

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
FEBRUARY 3, 2012  
(SPECIAL SESSION)**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners William D. Shorey - Chairman, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Taking minutes was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

**Call to order:** W. Shorey called the court session to order at 12:33 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter Executive Session for discussion of consideration of employment, assignments and duties as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 – 6(A) at 12:33 p.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of Executive Session at 2:45 p.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

**CORRESPONDENCE (Date sensitive):**

1. Deputy District Attorney Eric Walker send a memo dated February 1, 2012 to the County Commissioners stating that Kathleen Butler, currently serving as Interim Victim/Witness Advocate, is the most qualified of all the applicants and recommended hiring her as full-time Victim Witness Advocate, effective February 1, 2012 at \$18.99 per hour.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded hiring Kathleen Butler as full-time Victim/Witness Advocate effective February 1, 2012 at \$18.99 per hour. Unanimous.**

2. HEALTH INSURANCE COBRA RATES: M. Wadsworth and B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that Plan Administrator Malcolm Ulmer has recommended increasing the COBRA rates as follows: Single: From \$625.72 to \$764.00; Employee & Child: From \$1,163.19 to \$1,223.00; Employee & Spouse: From \$1,227.80 to \$1,375.00 and the Family rate from \$1,759.06 to \$1,910.00 per month. After some discussion of employees who have already been told the rates would be the same and the current ones, the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to increase the COBRA rates as recommended, effective March 1, 2012. This rate increase will apply to anyone signing up for COBRA coverage from March 1, 2012 on. Unanimous.**

3. A Notice of Public Meeting Belfast Intown Design Review Committee dated January 30, 2012 has been received. The Committee will meet February 6, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in Belfast City Council Chambers to review an application by the First Church to construct an 8' x 12' storage shed. The public may attend but there will be no public comment due to the fact that this is a Type 3 Permit, which means that the applicant is not required to comply with the Committee's recommendations.

4. Communications Director Owen Smith sent notice that he spoke with John at Yankee Communications yesterday and was told that the upgrade equipment is at Yankee. It has not been opened for inspection but will be soon. This is nearly six weeks earlier than expected, which is the reason O. Smith wanted to notify the Commissioners in the event that it might cause any budget issues. The Commissioners expressed that this being done earlier than anticipated would not cause any issues with funding.

**MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:**

1. W. Shorey informed the Commissioners that City of Belfast Planner Wayne Marshall had met with him on January 31, 2012 regarding the recent courthouses study performed by Winton Scott Architects. W. Marshall shared his view that it might be a good idea to add on to the Superior Courthouse, noting that about eleven years ago, he had proposed adding a connector between the Superior Courthouse and what is now the City Hall building as a way to expand onto the courthouse. W. Marshall also commented on the nice appearance of the new Public Safety Building. W. Shorey stated that he and Mr. Marshall discussed the need to deal with the old Sheriff's Office. W. Shorey said he has been told that the City of Belfast is working on zoning changes for "non-compliant" parcels in the future.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the court session at 2:58 p.m.  
Unanimous.**

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