

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
(SPECIAL SESSION)
JUNE 15, 2010**

PRESENT: Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr., William D. Shorey and Amy R. Fowler. Also present was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take the minutes.

D. Berry called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER PROMOTION TO FILL VACANCY:

Present were Communications Director Owen Smith, Sheriff Scott Story, Brooks Citizen Leslie Umans and Belfast Citizen Brenda Bonneville. O. Smith met with the Commissioners to confirm the promotion of part-time Dispatcher Michelle Clement to full-time dispatcher to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Dispatcher Jennifer White. M. Clements has worked part-time for Waldo County since 2006 and worked full-time at Bucksport police Department for the last two years. She holds a 9-1-1 certificate and will attend the Emergency Medical Dispatch course on June 21-23, 2010. This will mean that she will have received all the training required by the State. She is thoroughly familiar with the Communications Center operations and is also thoroughly trained on the Spillman CAD system. Therefore, he recommended paying her at the one-year rate of \$15.99 per hour, starting July 4, 2010.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the promotion of part-time Dispatcher Michelle Clement to full-time Dispatcher at the recommended rate of \$15.99 per hour, effective July 4, 2010, or possibly earlier. Unanimous.**

1. The Notice of Inquiry regarding PSAP reconfiguration comes out today. O. Smith said he hoped that he could meet with the Commissioners to speak about it on June 18, 2010 as scheduled. Comments on the NOI are due back July 12, 2010 electronically. Belfast Police Chief Jeff Trafton and he will do a letter to send with the NOI. There will be a report to the PUC Committee November 1st. D. Berry offered to assist in any way he could, and noted that Peter Rhines of Wiscassett might also be of assistance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to enter Executive Session for a Personnel Matter as allowed by M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405(6)(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of employment, appointment, assignment duties, promotion, demotion, resignation, etc. of an employee at 8:35 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to exit Executive Session at 8:51 a.m. Unanimous.**

Sheriff Scott Story submitted the letter of resignation he received from Deputy Scott Jones, effective June 15, 2010.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept the resignation of Deputy Scott Jones effective June 15, 2010. Unanimous.**

3. Deputy and Civil Service Processor John Bryant has tendered his resignation effective June 15, 2010.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Deputy John Bryant, effective June 15, 2010. Unanimous.**

S. Story noted that Chief Deputy Robert Keating will be retiring May 2011 and that R. Keating has expressed interest in performing civil service. Meanwhile, Deputy Wendall Story and Deputy John Ford will be covering the area that had been served by J. Bryant. B. Keating has also offered to perform civil service now, using his own vehicle and submitting for reimbursement as the other civil servants do. The Commissioners approved this arrangement.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Reporting correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau as follows:

1. **MMA GRANT AWARD:** Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth was present to report that the Safety Enhancement Grant application she submitted to Maine Municipal Association (MMA) was approved in the amount of \$1,540.00 to purchase six chairs total for the Probate Registry, EMA and District Attorney's Offices. The Commissioners commended M. Wadsworth for procuring this grant funding.

2. **EOC and IMAT TRAINING:** D. Rowley has submitted the following dates for training:

- July 22, from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. for IS-200 Incident Command System & IS-701 Multi Agency Coordination System, and
- August 19, from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. for IS-703 Resource Management & IS-704: Communications and Information Management.

3. **GUIDANCE FOR COUNTY EMA WORK PLAN:** EMA Director Dale Rowley submitted the Guidance for County EMA Work Plan/2011 Strategic Plan, which required the Commissioner Chairman's signature. Commissioner Chairman D. Berry signed this document.

4. **ANNUAL REPORT LETTER FROM COMMISSIONERS:** The Commissioners approved and signed their annual report letter for budget year 2009. K. Trussell inquired about the center of the report and was told to do the same as 2008; listing all employees working in 2009.

5. Commissioner Berry signed a letter to Former Deputy Eugene Rega notifying him that the Commissioners will meet with him on July 13, 2010 during the regular Commissioners Court Session to discuss his claim that there was an error in the accumulated vacation calculation at the time of his retirement and requesting that he bring documentation with him.

6. B. Arseneau reported that the MACCAM president has asked for associates to submit questions for the gubernatorial candidates. She asked the Commissioners to think about any questions they may wish for her to submit on their behalf and would let them know when those questions were due.

7. B. Arseneau reported that after the Clerks, Administrators and Managers Association Meeting on June 19th, she spoke with Penobscot County Administrator Bill Collins regarding the Penobscot County courthouse renovations and video arraignment equipment. He informed her that Penobscot County applied for and received Federal Energy Grant funds to use for the renovations. The County also will be renting about 6,200 square feet to the Post Office and approximately 4,000 square feet to the Red Cross, which will generate revenue. Regarding the video conference equipment, when the State vacated the courthouse, the video conferencing equipment was left behind for Penobscot County to use. She also reported an enlightening conversation with Kennebec County Administrator Bob Devlin on County Gardens and that he was a great resource if Waldo County had any questions.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

1. KWRED MEETING REPORT: W. Shorey reported that there were three people in attendance at Hutchinson Center for the KWRED meeting on June 9, 2010. He was pleased that Belfast City Manager Joe Slocum was in attendance and made a strong case that there needs to be more action from Belfast, Searsport and Stockton; along with the need to have a stronger voice for more action. W. Shorey thought this was a good thing. D. Berry and A. Fowler said that the meeting on Monday at 4:00 was a “full house,” with no seating left. Most of those seats were filled by residents from other counties. W. Shorey noted that it would have been good to have joined forces a number of years earlier. At one time 1,000 farms benefited. If this was handled as a regional approach, it would be much better.

2. A. Fowler said she received an email from Mark Westrum of Two Bridges. This email was addressed to Scott Ferguson. Two Bridges has \$110,000.00 left in the bank with over \$100,000.00 in outstanding bills and a payroll to make in less than a week. She reported, “The DOC (Department of Corrections) has not paid for April and May. BOC (Board of Corrections) has not paid for April and May. Mark [Westrum] is at wits end.” She further explained that Two Bridges has had a long-standing, very good relationship with Waldo in keeping Waldo’s inmates. Two Bridges is permitted to house 138 inmates. The state has a “peaking factor,” which allows a few extra inmates as necessary. Maximum then would be 154. Two Bridges is at capacity of 181, which has been the case for the last three months. Regarding the State inmates, A. Fowler noted that the State pays their bill, but often late. BOC is the one that is not paying properly. After making a strong plea to the BOC, the BOC finally paid just the bare minimum to cover the payroll for Two Bridges. A. Fowler replied to M. Westrum that he ought to call Waldo County to say they cannot house Waldo’s inmates anymore and let Waldo make some calls to try and deal with this.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of making out checks to Two Bridges directly, and when BOC asks where money is, ask them for an accounting of the money provided by Waldo to the BOC. A. Fowler said she spoke with Treasurer Dave Parkman about writing out a check directly to Two Bridges, and then subtract this from the amount to be paid to BOC. “If the middle man is incompetent, Waldo County is obligated to pay Two Bridges,” she stated.

W. Shorey agreed that this should be subtracted from some account, as this is the only way to get the BOC’s attention. A. Fowler said she is telling M. Westrum that they have been so efficient in the past, it is now “coming back to bite them.” “The BOC will milk it, will not pay invoices

until July, and will throw that into the 2011 budget,” she said. D. Berry agreed that this was a matter of the State using the Jail money from the Counties for whatever it wanted. W. Shorey asked when Waldo County had to make its next payment to the BOC and was told by K. Trussell that it would be in November. A. Fowler said that Waldo County has never had a problem paying its invoices in a timely fashion, but she had a real issue with how this was being handled.

Citizen L. Umans wondered aloud if the State was diverting these Jail funds to pay other State expenses. D. Berry stated that this was what the Commissioners just said. He acknowledged that this was, unfortunately, not uncommon in the State’s history. He explained that one of the other problems is the State of Maine has empty pods in the Warren State prison. They have moved these inmates to the County Jails because it is cheaper for them to do it. They set a “marginal” rate, which is very cheap, for County Jails to house these inmates. A. Fowler stated that people were told “blatant lies” that the State prison was overcrowded. D. Berry added that the State was balancing its books on these other accounts. A. Fowler described Two Bridges as one of the finest facilities to send Waldo County’s inmates; for example, Waldo shares the same District Attorney with them, they have video conferences, etc.

W. Shorey said he had heard enough. He said he would refuse to sign any more warrants permitting money to go to the State and that the Commissioners should demand an accounting for the money that Waldo submitted to the BOC last fall. Until that accounting was received, no more money would be sent to the BOC from Waldo County. A. Fowler noted that other counties have not made their total payments as yet, and she could not blame them.

After more discussion, it was noted that the Treasurer has agreed to send a check to Two Bridges whenever the Commissioners direct him to. A. Fowler said that there have been a few of Waldo’s inmates that have been quite ill and have run up high medical bills for Two Bridges, which also has not been paid by BOC.

W. Shorey said that Waldo County should demand a detailed accounting of the \$915,146.56 the County sent. Until that accounting is provided, no more money will be sent to the BOC. It will be sent to the Jails housing Waldo County inmates. He stated that the time now is for action, not talking anymore.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 a.m. Unanimous.**

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