVED FOR AUCTIONED SHERIFF’S CRUISERS:

1. From Carl Barnaby: \$2,251.00 for 2001 Crown Victoria.
2. From William Dostie: \$437.00 for 2001 Crown Vic, \$537.00 for one 2003 Crown Vic and a second 2003 Crown Vic at \$537.00.
3. From Michelle Leach: \$150.00 for the 2003 Crown Vic, vin #5378 (last four digits.)
4. From Charlie Lewis: \$350.00 for the 2001 Crown Vic vin#8111 (last four digits.)
5. From Charlie Lewis: \$350.00 for the 1975 Mercury Outboard Motor.
6. From David Smith: \$301.67 for the 2001 Crown Vic, \$301.67 for the 2003 Crown Vic and \$301.67 for the remaining 2003 Crown Vic.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to award cruisers as follows:**

Cruisers were awarded to:

Carl Barnaby for the 2001 Crown Victoria at \$2,251.00.

The two 2003 Crown Vic’s to William Dostie at \$537.00 each.

The Mercury Outboard Motor to Charlie Lewis for \$350.00.

Unanimous.

HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION:

Present for this discussion was Malcolm Ulmer of MLU, Inc., Communications Director Owen Smith, Treasurer David Parkman, and H.R./Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth.

A. Fowler stated that the question has been asked regarding an employee who has been working for the County for five years and has retired in good standing, would it be possible for this retiree to purchase the total premium on their own as long as they wish or until they were eligible for Medicaid?

M. Ulmer said he could look into this, but would need to consider how this would impact the County as a group, and how this would be handled financially. J. Hyk acknowledged that it would be an administrative

burden, to some extent, if something catastrophic happened. Also, if the employee didn't pay, then what? If there are substantial losses, the program would be absorbing that. These were all things to think about, and the Commissioners would need to look at all the pluses and minuses. The potential impact needs to be considered. Even former employees, not just retirees, could be considered. There is the COBRA plan, which is for a fixed period of time.

O. Smith explained that the current COBRA plan is run in such a way that the former employee pays one month ahead. (For example July's coverage is paid in June.) There was brief discussion about how much "chasing" the Treasurer's office would be involved with.

M. Ulmer stated that, as a self-funded project, the Commissioners need to consider whether they want the risk or not. If the Commissioners are really interested, M. Ulmer would gladly look into it. A. Fowler asked M. Ulmer to check with other counties who allow retirees to do this. M. Ulmer said he would look into this.

M. Ulmer stated that when he was here in July to meet with County employees, up to that point, there were a number of complaints from un-named people. Roughly ten people appeared; most for informational purposes. A few had specific issues, which Malcolm was already aware of and was prepared to explain. There was only one issue he was unaware of, but it was simply a matter of a child not being listed on the front of the plan document because there wasn't enough room and that has now been added. To date, there have been calls from about four employees – two on a regular basis, but it has been fine. M. Ulmer said he is not hearing from a lot of employees, although he does hear occasionally from M. Wadsworth or B. Arseneau for various things, but that's it. The plan is working really well, considering Meritain is doing a lot more work running all items as "in-network" than they ever planned on.

Regarding the Waldo County Hospital issue, it is hoped that the merger with Mid-Maine Hospital will eliminate that problem. If it doesn't resolve the problem, there may need to be a low-discount deal struck with Waldo County General Hospital (WCGH) just to make some head-way.

Jim Malvey met with Malcolm several weeks ago and reported that First Health cannot get a contract with WCGH. WCGH was only willing to offer a 2-to-3% discount. If you went to WCGH off the street with no health insurance, you would get a 3% discount.

Mid-Maine, he believed, is in the network fully. Meanwhile, the impact with the employees is now minimal.

M. Wadsworth wondered if there is another network that has WCGH in it. M. Ulmer was not sure. He had talked with J. Malvey because Meritain has added a few networks. J. Malvey can run a report and see if one of these networks would capture most of the employees' providers, but this would have to be examined to see if that would actually help or not.

M. Ulmer is optimistic that Hancock County will start a self-funded health insurance program. He has been talking with Washington County, but is unsure of interest at this time. Hancock is in MMA's program currently, which is still offering savings, but for larger savings, a long-term approach is necessary.

D. Parkman told M. Ulmer that he was not dissatisfied with the services that have been offered, but did express concern about investments with Washington Mutual. He wondered if more local banks should be

used. M. Ulmer said that the money from Washington Mutual is already back in the County's account and that there was never any risk with Washington Mutual for this purpose. These funds go into CD's so that they are flexible and liquid. They are always FDIC insured. It is set up through UBS because M. Ulmer is familiar with them and they have served the MCCA Risk Pool well. They give the ability to do the things that need to be done. They have online service, so things are very transparent and easy to track. He did not feel it made sense to take funds from UBS and move them to another institution when what is really being discussed here are CD's. It would be more trouble for M. Ulmer to do this, and now that the FDIC limit is higher, temporarily, it is good to note that there is a little more flexibility regarding the checking balance at UBS. M. Ulmer intended to place the CD's in a staggered format so that money is not maturing at exactly the same time. It would be a great deal of work to switch this.

D. Parkman also asked if the MLU contract had been signed. M. Ulmer said that he had submitted a contract to the Commissioners, who had their attorney review and make recommendations and changes and now M. Ulmer's attorneys are looking at those changes. The draft agreement is in that review at this point, and they feel that some parts are unreasonable and will come back with another draft. In the meantime, M. Ulmer will continue to do what he's doing and trusts that the Commissioners will be treating him fairly. M. Ulmer said he will send back that document to the County Commissioners after his attorneys have completed their review.

J. Hyk asked if the County pays the first \$606,000.00. M. Ulmer responded that payments going out have been \$365,000.00 for nine months; that includes administration, broker, TPA fees, etc. About \$120,000.00 out of the \$365,000.00 that will not be counted against the \$606,000.00 payment. M. Ulmer stated that the County looked good claims-wise; about \$712,000.00 has been paid out and the County was about \$436,000.00 ahead by the end of September.

J. Hyk asked if the County Commissioners should budget \$944,000.00 in for this year and M. Ulmer told the Commissioners to tell him how much they wished to budget and he would break it down for them. He noted that it may be a little less, but he doubted it will be more. It could be as high as 83 enrollees to start, based on the current 72. The participation level has been higher. J. Hyk stated that the Budget Committee would probably not approve a higher number than last year for health insurance, so the Commissioners would need to have a little more in case any unforeseen problems developed. D. Parkman said he thought it should be funded at the same level as the previous year. J. Hyk noted that they used to have to borrow money to fund the health program. D. Parkman remarked that a big claim could wipe out the fund, but M. Ulmer explained that there is a limit to what the County pays in a year for each claim.

D. Parkman asked what would be a good level for this and M. Ulmer suggested that the County Commissioners would want to fund this as close to \$944,000.00 for three (3) full years. The goal would be to get to some point in the future, three to five (3-5) years, where there is enough to run the program for the full year. He noted that the Commissioners would also need to figure out what to do over the course of the year, in case they needed to make a radical change for some reason. He explained that it is the County's money and the County's risk is where the money is held, in this plan or somewhere else where it couldn't be recouped in a crisis - earning versus paying interest to someone else.

J. Hyk asked what the County's goal should be and M. Ulmer said he'd like to see a fund balance of \$1,000,000.00, acknowledging that it might take five to seven (5-7) years. J. Hyk asked once that balance was achieved, what should be budgeted each year - \$600,000.00? M. Ulmer stated that the reserve would be sitting in the health insurance account; in future years, it could be backed down to \$100,000.00. He

explained that the County would be secure, have a decent fund balance and good benefits for the employees. The Commissioners might be able to reduce costs because they would have had a long term investment/gain.

M. Ulmer said that the one issue he saw is reinforcing the protocol of the plan. When employees call requesting exceptions, don't give them a sympathetic ear – they must stick to the protocol.

He mentioned that the Commissioners might want to talk about a Wellness program in the future and asked how much money they would want to commit to it - Five to ten thousand (\$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00); or \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 might get the County “a whole bunch of stuff.”

D. Berry stated that part of their selling market is huge and asked would could be done for the employees? M. Ulmer suggested a smoking cessation program, weight loss/healthy living program; managed metrics program (which would test everyone for fifty (50) different things onsite (i.e. blood testing). If the County couldn't get what they want through Meritain, M. Ulmer suggested that the County could hook up with a local provider for any of these or similar programs. D. Berry said he thought it would help greatly with the employees if wellness programs could be offered. M. Ulmer noted that with Meritain, for every dollar (\$1.00) expended, the County could save six dollars (\$6.00), head off serious issues early, save money, etc.

The Commissioners thanked M. Ulmer for meeting with them.

CORRESPONDENCE

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was Part-Time Temporary Clerk Karen Clark, as the County had to leave for an appointment. Also present was Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth.

1. Technology Consultant James Arseneau sent an Email on September 8, 2008 to Sheriff Story regarding moving Corrections under the Sheriff's Office page and linking it to other county websites as a reference. This was noted by the Commissioners.
2. The Sheriff reported a cruiser accident that occurred on September 23, 2008 and noted that it had already been reported to the MCCA Risk Pool Liability Insurance by September 24th. J. Hyk inquired briefly about the circumstances of the accident and the Commissioners noted and accepted this report.
3. Becky Morgan of the MCCA sent an Email indicating that IT sub-committee members are needed. M. Wadsworth suggested EMA Director Dale Rowley might be suited for this position.
4. It was reported that attorney fees that came in after January 1st and were for 2007 totaled \$26,262.17 and current invoices for 2008 totaled \$67,981.79, for a total of \$94, 243.96. The Commissioners instructed that anything over \$100,000.00 be held off for payment in 2009, if possible and agreeable with the attorney's office.
5. A vendor has offered to sell the County note cards with a picture of the Waldo County Superior Courthouse on the front. The Commissioners declined.
6. A Swanville citizen sent a letter to the Commissioners dated September 15, 2008 requesting abatement again and also telephoned to say that he was still requesting abatement (it was unclear whether it

was for poverty or not) after the most recent assessment by the Town. Furthermore, a letter has been received from Assistant Attorney General Michelle M. Robert indicating receipt of the County Commissioners correspondence dated September 3, 2007 regarding documentation received from the Swanville Citizen. M. Robert stated that the Commissioners need to determine if the citizen has filed a timely appeal from the decision or deemed denial of the Town assessors of the citizen's application for abatement. M. Robert informed the Commissioners that advice regarding whether the Commission has jurisdiction over the matter should be directed to District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau and this was being forwarded on the Commissioners' behalf to D.A. Rushlau at this time. K. Clark showed Commissioners a *VillageSoup* article entitled "New and improved: Lower tax bills 'in the mail' in Swanville.") The Commissioners instructed that the County Clerk schedule a hearing for the citizen.

7. An additional letter from Assistant Attorney General Michelle M. Robert was received in response to an inquiry from the County Commissioners related to correspondence received from another Swanville citizen on behalf of his neighbor. M. Robert stated that it appears that this query should be forwarded to Maine Revenue Services for its review and whatever action it deems appropriate. M. Robert stated that she was forwarding the information to the Maine Revenue Services, attention David Ledew, Director.

8. With permission by Commissioner Hyk on September 20, 2008, Facilities Manager Keith Nealley has registered to attend three Maine Power Options free breakfast meetings designed to help understand how to better manage energy costs. The meetings will be held October 16, 22, and 30, 2008.

9. Elizabeth Hieronymus of the Belfast – An Old Fashioned Christmas committee has sent Email communication respectfully requesting permission from the Waldo County Commissioners to light the tree in front of the Superior Courthouse at 5:00 p.m. December 6, 2008 and every night thereafter until January 1, 2009. The Commissioners granted permission.

10. Hires/Resignations:

1) Sheriff Story has recommended hiring Austin Read as part-time Deputy Sheriff at \$13.15 per hour effective September 18, 2008.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to hire Austin Read as part-time Deputy Sheriff at \$13.15 per hour effective September 18, 2008. Unanimous.**

2) Sheriff Story has recommended hiring Beth Patten as part-time Corrections Officer, at \$11.74 per hour , effective October 6, 2008.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to hire Beth Patten as part-time Corrections Officer, at \$11.74 per hour , effective October 6, 2008. Unanimous.**

3) Sheriff Story has recommending hiring Candace Sousa as part-time Corrections Officer at \$11.74 per hour, effective October 6, 2008.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to hire Candace Sousa as part-time Corrections Officer at \$11.74 per hour, effective October 6, 2008. Unanimous.**

4) Communications Director Owen Smith has recommended hiring Donna Runnels as part-time Dispatcher at \$11.74 per hour, effective October 23, 2008. Unanimous.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded hiring Donna Runnels as part-time Dispatcher at \$11.74 per hour, effective October 23, 2008. Unanimous.**

5) Corrections Cook Brenda Smith has resigned effective November 24, 2007.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the resignation of Corrections Cook Brenda Smith, effective November 24, 2007. Unanimous.**

6) Corrections Cook Cheri Dakin has resigned effective March 31, 2007.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the resignation of Corrections Cook Cheri Dakin, effective March 31, 2007. Unanimous.**

7) Part-time Dispatcher Eric Bonney has resigned effective April 3, 2008.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the resignation of Part-time Dispatcher Eric Bonney effective April 3, 2008. Unanimous.**

8.) Dispatcher Monique Brown left employment without notice on September 20, 2008.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept termination of employment for Dispatcher Monique Brown effective September 20, 2008. Unanimous.**

11. Pay Step Increase:

The Commissioners noted that Corrections Officer Seth Curra reached the two-year pay step on October 1, 2008 with increase from \$14.73 to \$14.94 per hour.

12. The County Commissioners took a formal vote as follows regarding their authorization for the Chairman to sign the Lease # ME1292-02 with the Gorham Leasing Group in the amount of \$110.00 for equipment on September 24, 2008:

****J. Hyk moved, D. Berry seconded to authorize signing of the aforementioned lease on September 24, 2008. Unanimous.**

13. Robert Howe of MCCA has sent a first draft of the 2009 MCCA Budget . It was noted that Waldo County will need to pay \$8,000.00 for its portion of the dues to allow for hiring an employee to serve the counties and closely monitor the activities of the BOC.

14. Kennebec County Administrator Robert Devlin sent an Email inquiring about any interest in attending a meeting between municipal folks and county folks to discuss the idea of regional public works units. The Commissioners were not interested.

15. EMA Director Dale Rowley had notified the Commissioners in an Email dated September 15, 2008 that the County of Waldo had received official award notification that the County would be receiving \$283,290.00 as the Aborn Hill Tower project was awarded. The Commissioners instructed that this be forwarded as a press release.

16. A price quote and contract has been submitted from the Point Lookout Event Center for Waldo County to host the annual Maine County Commissioners Association Convention in 2009. The Commissioners felt that because much of this money is recouped from participation of other counties, this is a decent price if Waldo County wants to host this convention properly. It was recommended that this cost be checked with the MCCA staff.

17. Holly Anderson of VillageSoup News has asked if the County would allow them to use the County's logo so that they may make some art for their website when they have a story about the County.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to approve this request. Unanimous.**

18. A letter was received from Mr. Ed Leary of Palermo requesting abatement on two properties in Palermo. The County Commissioners instructed the Clerk to schedule a hearing.

19. Communications Director Owen Smith sent an email notifying the Commissioners of his schedule related to his availability for Budget Meetings. The Commissioners discussed scheduling a meeting on Monday, October 20, 2008 or possibly October 28, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau submitted the Public Hearing Minutes from December 13, 2007, County Commissioners Minutes from September 9, 2008 and the minutes from the tax abatement hearing "Tri-Town Snow Riders vs. Town of Morrill" from July 8, 2008.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded accepting the minutes from the September 9, 2008 County Commissioners Court Session and the Tri-Town Snow Riders vs. Town of Morrill, Pet. #. Unanimous.**

2009 COST OF LIVING INCREASE RECONSIDERATION:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to reconsider the cost-of-living increase for non-union employees. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded setting the cost-of-living increase for non-union employees at 4% for 2009. Unanimous.**

The next Commissioners Court Session will be scheduled for a date to be announced during the week of October 20-24, 2008 for 2009 Departmental Budgets review.

****J. Hyk moved, A. Fowler seconded adjourning the meeting at 1:28 p.m. Unanimous.**

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