

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
APRIL 24, 2019**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler, and Betty I. Johnson. Also present was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take minutes, and Human Resources Director Lynn Patten.

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 1:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Finance Director/Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell was at a Treasurer's Meeting so she asked Lynn Patten to share the Finance report. L. Patten reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$31,819.20.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$46,346.22.

County Appropriations:

30% of the 2019 budget has been expended and it should be 30% at this time.

County Revenue:

37.16% of the 2019 County revenue has been received.

Corrections Appropriations:

36% of 2019 budget has been expended and should be 30% expended.

Corrections Revenue:

1.65% of the 2019 Corrections revenue has been received.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

\$2,150,000.00 has been borrowed from the TAN; \$1,000,000.00 by the County and \$1,150,000.00 by Corrections.

L. Patten related to the Commissioners K. Trussell's written notes that the 2018 audit has begun and the auditor is planning to come May 1, 2019 to do field work. He has a good start on the financials due to the reports that K. Trussell has already emailed to him.

The Commissioners, Facilities, Sheriff's, and Communications Center's budgets are slightly over-expended but that should begin balancing out in September. The Corrections budget is also over-budget due to large payments at the start of the year, some are quarterly payments, and some of the maintenance lines are over-expended. This budget also likely balance out in September as well.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to file the Financial Report. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the April 11, 2019 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant including the April 4, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$278,003.31. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the April 11, 2019 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$32,899.34. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the April 11, 2019 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant including the April 4, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$103,385.72. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the April 11, 2019 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$6,238.47. Unanimous.**

FACILITIES REPORT:

Present was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley, who reported the following:

1. Propane Bids: K. Nealley spoke with Maritime Energy, the County's current propane supplier, and they were able to quote even less than the previous year's contract for fuel oil. Currently it is \$1.499 per gallon and for June 1, 2019 through May 30, 2020, it would be \$1.39 per gallon.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the proposal for propane at \$1.39 per gallon. Unanimous.**

2. Update on Probate Court move upstairs: K. Nealley submitted an updated estimate of work in the upstairs of the former District Courthouse to replace old carpeting and paint, and to also move some of Probate Court's large furniture and cabinets upstairs. He noted that paint now is extremely expensive and thanks to the reentry center clients who have been doing an excellent job painting, this has saved the County thousands of dollars in labor. He has currently spent over \$4,000.00 just with the paint. The cost to renovate will be closer to upwards of \$60,000.00.

The Commissioners discussed what the expenditure should be set at. When asked how much it would cost to prepare space across the hall for the expansion so the Finance Department could move over there, K. Nealley anticipated it being about \$10,000.00. The Commissioners reviewed the reserve accounts and authorized the following expenditures to fund the projects:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to \$5,000.00 from County Planning, \$15,000.00 from Courthouses, \$15,000.00 from Future Land and Buildings, and \$30,000.00 from Facilities, All Other for a total of \$65,000.00. This is to be moved to Courthouses Reserve 0260. Unanimous.**

PROBATE:

Present with the Commissioners was Judge of Probate Susan Longley and Register of Probate Sharon Peavey. Their purpose in attending was to determine whether or not Probate would be moving upstairs, as there had been nothing official stated yet. The Commissioners confirmed that the Registry of Probate and the Probate Court will be moving upstairs once the space has been prepared.

S. Peavey reported that the Probate Code is going to be changing, and it has increased by 200 pages. The Judge explained that it has been 30 years since the last update. The Probate Code was always the most difficult to read and the provisions always need to be referred to. She also reported that Sharon Peavey has done a wonderful job creating forms to match the new code.

There was discussion about the current legislative bill considering the possibility of Probate being taken over by the State of Maine. Figures are being compiled and reviewed. A. Fowler stated that because of this legislative bill, she now had a much better understanding of what Probate does for the community and the people.

Judge Longley stated that Commissioner Fowler has been a huge help on this matter at the legislature. She added that, unlike many other courts, the Probate Judges and their staff find that their courtroom is filled with love because it deals with family. She also noted that it is a 24/7 court.

S. Peavey mentioned that she has been at the Registry of Probate for nearly 35 years and since that time, there has been talk about the State taking over Probate Courts. This, however, has been the first time dollar figures have been requested.

Judge Longley told the Commissioners that Law Day is the same day as May Day, and noted that there will be children in the courtroom to help educate them about Probate Court. This will be held after court next Tuesday. She noted that kids understand fairness, and they enjoy learning about the court.

The Commissioners stated that the Judge and the Probate Registry of Waldo County are spoken of highly throughout the State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into executive session at 1:49 p.m. for discussion of discipline as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§405(6)(a). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out executive session at 1:58 p.m. Unanimous.**
No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No person from the public was present to speak, so the Commissioners took a short break.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into executive session to discuss non-public information at 2:13 p.m. 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 2:36 p.m. Unanimous.** No action taken.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into executive session at 2:37 p.m. for discussion of a non-public report 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 3:00 p.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to report correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau as follows:

1. The Commissioners received a letter dated April 10, 2019 from the Administrative Offices of the Courts Facilities Director Jeffrey Henthorn confirming that the courts will vacate the District and Superior Court spaces by April 30, 2019.
2. The Commissioners noted that Deputy Wiley McVety reached the five-year step on April 16, 2019 with a pay increase to \$23.33 per hour.
3. The Commissioners noted that Deputy Register of Probate Judith Nealley completed sixteen years of employment April 21, 2019, with a pay increase to \$23.80 per hour.
4. Commissioner Shorey received a copy of a notification to Representative Kinney that the Maine Dept. of Transportation will conduct a preliminary public meeting on May 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jackson Town Office to discuss the rehabilitation of the Great Farm Bridge in Jackson.
5. A notice was received that the Maine Dept. of Transportation will hold a public meeting on May 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Monroe Town Office to discuss the replacement of the bridge deck of the Lord Bridge in Monroe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the April 4, 2019 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Commissioner Johnson made some corrections in her report during the Commissioners Miscellaneous business.

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2019 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session with corrections made to Commissioner Johnson' report during Miscellaneous Business. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. B. Johnson said that she and the Director of the Coastal County Workforce met with the Maine Department of Labor, and all the Commissioners from the six counties plan to attend a meeting on April 30, 2019 to meet with new administration to introduce themselves and discuss important issues.

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 3:25 p.m. Unanimous.**

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