

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
AUGUST 19, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners William D. Shorey – Chairman, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Also present was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau to take minutes.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 9:00 a.m.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners was Treasurer David Parkman.

**COUNTY REVENUE:**

D. Parkman reported revenue received in the amount of 72% of the amount anticipated, which is about 10% above where it could be at this time of year.

**COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS:**

As requested, D. Parkman had checked on the part-time and over-time lines. The Sheriff had told the Treasurer that it is cheaper to use part-time employees than full-time and that he viewed the over-time and part-time lines really as one line. The Commissioners and Treasurer believed that there was a difference between the two, as over-time is paid at time and one half. The Treasurer suggested that the part-time line be increased and the over-time line be decreased for the 2015 budget to reflect the true expenditures. The Commissioners believed that overall the budget was in good shape.

The entire County budget is 61% expended, which is on track.

**CORRECTIONS:**

The Corrections Appropriations are about 8% expended, which is appropriate at this time of year.

**INTEREST:**

Not discussed.

**CORRECTIONS REVENUE:**

Not discussed.

**RESERVE ACCOUNTS:**

Not discussed.

**TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:**

D. Parkman reported \$850,000.00 left in the T.A.N. loan. D. Parkman briefly discussed his reasoning for increasing the budget for this next year due to inflation. He believed that about half of that would be used before property taxes start coming in.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to file the Treasurer’s Report. Unanimous.**

**WARRANTS:**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 31, 2014 General Fund and July 17 and 31, 2014 Payrolls warrant in the amount of \$505,603.09. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 31, 2014 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$72,164.45. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 31, 2014 Reentry Accounts Payable and July 17 and 31, 2014 Payrolls warrant in the amount of \$131,552.18. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 31, 2014 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$3,095.33. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 12, 2014 General Fund Accounts Payable and August 14, 2014 Payroll warrant in the amount of \$158,518.79. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 12, 2014 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$12,487.50. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 12, 2014 Reentry Accounts Payable and August 14, 2014 Payroll warrant in the amount of \$83,766.92. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 12, 2014 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$2,786.82. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to revise the amount to be paid on the June 27, 2014 Capital Restricted Reserve warrant to \$10,632.54. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to revise the amount to be paid on the July 8, 2014 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant to \$13,228.76. Unanimous.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into Executive Session at 9:27 a.m. for discussion of protected information as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§ 405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of Executive Session at 10:04 a.m. Unanimous.**

No action was taken.

#### **SHERIFF'S REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Jeffrey Trafton with the following report:

1. Sheriff Story reported a recent accident with one of the Sheriff's Deputy's cruisers involving a collision with a deer. The Deputy was not injured.

2. New Part-time Hires:

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire Dean Jackson as part-time Deputy at \$18.97 per hour effective August 20, 2014. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire Warren Heath as part-time Corrections Officer at \$16.55 per hour, effective August 19, 2014. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire Jeff King as part-time Corrections Officer at \$16.55 per hour, effective August 19, 2014. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire Darren Nadeau as part-time Corrections Officer at \$16.55 per hour effective August 19, 2014. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the resignation of part-time Patrol Deputy John McEwen effective August 11, 2014.**

3. S. Story informed the Commissioners that he wished to sell the following items that were obtained by the Sheriff's Office as Asset Forfeiture, with the funds to go to the Asset Forfeiture account: A Dodge Neon, an ATV four-wheeler and miscellaneous firearms.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize the sale of the Dodge Neon, ATV four-wheeler and miscellaneous firearms obtained for Asset Forfeiture, with funds to be returned to Asset Forfeiture account. Unanimous.**

4. 2016-17 Corrections Budgets. S. Story reported that it was fairly easy to keep the lines under LD 1 budget except for technology budget. S. Story said he didn't think the budget would pass with the technology increase, so he didn't budget for that increase, after speaking with the Commissioner Chairman, with the understanding that perhaps funding for this could be found elsewhere. The proposed budgets are as follows:

2016 - \$2,172,024.00

2017 - \$2,190,682.00

5. Corrections Van Bid Proposals:

Bid proposals were received from the following:

1. Newcastle Chrysler Dodge: A 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan with warranty at \$21,362.00.

2. Bessey Motor Sales, So. Paris: A 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan at \$22,078.00.00.

3. Central Maine Motors, Waterville: A 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan at \$20,663.00.

The request for bid proposals was for a 2014, so Central Maine Motors did bid as requested.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize purchase of the 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan from Central Maine Motors in the amount of \$20,663.00.**

6. A. Fowler reported that the Corrections system will be going with Maine Pre-trial.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Present with the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to review the following correspondence, etc.:

1. The Commissioners clarified that the 2% COLA for 2015 includes elected officials.

2. **VOTE TO CHANGE WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSIONS:**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to change the Waldo County Commissioners regular monthly court sessions to the second Thursday of each month starting in September 2014, in order to accommodate an increased flow of business on Tuesdays in the District Courthouse.**

3. Pay step increases were noted by the Commissioners for the following employees:

- Dispatcher Kathy Foley reached the six-month step, with a pay increase from \$17.00 to \$17.56 per hour, and will also be eligible to start using accumulated vacation leave.
- Legal Secretary Megan Carter completed one-year of employment on July 15, 2014 with an increase in pay from \$16.36 to \$16.78.
- County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reached the sixteen-year (16) step on the Commissioners Staff pay scale on August 31, 2014, with total earnings for 2014 being \$51,639.00.

4. David Barrows is no longer a selectman in Lincolnville and will be leaving a vacancy on the Waldo County Budget Committee.

5. The County of Waldo has received a \$4,520.00 dividend check from Maine Municipal Association as a result of its good loss experience and loss prevention programs.

6. **“CONSULT A DOCTOR PROGRAM” PROVISION:**

The Commissioners decided that rather than providing both the “Consult A Doctor Program” by Teledoc and 24/7 Nurse Line, they would go with the recommendation from Malcolm Ulmer and provide just the “Consult and Doctor Program” as this would provide an excellent service to the employees and dependents enrolled in the County’s Health Care Plan with Meritain Health. This service is paid for out funds for the health care plan and is a free service to the county employees and dependents.

7. The Commissioners agreed to submit again this year a proclamation recognizing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Waldo County.

8. The Commissioners decided that they did not wish to meet with a representative who was offering an additional 457 option, since the County already offers a 457 plan to employees.
9. The Commissioners opted not to make a submission to the Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter in September.
10. EMA Deputy Director Olga Rumney has sent a revised invitation to the Annual EMA Awards Banquet, stating that guests can include children as a “significant other”.
11. Maine County Commissioners Association is offering again this year an on-site legal/risk management presentation to corrections officers and supervisory personnel. The invitation is also extended to County Commissioners, Administrators, Managers, Clerks, etc. None of the Waldo County Commissioners could attend but Correctional Administrator Ray Porter had also extended the invitation to include H.R. and the Deputy County Clerk as well, so they may attend.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve as presented the minutes from the July 8, 2014 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

(The Commissioners recessed to the Emergency Management Agency Classroom for the Budget Caucus starting at 11:30 a.m.)

**BUDGET CAUCUS FOR 2015 WALDO COUNTY BUDGET – EMA CLASSROOM:**

Present with the Commissioners were the following Selectmen: Harry Dean Potter (Palermo), Fred Rollins (Islesboro), Thomas Flacke (Morrill), Peter Curley (Stockton Springs), James Bennett (Thorndike) and Pamela Chase (Liberty). Also present were Deputy County Clerk Linda Kinney and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

District 1:

The Lincolnville Selectmen have designated Arthur Durity to fill the unfinished remaining one-year term on the Waldo County Budget Committee, which was left vacant by former Lincolnville Selectman David Barrows.

**\*\*T. Flacke nominated Fred Rollins from Islesboro to serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee for District 1.**

District 2:

**\*\*J. Bennett nominated Bill Sneed to serve on District 2.** The Commissioners briefly reviewed the process for nominations, explaining that nominations can only be made by those within each district. J. Bennett stated that he didn’t understand why nominations couldn’t be made by any selectman for any of the districts. The Commissioners reminded J. Bennett that they had received legal counsel on this matter and he requested it be sent to him. The County Clerk will resend that information out to the budget committee members.

**\*\*P. Curley nominated Bill Sneed to serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee for District 2.**

District 3

**\*\*J. Bennett nominated Harry Dean Potter to serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee for District 3.**

Nominations closed.

The Commissioners explained that they needed to speak with the Budget Committee on a matter of real property that could not yet be discussed publicly in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1, §405(6)(C).

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter executive Session for discussion of real property in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1§405(6)(C) at 11:40 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to come out of executive session at 11:55 a.m. Unanimous.**

No action was taken.

2014 BUDGET OVERVIEW:

1. W. Shorey informed those present that the County of Waldo is in excellent financial shape.
2. The Commissioners have scheduled the first 2015 Budget Committee Meeting on October 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Maine District Courtroom in Belfast.
3. 2015 Waldo County Budget Binders will be ready a minimum of one week before and the County will try to have them available sooner than that.
4. Some present asked why the budget meetings need to be held in the courthouse and requested that the statutes related to that be sent to them as soon as possible.

The Commissioners recessed for the luncheon at 12:10 p.m.

The Commissioners reconvened their court session at 1:10 p.m.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to enter executive session to deliberate on an M.R.S.A. Title 36§ 841(2) at 1:10 p.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 1:25 p.m.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to grant an abatement request made pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 36§ 841(2) in the amount of \$2,528.53, including interest for the tax year 2013. Unanimous.**

The Commissioners noted that fuel assistance and food stamps cannot be counted as income and the applicant in this matter fell well within the poverty guidelines.

**DISCUSSION OF BROADBAND GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:**

Present with the County Commissioners for this discussion were Belfast Economic Director Thomas Kittredge and Declan O'Connor.

T. Kittredge introduced Declan O'Connor to the Commissioners to speak about a potential grant application opportunity to expand broadband capacity in Waldo County. D. O'Connor stated that there has been work done to research who was providing IT (information technology) in Belfast. He briefly touched on the "Three-Ring Binder" program. He also explained the different tier levels for broadband service, noting that Belfast rates fairly high in service but as it spreads out to the rural areas there and the rest of the County, the service is poor or sometimes nonexistent. He noted that a partner is needed in order to apply for the grant and to ensure that if funds were obtained that the work would be accomplished. Time Warner is not willing to serve in that capacity.

D. O'Connor explained that Belfast really could not apply for the grant reasonably because the FCC would more likely consider 38,000 people versus 6,000 already fairly-well served people, so the thought was to have the County of Waldo apply for the grant.

D. O'Connor listed the costs of the project as follows:

There are parameters described as "the first mile, the middle mile and the last mile. The first mile is the outlying region. The middle mile is the areas reachable on the main roads. The last mile would require a company such as GWI, Blue Streak or Tide Water to complete it. It would cost \$6,000.00 per mile just to lay cable.

The point of meeting with the Commissioners was to see if the county is interested in collaborating on this grant application. It was noted that there doesn't appear to be a requirement for local matching funds to apply.

There was discussion of how to obtain information about what broadband service currently exists in the other 25 towns in Waldo County, which would require a poll. It would also need to be determined if there is an entity that could take this project "the last mile."

The grant application is due October 14<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners expressed concern over the short timeframe to get the information needed for the application and to draft it. They expressed their interest in outlying towns receiving broadband service but also expressed concern about how this would be funded and who else would partner in order to accomplish this huge task.

D. O'Connor said he would be in contact with GWI to see if they would be interested in partnering and would draft some polling questions for the municipalities regarding current broadband capabilities in those areas.

The Commissioners thanked T. Kittredge and D. O'Connor for meeting with them and bringing to their attention this grant application opportunity.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

No additional business.

**NEXT COURT SESSION:**

The next Commissioners Court Session is scheduled for September 11, 2014, which is the second Thursday, in keeping with the new Commissioners Court Schedule.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 2:05 p.m. Unanimous.**

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