

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
NOVEMBER 21, 2019**

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Finance Director/Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$633,630.84.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$546,465.67.

County Appropriations:

83% of the 2019 budget has been expended and it should be 88% at this time.

County Revenue:

104.43% of the 2019 County revenue has been received.

Corrections Appropriations:

87% of 2019 budget has been expended and should be 88% expended.

Corrections Revenue:

115.65% of the 2019 Corrections revenue has been received.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

\$4,300,000.00 has been paid back on the TAN; \$2,800,000.00 by the County and \$1,500,000.00 by Corrections. The balance remaining for Corrections is \$500,000.00.

Regarding renovations at the Superior Courthouse for the D.A.'s, K. Trussell recommended waiting until December before moving some of the money to Courthouses Reserve. That way if the project is not finished before the end of the year, the funds from 2019 will be in the Reserve.

23 Towns have paid taxes in full: Belfast, Belmont, Brooks, Burnham, Frankfort, Freedom, Islesboro, Jackson, Knox, Liberty, Lincolnville, Monroe, Montville, Morrill, Palermo, Prospect, Searsport, Thorndike, Troy, Unity, Unorganized Territory, Waldo, and Winterport. The four towns left to pay are Northport, Searsmont, Stockton Springs, and Swanville.

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

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 14, 2019 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant including the November 14, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$293,610.96. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 14, 2019 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$12,893.81. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 14, 2019 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant including November 14, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$123,127.85. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 14, 2019 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$5,836.12. Unanimous.**

FACILITIES REPORT:

K. Nealley had sent notice that he did not have anything major to report, so that was removed from the agenda.

DISCUSSION OF RENTAL AGREEMENT:

Present was Restorative Justice Project Community Resolutions Manager Sarah Mattox and Office and Finance Coordinator Tim O'Donnell.

Introductions were made. When asked about the services RJP offers to Waldo's inmates at Somerset County Jail, S. Mattox responded that they are not traveling to Somerset but Restorative Justice is working on establishing a program there in the future.

Lease agreement for 39A Spring Street Space: S. Mattox and T. O'Donnell explained to the Commissioners that the cost of the County's lease agreement is twice what they are paying now, and currently they also only pay for heat and electricity.

The Commissioners explained that the space the County has to offer is prime, and they have tried to keep the costs in line with the going rate in this area.

S. Mattox said that they came respectfully and wish to ask if the Commissioners would be willing to listen to their idea. The Commissioners said they would.

S. Mattox explained that that RJP is about repairing harm in a community context by building relationships. Waldo County has the second lowest rating in "Social Belonging". RJP is not just responding to crime but also working with the Belfast District Schools and Rockland schools. They have seen fewer expulsions, fewer absences, and fewer teacher absences because the teachers feel supported.

She explained that they like to start with the staff first in remedying misbehavior and thinking about it differently. It's more about "who did you hurt and what can you recognize about that", and sitting in circles and working things out. She recently attended a seminar with D.A. Natasha Irving and Waldo County Chief Jason Trundy. J. Trundy is very interested in opening channels so that Restorative Justice can be involved before summons are served. She illustrated with two families that were calling law enforcement because they were having differences and an RJP representative met with the two

families, assisted them in working through their differences and this has resolved the phone calls to the Sheriff's Office.

She briefly discussed Innovation and Community Crime, and mentioned that RJP has been asked if they can replicate the process and obtain data from the communities and counties that they are in so that this can be instituted in many counties. They are a non-profit and there is no funding stream, so they apply for a lot of grants. Currently they work in Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Waldo, Knox, and Hancock counties.

They work toward "Fund Braiding" – small amounts of funds from several places to keep Restorative Justice Project processes going.

Knox County has contributed \$24,000, Hancock has allocated \$15,000.00. They wondered if Waldo County would consider doing in-kind gifting by reducing the rent. Right now, RJP would have to generate over \$600.00 more to rent from Waldo.

The Commissioners asked why this idea wasn't proposed to them sooner. S. Mattox and T. O'Donnell said that they had mentioned it to Facilities Manager Keith Nealley. The Commissioners explained that the Facilities Manager didn't have authority to discuss costs. S. Mattox said K. Nealley did tell them that they needed to get on the agenda soon to discuss the costs with the Commissioners, so that is why they were on today's agenda. The Commissioners advised that the timing was difficult because they are in the middle of the 2020 budget review with the Budget Committee.

A. Fowler explained the issue that when Waldo's inmates were at Two Bridges, the Commissioners were told they were receiving services from Restorative Justice but they weren't at all, and this was why the County cut their budget. S. Mattox explained Lincoln and Sagadahoc have not been approached yet because the service relationship is much younger.

A. Fowler asked if the Muskie Center had been approached for assistance with grant-writing. S. Mattox said that they were working with them.

W. Shorey explained that the County Commissioners could not offer any further assistance with reducing costs because they need to try to obtain revenue from renting the office space.

T. O'Donnell asked if RJP could move in January 1st to avoid paying overlapping rent, and the Commissioners agreed. The Commissioners expressed that they truly wanted to rent to Restorative Justice Project and felt that they would be an excellent fit in the courthouse. The Commissioners told RJP they could start moving things into the space before January 1st, as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nobody from the public came to speak.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to report correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau. Also present was Human Resources Director Lynn Patten:

1. B. Arseneau said she was pleased to report that Lynn Patten had successfully completed and received certification as an Associate Professional of Human Resources course as directed by the County Commissioners. L. Patten was hired on February 4, 2019 at the newly created pay scale for this position of Human Resources Director Without Certification at \$40,767.41. The Commissioners required L. Patten obtain, on her own time, a mutually agreed upon Human Resources certification as soon as possible within one year. Upon successful completion, would move to the rate of \$46,767.41 With Certification. Commissioner Shorey stated that this certification was not commonly held in many counties and congratulated Lynn.
2. L. Patten reported that during the most recent Department Head/Safety Committee meeting the group recommended using leftover 2019 Safety Committee funds to get a medical provider to come in and offer free flu shots for County employees. She contacted Sue Dupler, Public Health Nurse at WCGH, because she heard Sue was offering free shots at the Sheriff's Office and Jail. Sue is available December 3, 4 & 5 to give free flu shots to all county employees. L. Patten said she'd also like to look into this earlier in the fall each year to set up free flu shots for Waldo County Employees through either WCGH or a local pharmacy. The Commissioners expressed their support for the shots being offered to employees December of this year, and future years.
3. B. Arseneau reported that the notice of the December 6, 2019 Public Hearing and Final Budget Committee Meeting for the 2020 budget has been placed in the local newspaper so that the public will have at least 10 days' notice.
4. The EMA Deputy Director has sent an invitation for the 14th Annual EMA Banquet on November 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. All the Commissioners will attend and B. Arseneau will respond on their behalf.
5. The Commissioners briefly discussed the Maine Bicentennial Parade in 2020 and decided that Waldo County will not be applying for a grant to build a float for that parade because they are not interested in participating.
6. B. Arseneau reported that a new bookcase needed to be purchased for Assistant Clerk N. Hubbard to replace the old wooden/plywood bookcase that has been holding the Commissioners' Court Sessions Volumes, as it was bowing under the weight and the sides were separating. A sturdier metal bookcase was found for about \$199.00 through W. B. Mason's "What a Bargain" sale. B. Arseneau has the other matching wooden/plywood bookcase, which had pieces breaking off, so using parts from both of bookcases, she was able to keep one wooden bookcase in working order.
6. A. Fowler recommended that in future years, the schedule be set up for the Budget Committee to review the budget in numerical order of the Departments, as listed in the Budget binder. The other Commissioners agreed that it is too confusing for everyone when they are jumping around from one location in the binder to another.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the October 10, 2019 and November 4, 2019 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions as presented. The Commissioners stated that they would like to wait until the next court session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 2:36 p.m. for discussion of information prohibited for the general public 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 2:53 p.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the health insurance proposal that keeps the Stop Loss at \$100,000.00 and includes an aggregating specific at \$50,000.00. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. The Commissioners asked B. Arseneau when they would be receiving their new iPads. She didn't know so they asked her to check with J. Arseneau. After checking with J. Arseneau, she said he suggested that the Commissioners leave their old iPads there at the office and he would pick them up tonight to work on the new ones. This was not convenient for the Commissioners so they instructed B. Arseneau to ask him to reach out to them individually.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into executive session at 2:57 p.m. for non-public 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 3:50 p.m.**

Notice of Certain Terms for CISCO Umbrella License Agreement: B. Arseneau submitted to the Commissioners at the request of J. Arseneau a Notice of Certain Terms for Cisco Umbrella Licensed Through and Agreement With Cisco Systems, Inc. or ITS Affiliates. The Commissioners reviewed and Chairman W. Shorey signed the notice, indicating that they had read the notice and the agreement and understood the terms set forth therein.

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 3:55 p.m. Unanimous.**

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