

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
APRIL 1, 2009 (SPECIAL SESSION)**

PRESENT: Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr. (Chairman) and Amy R. Fowler. (William D. Shorey was away on vacation.) Also present was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

Commissioner Berry opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

HEALTH INSURANCE – COBRA THROUGH AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT:

B. Arseneau had sent information from legal counsel regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and its potential applicability to COBRA benefits provided by the County of Waldo Health Plan to Health Insurance Administrator Malcolm Ulmer. After speaking with Meritain Health, Mr. Ulmer learned that the requirements of ARRA would be a significant, time-consuming administrative responsibility and there will be employer penalties for non-compliance. For these reasons, Meritain Health is offering its clients comprehensive services to manage compliance with the ARRA. M. Ulmer had attached documentation regarding information on these services. The Commissioners would need to make a decision to accept or not accept the Meritain's offer to provide those services by April 2, 2009.

A. Fowler said she had spoken with M. Ulmer and it was a flat fee of \$250.00 to start this and \$6.50 per notification to each applicable employee only. Even people that have been fired are eligible. The employee only has to pay 35% of the applicable premium rate.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded that Meritain be authorized to perform this function as indicated in the contract. Passed by two, with one Commissioner absent.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to report correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau, as follows:

1. Geoffrey Rushlau requested that 24 hours of unused 2008 vacation leave for Debbie McAllian be extended for use by June 30, 2009. The Commissioners expressed concern that they believed the District Attorney's Office was understaffed. It was apparent that it was nearly impossible for D. McAllian to take the time off, so this was likely to continue in order to properly take care of the workload.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve this request to extend the use of 24 hours of 2008 vacation leave to June 30, 2009, as allowed in 8.5 of the Personnel Policy. Passed by two, with one Commissioner absent.**

2. D. Berry had requested that the Register of Deeds furnish a report of business being conducted in the Registry. He read some of the report aloud, which included the number of liens, both local and State, and figures for Surcharge, State and County Transfer taxes. It also included a list of regular duties performed by the staff in the registry and a document listed the risks the County would encounter by reducing the registry staff.

3. B. Arseneau asked who would be attending the Annual Meeting and dinner of the Midcoast Maine Community Action Board of Directors on Thursday, May 14, 2009 in Bath. Both Commissioners Fowler and Berry would not be able to attend.
4. Commissioner Berry will be attending the Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2009 in Brunswick and instructed B. Arseneau to RSVP with the check for the meal.
5. The Commissioners received a letter of commendation and thanks from Mr. John Kenney for the assistance he received from Register of Deeds Deloris Page while he was doing deeds research at the Registry. He stated, "This letter is my way of saying that the employees there were beyond helpful, especially Deloris Page. She made sure I had all the information to register my deed. She went out of her way to show me how to find the map and lot number, otherwise it would have taken me a few more hours to get this done. This is my way of saying 'Thank You' to those great Employees that helped me."
6. A new Committee is being formed to review the by-laws and existing dues structure of the Maine County Commissioners Association and requests for those interested in serving on that committee have been sent out. A. Fowler informed those present that she is serving on that committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. for discussion related to union negotiations according to Title 1, § 405 (D). Passed by two, with one Commissioner absent.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded exiting Executive Session at 10:38 a.m. Passed by two,**

ABORN HILL TOWER PROJECT CONTRACT:

Legal Counsel has reviewed the contract for Site Design, Surveying, Geotechnical Core Borings and analysis, Earth Resistivity, Grounding Design, Project Plans, and Bid Specifications by Black Diamond Construction. The two Commissioners signed this contract in the amount of \$19,500.00.

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next scheduled Commissioners Court Session will not be the second Tuesday of the month as it typically is. The Commissioners changed the date to April 13, 2009 so that Commissioner Fowler can attend, as she could not on the 14th.

A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded adjourning the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Unanimous.

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