

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
AUGUST 10, 2010**

PRESENT: Commissioners Amy R. Fowler, Donald P. Berry and William D. Shorey. Also present was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

Commissioner Berry called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners for the Treasurer's Report were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

2009 AUDIT:

D. Parkman reported that the 2009 Audit report has been received from Harold A. Blake, C.P.A. and the Commissioners each received a copy along with the Management Letter.

REVENUE REPORT:

58% of anticipated revenue is usually expected at this point in the year and has been received in the amount of 73%. D. Parkman described the Sheriff's revenue as "a little disappointing at 31%." He noted that the other accounts, including the Deeds Transfer Tax and Fees are good, adding that and Probate Restitution is a little "off," but clarifying that Probate has not been spending much on Court Appointments from the operating budget, either.

APPROPRIATIONS:

The County operating budget is expected to be about 59% expended at this point in the year. D. Parkman noted that the Commissioners' Budget is 60% expended and that a few individual lines in some budgets are overdrawn. He noted that over-time accounts are hard to predict and hard to manage.

DEBT SERVICE PAID OFF:

The Waldo County Regional Communications Center is all paid for and the Commissioners expressed great pleasure in this accomplishment.

RECORDS DISCUSSION:

D. Parkman, recalling that the Budget Committee asked for the Records Preservation Operating Budget to be done away with and just a reserve account used, commented that he believed there should "be a fight to keep the County records in good shape, now that they have been placed in the proper conditions." He did not want to see this lag behind. B. Arseneau agreed.

GENERAL FUND BALANCE:

D. Parkman commented that the overlay is \$291,737.00 over the 20% permitted by statute to be retained by the County. If the maximum allowed amount was retained, it would be approximately \$800-900,000.00. The Commissioners will have to do something with the overage – either put it into the reserves, or return it to the taxpayers. On page 9 of the audit it states that \$1,216,762.19 is in the General Fund as undesignated funds. If this figure is taken against the CAP, that leaves the County over the 20% by \$291,737.00. W. Shorey asked if this money has to go into some kind of account or go back to taxpayers. D. Parkman said the Commissioners have the authority to take that and either send it back or put it into an account. W. Shorey expressed his desire to see a reserve account created for furniture for the new EMA/Sheriff's

Building project. He suggested that the County set these funds aside to cover those expenditures. He felt that this would be a very reasonable thing that needed to happen. There was brief discussion and clarification that \$291,737.00 actually has to go back to the taxpayers, and the Commissioners agreed that they would like to return some funds to the taxpayers. The Commissioners would need to follow the steps in the statutes. D. Parkman said that once the County was down to the 20%, the remainder of the undesignated funds could be set aside as the Commissioners desired, by law. The Commissioners agreed that some of the undesignated funds should be set aside for furniture for the new EMA/Sheriff' building.

D. Parkman recommended that when the Commissioners start to use funds from the undesignated funds, they move the money to County Planning or Sheriff's Building Reserve Accounts. He said that it is easier to account for the expenditures for the EMA/Sheriff's Building Project if the money was placed in a reserve account. He explained that these funds would not be moved to a reserve until absolutely needed.

K. Trussell said she had a quick question. She hoped the annual report would be ready for the printer soon and wondered what to do for the dedication page. The Commissioners said they would work that out with the County Clerk later, as she usually creates that page.

CORRECTIONS: The current balance in the checking account is \$25,079.17. Once the 80% CCA funds in the amount of \$167,138.24 is deposited, then there will be a balance of \$111,071.34. D. Parkman reported that the T.A.N. has \$3.5 million available, and only \$2.1 million has been used. Property tax should be coming in soon.

Unofficially, from fiscal 2009-2010, the Corrections budget had \$215,202.90 left. This belongs to the County of Waldo. He expressed concern that the State might cut the next budget by that amount, but A. Fowler said that she doubted it since the Re-entry Center has not experienced a full year of operation after the mission change. W. Shorey asked where that money would be kept. D. Parkman and K. Trussell responded that it would be in undesignated funds. D. Parkman explained that the MCCA had wanted a unanimous vote, and some abstained, for the Sheriff's Association to take that money and protect it in a joint account. He noted that the \$215,202.90 is an entry and not an official figure. He noted that this had not even reached legislative level. S. Story, who was now present, stated that this had gone before the MCCA, but nobody has actually proposed it to legislature, nor has it been proposed to the BOC. BOC has been made aware of it, but claimed it was not their matter to decide because they had no control over that money.

WARRANTS:

D. Parkman read the specific expenditures from the July 28, 2010 and August 10 Reserve Accounts payable warrants, which are included in the amounts below:

****D. Berry moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the July 28, 2010 General Fund Accounts Payable Warrant in the amount of \$153,652.15 and the July 22, 2010 General Fund Payroll in the amount of \$97,716.13. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 28, 2010 Re-entry Accounts payable Warrant in the amount of \$8,669.71 (later corrected to \$26,382.50) and the July 22, 2010 Re-entry Payroll in the amount of \$23,981.38. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the July 28, 2010 Active/Restricted Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$16,037.17. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 10, 2010 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$310,36.94 and the August 5, 2010 General Fund Payroll in the amount of \$95,525.45. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the August 10, 2010 Re-entry Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$81,146.07 and the August 5, 2010 Re-entry Payroll in the amount of \$24,083.46. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 10, 2010 Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$30,472.53. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Unanimous.**

BUDGET CAUCUS:

Present for the caucus were Selectmen and 2010 Budget Committee Members Richard Desmarais of Searsport, James Bennett of Thorndike, and Bill Sneed of Prospect.

D. Berry read the statutes, convened the meeting, and opened the floor for nominations for municipal officers to fill the expired terms on the Waldo County Budget Committee for 2011 in the following Districts:

DISTRICT 1 (Two expired terms):

****James Bennett moved, Richard Desmarais seconded to nominate Roger Lee of Belfast to fill the expired term for District 1. Unanimous by the three selectmen.**

****James Bennett moved, Bill Sneed Seconded to nominate Grayson Hartley of Islesboro to fill the expired term for District 1. Unanimous by the three selectmen.**

DISTRICT 2:

****James Bennett, Bill Sneed seconded to nominate Peter Curley of Stockton Springs to fill the expired term for District 2. Unanimous by the three selectmen.**

B. Sneed inquired about the starting time for the Budget meetings, noting that it had been good to start in October and get them done.

D. Berry informed the selectmen of the following:

1. Hold the first budget meeting in October as an informational meeting, as was done last year.
2. The Waldo County Communications Center has been paid off.
3. The City of Belfast Planning Board has approved the Sheriff's/EMA project. He noted that a fair amount of money had to be spent on legal counsel, but this had to be done. Environmental issues have been addressed, and it was noted that it couldn't be determined for certain that the propane odor was actually coming from the County property. Much of the odors were determined to be organic in nature.

4. Reading a section from the 2009 County of Waldo Financial Audit, D. Berry noted that net assets increased \$603,995.94 for the year, which amounts to an increase of 18.4%. The Audit also reported that the County's portion of the property taxes decreased \$142,617.80 in relation to the previous year.

5. D. Berry noted that it is not final yet, but it is expected that there will be some funds returned to the taxpayers. Funds for the 2008-09 period are in excess of 20% so nearly \$300,000.00 will be returned to the County taxpayers. D. Berry stated that he believed the Commissioners and departments had done a "heck" of a job. He said that the Commissioners are asking for budgets to be no more than 1% increase for 2011. He believed that all needed to look at the economic conditions. He believed that the County government was one of the larger employers in the County now. The reserves have been able to satisfy and be used in a very positive way, and this is demonstrated by the use of reserve accounts to fund the upcoming new Sheriff's/EMA building project.

D. Parkman said he didn't like surprises and did not want to surprise the Budget Committee, but the County received over \$500,000.00 in Federal Grants and this requires a Federal Audit, which is expected to be extensive and expensive. D. Parkman explained that this was a surprise to him and he wanted the Budget Committee to be aware of that upcoming cost. B. Sneed inquired, "The Federal Government is going to charge you for auditing their books?" D. Parkman and the Commissioners all responded, "Yes."

B. Sneed wondered if it would be appropriate to ask about the Jail Assessment and asked if the State was trying to raise the \$2.8 million CAP. A. Fowler said that this was not being raised yet. B. Sneed asked S. Story if it is still the status quo and S. Story confirmed that. "For us it has been great," S. Story stated. "It hasn't been for other counties."

D. Berry said another positive piece is that there was Corrections money that would be lost if not spent had resulted in the Waldo County Garden and asked W. Shorey to speak to that.

W. Shorey estimated that \$10-12,000.00 in food could be produced for the public out of that garden. Bill Browning of the VOA is the coordinator for where the food goes and it is either delivered or picked up by the people who call and get on the list. "We feel very fortunate to have been able to get such a fabulous piece of property," he stated. "When the Re-entry expands, we'll have more volunteers and these people have an opportunity to give back to the community, and it helps the community to have access to this food," he explained. He noted that some days it is harder to keep up with the garden work than others. When asked where the garden is located, the committee members were told that it is on Route 141 in Swanville about one mile from the store. It has a large sign next to the road.

D. Berry noted that W. Shorey is very busy with the garden, A. Fowler is very busy with the Corrections matters and D. Berry is busy as Chairman, also with the Coastal Communities Workforce, etc.

B. Sneed asked about the 100 acre property owned by the County. D. Berry said it was still on the table. W. Shorey said that he was not in agreement with the Treasurer on that matter, and noted that there will need to be discussions on that further down the road.

D. Berry reported that budgets are being worked on, and there are two unions that will be negotiating this fall. He anticipated that most of the negotiations will be related to salaries, since most of the other

groundwork had been laid with the original contracts. He noted that COLA for retired people in the state is zero again.

B. Sneed asked if the unions had added stability to the salary scales and D. Berry said that this was the case, and it had resulted in re-creating pay scales for non-union employees as well, with no COLA's and more step increases. B. Sneed asked if, after the initial "angst," if these contracts had assisted in predictability and was told yes. "It is highly predictable to have these pay scales," D. Berry confirmed.

R. Desmarais noted that the 2% proposed increase for hourly employees in the Town of Searsport failed and will be held at zero this year.

B. Sneed said that, regardless of the County's taxes, their Town's taxes will go up because the State has raised the valuation. J. Bennett stated that the same thing happened last year in Thorndike and will happen again this year. The Commissioners acknowledged that this is the case with most of the towns.

J. Bennett asked why there would be a poverty abatement hearing coming before the Commissioners, as most people have a mortgage and the mortgage company would take care of that. The Commissioners noted that a number of people do own their own homes but no longer have the income. W. Shorey said that counties all over the states are being hit hard and have to cancel programs, etc. There was brief discussion of the State "robbing" various accounts to pay for debt.

S. Story stated that it was not all "gloom and doom." Penobscot County had a 27% increase in health insurance costs, whereas Waldo County has experienced no increase since 2007. The Re-entry Center was also listed as a positive thing.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

1. S. Story asked W. Shorey to assist in estimating gas prices and was told to use the same figure as last year at \$3.20 per gallon.

2. S. Story reported that he had lost two line items in the Corrections Budget during the last two budget cycles. He budgeted for a clothing allowance for the Captain and also reduced stipends because the staff is reduced. Somewhere, and he took responsibility, during the change in the Corrections budgets, or during the mission change from a Jail to a Reentry Center, those two line items were lost. He didn't know what this entailed with the stipends. He would be consulting with Lt. Jason Trundy, formerly Jail Administrator, as to how these had been reduced and would come back with a number. He asked for the Commissioners to help find some money to "make these people whole." He explained that the clothing allowance at \$650.00 for the Captain would be easier. He would send a written request for that to the Human Resources Director out of the Uniform line.

S. Story anticipated the stipend portion taking about \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00. He asked if he could pay the stipends for the last six months, as they hadn't been paid yet. He would also need it for the first six months of the current fiscal year but would budget it for the next fiscal year budget.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to fund these expenditures from the Uniform Line of the Jail Budget, since they were inadvertently overlooked. Unanimous.**

3. S. Story reported being done preparing the 2011 Sheriff's budget with the exception of salaries, and would be looking for the Commissioners' direction. At this point, he is flat-funding it. He recognized that

this had to wait until the Collective Bargaining was completed. He also asked if he would be included in Collective Bargaining for the unit and was told yes. D. Berry said he hoped to get through negotiations with expediency so that the Commissioners could not walk in on the last day of budget meetings with a figure.

FACILITIES REPORT:

Present for to meet with the Commissioners was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley and Architect Robert Fenney, reporting the following:

1. SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE ADA WORK: To date, \$55,000.00 has been received from the State for this project. The front door was spec'd out and R. Fenney, in reviewing the specs, said he realized this was not a commercial grade opener. He explained that they realized that all should match for keying, longevity, etc. K. Nealley said the estimated expenses would be about \$20,000.00 and it came back over that. After speaking with Jeff Henthorne with the State, J. Henthorne agreed to pay for half of that door. The County's amount would be about \$3,769.50. The door total is \$7,935.00.

R. Fenney acknowledged that the initial scope of work turned out to be more than anticipated. For example, the back bathroom in the Grand Jury Room, when being addressed, turned out to have odd piping and that needed to be addressed. Also, all the wiring for the electronics had been done at the baseboard level. When the partition walls had to be moved, the County's electrician dealt with it then and ran the wiring through the ceiling instead. Because the time period for getting funding from the State has passed, the State's money has effectively "dried up." K. Nealley said that all told, over 90% of the project was funded by the State. The Commissioners felt that this was a reasonable request for funding on the part of the Facilities Manager and all agreed that these projects should have been done years and years ago. K. Nealley asked which account this would be funded from and the Commissioners voted as follows:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded take fund these expenditures from the Courthouse Reserve. Unanimous.**

The Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the State's contributions to this project.

2. ROOFING ON DISTRICT COURTHOUSE: K. Nealley reported that he was comparing slate vs. asphalt roofing for the sections of the District Courthouse roof that need work done. He reported that they were bracing themselves for some discussion with the City of Belfast regarding slate vs. asphalt to fix the roof in a certain section, so he was working up numbers for both. R. Fenney commented that when the addition was put onto the District Courthouse, it was done with asphalt shingles. Later, other sections of the roof needed to be replaced and were done with asphalt. He said they had already gone "around" with the City of Belfast Design Review Board. He believed some people would want the County to use slate and felt that the only way to prepare for this discussion was to have pricing for slate vs. asphalt, knowing that the slate would be a great deal more expensive.

There was brief discussion about the District Courthouse roof leaking a few times this winter, and K. Nealley explained that it had been discovered that part of the ridge cap was missing and that was repaired. R. Fenney noted that the County has done a lot in terms of air conditioners, roofs, etc. for the District Courthouse and noted that this was in pretty good shape. Regarding the Superior Courthouse, R. Fenney referred to it as "a crapshoot," commenting that the big thing over there is the heating system and the question is what the long-term plan for courts in Waldo County are and where the Superior Courthouse figures into this. R. Fenney believed that counties would be going the same way as Penobscot County in unifying the courts. With that in mind, he believed that the things to consider are where to put Superior

Court, where do put the Registry of Deeds, etc. “There is a difference between “nice” and “fiscally prudent,” he commented. He mentioned that some people have complained about the work that has been done in the Superior Courtroom, but noted that the County is obligated to be ADA compliant.

3. UNIVERSITY OF ME COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BUILDING: A former Re-entry resident who was a painter before his incarceration has now got his own certificate of insurance and is now working on painting the outside of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension building. The contracted amount is \$750.00, with the County providing ladders and supplies. K. Nealley noted that the west side of that building also needed to be addressed and would get figures for that project. He felt it was important to look at what needs to be done in terms of capital improvements for the 2011 budget. R. Fenney added that all future projects and needs would have to be planned, as well.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT:

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

1. J. Arseneau informed the Commissioner that the lease for the hardware server purchases in 2006 of \$32,000.00 per year was on the last warrant. He reminded them that the County has been trying to do two-year maintenance contracts rather than one-year. He noted that there is one more year on the Spillman contract. Regarding the servers installed in 2006, the five-year mark will be next year. Many companies do “virtualization” and there are “two big chunks and you can change things around” – Penobscot, Cumberland, Hancock and Knox have done that. He recommended doing this virtualization. In order to start this, a study needs to be performed to determine the type of servers, memory and disks that will be needed. J. Arseneau believed this project could be done for approximately \$1,500.00 to get the numbers going and asked if this could be funded from the Technology Reserve.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize this project and to fund it from the Technology Reserve. Unanimous.**

2. Three-ring Binder Project: A private company obtained funds to build three fiber rings. This will come down Church Street but it will not be connecting anything as this company expects counties and others to figure out “anchoring,” etc. The company has \$27,000,000.00 to build it and then will bill everyone to use it. He commented that this puts them in competition with the other companies, who are not too happy about this. VOA has expressed interest in this. J. Arseneau said it won’t be running next to any of the County buildings, so the County would have to run the additional connection.

There was brief discussion about leasing vs. purchasing the upgrades. J. Arseneau explained that because the County has not been able to fund the Technology Reserve to keep up with the upgrades, they might be forced to lease rather than purchase, in order to spread the payments out.

PSAP REPORT:

Present for this report was Waldo County Communications Director Owen Smith, who wanted to briefly review the “Straw-man” document that had been forwarded to the Commissioners. “Nine of the PSAPS survived, but there were some big surprises,” he reported. He explained that Hancock County has been requested to consolidate. He noted that Waldo County was smart to have been regionalized in the first place. He stated that MECCA (Maine Emergency Communications Centers Association) Public Hearing will be September 22, 2010. MECCA has been very proactive and has been very involved and he believed this had made a huge difference. Comments from the group that the “Strawman proposal” vote was sent out

to are due before that. There are three questions that need to be answered. He didn't believe it was over, it is not a "done deal," but he believes the nine (9) PSAPS mentioned in the beginning should be O.K.

A. Fowler stated that O. Smith was being modest about the involvement and dedication of the Communications Directors group. They had been prepared to have another study done, if that had been necessary. She said this group should be very proud.

O. Smith said he believed it had been "key" that the group insisted on having a place at the MCCA table to have a voice.

He admitted that when the "Straw-man" document first arrived, he was anxious, but ended up being very pleased with the findings. D. Berry agreed and stated that he was also pleased.

O. Smith said every PSAP is supposed to receive \$1.00 per capita for three years to assist in the changes, and he believed this included all PSAPS, not just those making big changes. This could be about \$39,000.00 for Waldo County each year. He suspected that there would be constraints on how this funding could be used.

W. Shorey said that when he read the PUC report, he found it interesting that as hard as they had fought to build the Sheriff's/EMA building near the Communications Center, this appeared to be the preferred thing.

O. Smith noted that the Communications Center does more work than some centers, including answering non-emergency calls for various departments and agencies, serves as a clearinghouse for paperwork for all law enforcement agencies and many other functions.

D. Berry briefly reviewed the history behind the PSAPS and explained that these were some of the original goals in the first place; getting the PSAPS down to where they should be in numbers.

O. Smith commented that if this went on the five-year schedule, the next round will be 2018. He noted that a study should be done in 2016 rather than waiting until the last minute, and he hoped that somebody would be able to remind the MCCA of that.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to review correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau with Deputy County Veronica Spear taking minutes, and Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth sitting in.

1. B. Arseneau requested an executive Session for a personnel matter that just came up late yesterday.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to enter executive session for a personnel matter and consideration of resignation, compensation, etc. as allowed by Title 1 subsection 405, 6, A, 1 at 10:57 a.m. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to exit executive session at 11:14 a.m.** No action was taken.

2. D. Berry said that there have been a few emails about the Eastern Maine Development Corporation meeting. He wondered if Knox County was even going.

2. Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell informed the Commissioners that there was a typographical error on the amount for the July 28, 2010 Re-entry Accounts payable warrant and requested that the Commissioners amend vote for that warrant to be changed from \$8,669.71 to \$26,382.50

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorty seconded to amend their vote on the July 28, 2010 Re-entry Accounts payable warrant from \$8,669.71 to \$26,382.50. Unanimous.**

3. Signature on VRAP program: D. Rowley sent the document for the VWRAP Program. D. Berry signed that document for the Board of Commissioners.

4. A letter has been received from Ted Glessner thanking the Commissioners for their recent letter indicating that the rental amount had gone up and the wrong amount was being paid. He acknowledged this error, apologized for the oversight and stated that the error will be corrected in the next monthly payment along with the unpaid amount from the previous month.

5. The Commissioners noted pay step increases for the following employees:

- Dispatcher Christopher Shedyak reached the twelve-year year step on August 2, 2010 with an increase from \$18.76 to \$19.56 per hour.
- County Clerk Barbara Arseneau will reach twelve years of employment on August 31, 2010, moving to the twelve-year step at \$46,748.62 annually.

6. The Commissioners received a letter from Waldo County Deputy Sheriff's Association President Gerry Lincoln confirming that the Association conducted a vote in January 2010 which resulted in the unanimous vote to have the Fraternal Order of Police represent the Association and its members in professional and certain personal legal matters. The FOP will also represent the Association in upcoming collective bargaining negotiations. The unit will still maintain their status and name as an Association and the Lodge designation for Fraternal Order of Police business.

7. Office Closure for Administrative Work: B. Arseneau requested on behalf of the staff in both the Commissioners and Treasurer's Offices authorization to close the offices for two consecutive days to catch up on some administrative work and filing. The Commissioners permitted the offices to be closed Thursday and Friday August 26 and 27, with notice posted in advance.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to permit the Commissioners and Treasurer's Offices to be closed for administrative work August 26 and 27, 2010. Unanimous.** W. Shorey commented that the staff works in a "horrible situation" due to such tight quarters and lack of space for files, etc.

8. The 2011 Budget templates have been revamped and are all set to be sent out, after review and approval by the Commissioners. The Commissioners approved the templates and instructed that these be sent out with instructions to hold the budget increase to 1% above the 2010 budget.

MINUTES APPROVED:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the following Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions: August 3, 2010, July 13, 2010, as well as the minutes from the meeting with the BOC, DOC, Senators, etc. that also was held on July 13, 2010. Unanimous.**

MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

1. A. Fowler submitted the DOC budget for FY2010-13 that she had received. She asked the Commissioners to look at the personnel services, noting that the Counties have to break down every position, which employees are in a union; which are not, etc. She commented that there is no breakdown for

the DOC budget – these are all lumped together. She further observed that under the repairs line, the DOC budgets \$169,000.00 every year for repairs at the Maine State Prison. She compared this with the County of Waldo funding its own mission change. She said she wanted to take these to the BOC and say, “This is “One Maine, One System so the counties budgets should be presented exactly the same way as the DOC.” She stated that while she agreed with the Sheriff’s statement that the County’s \$2.8 million CAP had not increased, she believed this was not truly “One Maine, One System.” She referred to the recent claim in the paper by the State that “no county jail went bankrupt.” She expressed that she didn’t realize that we were “in a system to see who went bankrupt first.” She stated that she had great respect for Waldo County’s Sheriff. County taxpayers pay \$80 million into this system, and the State pays on \$3.5 million and has control over the system. “What is wrong with this picture?” she asked. She didn’t believe that \$23.00 per day to board an inmate was a reasonable amount to pay for board, which is the figure the State set to board State prisoners in county jails.

D. Parkman remarked that when he started working for the County in 2003, he watched boarding costs go up every year. He recalled the year that the County had to hold off and pay the previous year’s last few months’ boarding costs out of the following year’s budget. W. Shorey said he believed that the Counties may have been charging too much for boarding and perhaps it needed to be rectified some, but he commented that nobody had stopped the pendulum from going too far in the opposite direction. He added that, regarding the Two Bridges situation in which the State had not paid them for several months and the Commissioners had expressed their desire to pay Two Bridges directly so that Waldo County’s inmates would be paid for, he believed that was not really the correct method for payment and Waldo County would “undoubtedly be taught a lesson by the State” if they handled it that way. A. Fowler said she believed that the first part of this fiscal year, Two Bridges would be paid, but doubted it would be paid toward the end of the year. She said she would be back with the Treasurer to speak to the other two commissioners about paying Two Bridges directly.

A. Fowler commended the Sheriff for “re-inventing” the County Jail and developing the Re-entry Facility and the other Commissioners concurred.

There was brief discussion on how the County’s \$2.8 million is supposed to be paid to the State. The Commissioners did not believe they should wait until the end of the fiscal year to pay it, but wondered if instead of paying up front the way they did last year, if there was a system of quarterly payments or some other arrangement. D. Berry thought they should check into that to see what the system is. The Treasurer said he did not want to borrow money from the T.A.N. any sooner than the County needed to and paying the State in installments would be one way to avoid that.

2. It was confirmed that the Commissioners have a poverty abatement hearing scheduled on August 24, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., rather than the original scheduled date of September 14, 2010.
3. W. Shorey requested that the Commissioners could schedule a time to set aside money in a new reserve account called “Office Equipment for Public Safety Building Project.” It was decided that this would be handled after the audit when reserves are normally set or replenished by undesignated funds.
4. While briefly reviewing the 2009 Audit that had been received this morning, D. Berry complimented the Board of Commissioners as a unit for doing a great job.

5. D. Berry noted that B. Arseneau not included on the agenda the item tabled from the last Commissioners Court Session. B. Arseneau apologized for the oversight. The tabled item that should have been included was the Technology request of a swipe card security monitoring system for the Jail in the amount of approximately \$41,000.00. W. Shorey said that he'd like to put off discussing that until sometime in November. A. Fowler said she had absolutely no problem with that. She felt that Waldo County was a pioneer in the reentry mission change and believed that this swipe card system was needed to run the facility well. She acknowledged the fiscally conservative nature of both the Sheriff and Re-entry Administrator and stated that funds were available for this system. She was looking down the road to when there are more residents in the facility and it is harder to monitor their coming and going.

6. D. Berry informed the Commissioners that he had received in the mail an *Arbor Day* magazine, with a photo of the hybrid tree known as the "Green Giant Arborvitae" (*Thuja standishii x plicata*). The magazine stated that the Green Giant Arborvitae is known for "its rapid growth rate of up to three (3) feet per year resulting in excellent visual and wind screening." The magazine also stated that "another reason is its large size at maturity and its tolerance of a wide range of soil types." D. Berry recalled that during one of the planning board meetings with the City of Belfast, someone had questioned the existence of these trees when he had mentioned them.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS' COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session will be a special session scheduled on August 17, 2010 for a health insurance workshop.

****D. Berry moved, W. Shorey seconded adjourning the Commissioners Court Session at 12:44 p.m. Unanimous.**

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