

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
NOVEMBER 13, 2014**

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

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

Tax Anticipation Note:

D. Parkman reported that the Corrections checking account balance is \$520,326.17. The County checking account balance is \$366,480.07.

Currently the County owes \$2.5 million on the TAN.

Property Taxes 2014:

D. Parkman reported \$1,978,337.16 has been received so far, noting that the Town of Troy was the first town to pay. The Treasurer will be sending a letter to all these towns thanking them for paying and commented that this was excellent.

Municipalities that have not paid property taxes as of November 13, 2014 were as follows: Belmont, Brooks, Frankfort, Islesboro, Lincolnville, Morrill, Northport, Stockton Springs and Swanville.

Municipalities that have paid as of November 13, 2014:

Municipality:	Date Paid:
Belfast	11/10/14
Burnham	10/01/14
Freedom	09/29/14
Jackson	10/02/14
Knox	09/25/14
Liberty	10/01/14
Monroe	10/24/14
Montville	10/03/14
Palermo	09/23/14
Prospect	10/09/14
Searsmont	10/02/14
Searsport	10/24/14
Thorndike	10/27/14
Troy	09/17/14
Unity	09/24/14
Waldo	10/21/14
Winterport	09/29/14
Unorganized Territories	10/08/14

County Revenue:

D. Parkman reported that the State of Maine Court space rent is at 83% of the anticipated revenue. Unless they pay January in December, it will be a little low. EMA reimbursement is at 68% received. Otherwise, all revenue collected totals 98% so far this year.

County Appropriations:

D. Parkman reported that the expenditures could be 88% and is currently at 83%. No department is overspent. He commented that the Communications Center overtime budget is too low and possibly should be increased for next year.

Corrections Revenue:

Not discussed.

Corrections Appropriations:

Not discussed.

Reserve Accounts:

Not discussed.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to file the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 31, 2014 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and October 23, 2014 Payroll in the amount of \$217,916.83. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 31, 2014 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$38,551.69. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 31, 2014 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and October 23, 2014 Payroll in the amount of \$109,143.85. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 31, 2014 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$330.00. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 13, 2014 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and November 6, 2014 Payroll in the amount of \$1,031,907.60. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 13, 2014 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$42,566.92. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 13, 2014 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and November 6, 2014 Payroll in the amount of \$897,275.32. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the revised October 9, 2014 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and October 9, 2014 Payroll in the amount of \$163,834.29. Unanimous.**

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH KENNEBIC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Deputy Jeffrey Trafton.

Chief Deputy Trafton informed the Commissioners that the Maine Sheriff's had a committee of Chief Deputies get together and formalize the process of mutual aid. MCCA Risk Pool Director Malcolm Ulmer has reviewed the process and while this doesn't change what Sheriff's Offices have been doing, it now formalizes it. It allows other agencies to assist one another as needed. Right now Waldo is working with the counties that "touch" one another. J. Trafton submitted the document to the County Commissioners for approval and signature.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement between the County of Waldo and the County of Kennebec Sheriff's Offices. Unanimous.**

J. Trafton said that he, Sheriff Story and Correctional Administrator Raymond Porter will be meeting with Joseph Fitzpatrick of Maine Department of Corrections to discuss the future of the Reentry. Ryan Thornell will sit in on the meeting as well. During the last Sheriff's meeting, it was made very clear that the MCRRC has a target on its back. Some of the reasoning for some Sheriffs to sit in on this is that they are looking to protect their own facilities. After that meeting, J. Trafton and Lt. Trundy decided that they need to look out for Waldo County.

S. Story said that the last few months he will be working at the Sheriff's Office, he will update the policy books for the incoming Sheriff and will also do an in-depth study of each of the people who have gone through the reentry, the recidivism rate, risk reduction rates, comparisons to deaths and other analyses. S. Story will be appointed Chief Deputy but the Lieutenant will be taking on much of that work for him while he is doing this study and if there is a battle to save the reentry, he wants to be on the front line for that.

W. Shorey said he has watched closely the program at the Reentry Center. He thought the State should be watching this closely and that this type of program should be incorporated in other areas of the State.

S. Story believed the study results would prove that the program is exactly the type of work that needs to be done to rehabilitate people rather than "warehousing" them. This is what corrections facilities are supposed to be doing. Waldo County is the only facility doing what it's supposed to be doing in rehabilitating inmates.

S. Story said he would meet one more time with the Commissioners as Sheriff before the end of his term. He explained that he will likely work four ten hour days.

J. Trafton said he feels fortunate that S. Story will be staying for another 8 months with his institutional knowledge; particularly with the consolidation issues ahead. S. Story acknowledged that Commissioner Fowler also has been involved right from the beginning and also has great inside knowledge of the background and potential pitfalls.

S. Story noted that Waldo County's average daily population has been 38. This is significant when compared to the usual 50 that it had been. This averages \$65.00 per day to house an inmate. If the recidivism rate is dropping, this is reflected in the lower numbers of inmates. He couldn't help but think that every person who goes through the program successfully also reduces the burden on Waldo County.

A. Fowler asked S. Story and J. Trafton about having a discussion regarding people who cannot pay fines. Rather than putting them back in jail, perhaps there could be other arrangements made such as community service, etc. It costs so much to house a person. It was generally acknowledged that it was better for a person to be out working and eventually paying fines than incarcerating them because they cannot pay fines.

EMERGENCY STAFFING; MUTUAL AID:

D. Rowley submitted some recommended changes with the Emergency Operating Center (EOC). During the most recent major snow storm with power outages, he observed that the general public seems to be less and less prepared and more and more expectant of assistance. Many people were calling the County Communications Center asking when their power would be restored. He said that he didn't need to activate the EOC but, at times, there were issues at Dispatch. Some of the fire and law enforcement folks complained that they couldn't get through. This was brought out during the most recent Board of Director's Meeting. It was noted that over 500 calls were received by the Communications Center during that storm.

D. Rowley spoke with his counterparts and has learned that there is something in the works to deal with situations where some counties are overwhelmed with calls and for additional assistance that can be called in. He noted that while volunteers are great, when there is a disaster that involves everyone in the area, the number of volunteers is greatly reduced. He suggested that one of the things could be a phone bank.

D. Rowley said he felt that County employees should have an emergency role. He felt that 80% of the employees were working during emergencies and that 20% stay home and are paid. He has put together a list of positions and duties. People could be utilized to answer phones, call towns to check on them, etc.

He reviewed the recommended changes for emergency roles for all county employees. It would take an order from the County Commissioners to activate that.

He addressed the pay, suggesting that funding come from the Disaster Recovery Reserve (0263). It could be arranged that 8-hour shifts would be established to avoid any issues with those employees who are under collective bargaining agreements.

The Commissioners agreed that some changes could be made. They acknowledged that there would always be some circumstances in which a few employees might not be able to get out of their driveways or roads, and perhaps a Corrections Van could be sent out to pick them up. D. Rowley said he would also talk to the Department Heads about this restructuring of the EOC, as well.

D. Rowley said he would type it up as a draft, run it by the Department Heads and then bring it back to the County Commissioners. Training would be minimal.

There was also discussion with how to educate the General Public about which numbers to call for various forms of information so that people would know to call 2-1-1 versus 9-1-1, other information, etc. D. Rowley suggested doing magnets with that information but also large posters that are hung in Town Halls and other public places. A more detailed guide would be provided to those who want to know more detailed information.

D. Rowley said that there is still a real lack of understanding of how to report damage to personal homes and property. Many people don't know to report damage and don't realize that if enough is reported, FEMA can issue emergency funds.

Managing the expectations of the public, within the means of the county, is the goal.

W. Shorey felt that there should be legislation in place that anyone who sells gasoline should be mandated to have a generator so that they can still provide gasoline to people when the power is out. D. Rowley noted that the majority of gasoline vendors don't have generators, a propane distributor also didn't have a generator and even Sprague doesn't have one.

Update on Stockton Springs Tower:

D. Rowley reported that the foundation should be done in three or four days. The tower itself should be in freight-status by the 10th of December. The installer, Tower Services, is available in December, as well.

W. Shorey asked for an Executive Session for brief discussion of a personnel matter as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§405(6)(A).

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter executive session for a personnel matter as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§405(6)(A) at 10:33 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 10:44 a.m. No action taken.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to enter executive session at 10:45 a.m. for discussion of protected information as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§(405)(6)(F). Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 10:48 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize the Health Insurance Plan Administrator to bind the health insurance effective immediately. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Communications Director Owen Smith sent a memo "recapping" events from the storm of November 2 and 3, 2014. He informed the Commissioners that during those two days, the Communications Center handled 5291 calls for service as compared with the week before in which the

Center received 149 calls. He stated that the majority of the calls were 911 calls and required a call for service. The regular lines were busy but their priority is 911 and the units in the field. It was brought to his attention that they missed a few calls that came in on the regular line. He described his staff as “performing honorably” and this has been acknowledged by several other people. He further explained that there will soon be discussions on Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce and may have opportunities to help react in storms but he noted that the 911 centers were “all in the same boat” with this storm.

2. Facilities Manager Keith Nealley sent a copy of a memo he sent Communications Director Owen Smith commending the dispatchers for the excellent job they did handling such a large number of calls. He said he was at the Center during most of November 2nd to check on the generator and other equipment and expressed his commendation and deepest respect for the way the dispatchers handled themselves during this unexpected snow event. He listed those on duty during that day as Supervisor Mike Larrivee, Dispatchers Katie Dakin, Gabrielle Rossignol, Elena Donovan and Supervisor Liz Daggett.

3. B. Arseneau recommended hiring Temporary Deputy County Clerk Marilyn Saucier permanently as Deputy County Clerk at the five-year level of \$34,418.81 retroactive to November 10, 2014. Also presented was a pay scale that had been developed at the request of Commissioner Shorey for this position starting in 2015.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to hire Marilyn Saucier as Deputy County Clerk at the five-year rate in consideration of experience at \$34,418.81 retroactive to November 10, 2014 and to accept the updated pay scale change for this position for 2015. Unanimous.**

4. Part-time Patrol Deputy David Wintle has resigned his position effective October 29, 2014.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the resignation of David Wintle effective October 29, 2014. Unanimous.**

5. Part-time Patrol Deputy Gregory Morse has resigned his position effective October 24, 2014.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the resignation of Gregory Morse effective October 24, 2014. Unanimous.**

6. The following Sheriff’s Office employees were commended in writing to the Commissioners by Lieutenant Jason Trundy in recognition of excellent work related to a domestic assault investigation: Deputy Daniel Thompson, Sergeant James Greeley, Deputy Darrin Moody and Detective Dale Brown. The Commissioners expressed their commendation and performance of these officers.

7. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that, as instructed, she sent notice and a link to the National Association of Counties of the County of Waldo’s recently released video, “How County Government Works.” She has also sent notification to the Maine County Commissioners Association for the December Newsletter.

8. The Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District 2014 Annual Fall Banquet is November 18, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

1. B. Johnson will be re-elected Treasurer/Secretary of Coast County Workforces as she has accepted this nomination.

2. The Commissioners decided to move their December court session to December 17, 2014.

3. There was brief discussion of moving \$35,000.00 in undesignated funds to a new reserve account entitled "Economic Development".

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to move \$35,000.00 of undesignated funds into a new reserve account entitled "Economic Development". Unanimous.**

MINUTES APPROVED:

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2014 and October 30, 2014 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions. Unanimous.**

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court session is a regular session that has been moved to WEDNESDAY, December 17, 2014 starting at 9:00 a.m.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:33 a.m. Unanimous.**

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