

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JANUARY 5, 2022**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler, and Betty I. Johnson (Via videoconference). Also present was Freedom Selectperson Elaine Higgins, and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take minutes.

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 8:00 a.m.

2023 COMMISSIONER CHAIRMAN

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded for William Shorey be Commissioner Chairman for 2023. Unanimous.**

2023 COMMISSIONERS' ASSIGNMENTS

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to leave the Commissioners' committee representations and other assignments as they are. Unanimous.**

JUDGE OF PROBATE:

Present were Register of Probate Sharon Peavey and new Probate Judge Joanna Owen. J. Owen introduced herself, explained that she was appointed by the Governor, and will serve through 2024. She has been licensed as an attorney, taught at Columbia University, practiced in Missouri, moved to Maine, did work in Penobscot County, and has been serving Waldo County. The Commissioners welcomed Judge Owen.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Patricia Parker reported the following: She did the end of the year last Friday, and it didn't pull the numbers through, so she needs to call Northern Data Systems to get help on that.

The County Checkbook balance is \$1,729,948.15. It's high because checks had been sent but had not cleared yet. 92,950.01 and the Jail Checkbook balance is \$756,566.62.

The Capital Reserve account funds have not been moved yet and is showing \$906,644.66. In December, at the 1.75% interest Camden National Bank was giving, the County collected \$1,398.26 compared to October when it earned \$258.32. The ARPA account for December collected \$4,478.26 in interest. On December 22, 2022 \$3.5 million was moved to the new bank but was not able to get the interest for that week and will have it next time. In October, \$111.21 was collected in interest on a balance of \$4.5 million. It was a difference of over \$4,300.00. The Active Reserve has \$211,334.26 in the account. In December \$191.81 was collected in interest, compared to \$32.97 collected in October. The Restricted Reserve has \$183,848.51 and collected \$163.77 in December, compared to \$32.12 in October.

In December \$3,063.41 was collected in interest on the \$1.7 million in the General Fund. In October, with half the money at 1.75%, only \$278.16 in interest was collected. First National Bank will be paying an interest rate of 3.8%, and she will move about 80% of the funds there soon. She stated that, depending on the balances, the interest would be double the December amounts. She was offered 3.75% interest from Camden National Bank at the end, but they didn't credit the County that for December.

P. Parker had discussed with Commissioner Shorey moving \$180,000.00 out of ARPA into a separate reserve for the solar project. She asked if they that had talked about voting on this. A. Fowler stated that after their prior discussion, the decision was to leave the funds in ARPA.

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

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the January 5, 2023 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$262,405.97. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the January 5, 2023 MCRRC (Corrections) Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$57,053.63. Unanimous.**

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Director Michael Larrivee was present, along with Supervisor Melissa Bisson, and reported the following:

1. W. Shorey said they would be talking with the IT Director later this morning about getting him an assistant. W. Shorey said that it would be a good idea that M. Larrivee be on the committee, along with the Chief, to hire a helper for IT, as they are the ones that are really involved with the most use of the technology. M. Larrivee replied he would really like to be on that committee.

2. He recommended hiring David Kreutchic at the certified 1-year level, \$21.80, starting on January 16, 2023 as a full-time dispatch trainee. He comes with experience from Penobscot County. He is all certified and ready to go, and eager to work as much overtime as possible and will work overnights.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to hire David Kreutchic at the 1-year certified level of \$21.80, starting January 16, 2023.**

3. There were five dispatch candidates to interview but two dropped out as they had other offers. They have received more applications in and there will be another round coming up shortly.

4. Grant Update: The CDS grant money was approved into law and he should hear from someone in 6-8 weeks. Senators Collins and Golden had funding that they could earmark, so A. Fowler and M. Larrivee sent letters and Waldo was awarded \$165,000.00 for upgrades to the Communications Center. This was voted into law December 22, 2022. P. Parker said she would set up a separate reserve for this. M. Larrivee said this was very easy to apply for and he will do it again every year. The old dispatch furniture will be repurposed within in the County.

5. Today is the “go-live” day for the new radio system. He’s been testing and programming with the fire departments and so far, there haven’t been any dead areas.

6. Liberty Tower Lease Project: The contract lease is with ATC Sequoia, LLC (“American Towers”) for fourteen years.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the contract with ATC Sequoia American Towers. Unanimous.**

M. Larrivee said he is waiting to get permission to get onto the property. The best price he could find on a building was from the Amish. An 8' x 10' building can be purchased from them for \$2,600. The Stockton shed is an Amish shed. He will talk to them about insulating and sheathing it right there. They do electrical and he would have them do all the electrical in it, and they will deliver it. As soon as that is done, Radio Communication Management can come and do their thing. They should have that up in the next couple of months.

7. Going forward, if there is more grant money, he would like to put up one more tower in the northwest part of the County, such as the Burnham/Troy/Unity area. There are a lot of dead spots they just cannot reach, and it will still be diminished. He would like to apply for the Congressional funds for that next year.

8. A. Fowler said that E. Higgins hadn't seen the Dispatch Center, so she took her up for a tour. E. Higgins said she has great respect for the gentlemen sitting there, answered her questions, and took calls immediately when they came. E. Higgins said that on one road in Freedom, one citizen had to wait because the ambulance was dispatched the wrong road. It has since been corrected. It is understood that GPS directs people the wrong way in the town of Freedom. M. Larrivee said that there is a Google Online site to put in your correct address, but it never seems to get corrected.

9. There was brief discussion on GIS mapping in Spillman vs the recent aerial mapping that was done.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT:

IT Director J-sun Bailey presented his report as follows:

1. First, W. Shorey asked about the IT Technician hiring process. J. Bailey said there have been 25 resumes, about 7 of them also completed applications and he emailed 5 or 6 to M. Larrivee for background checks. Commissioners told him to take charge of the interview process, and to include Comm. Center Director M. Larrivee and Chief Deputy M. Curtis. A. Fowler asked if J-sun could find out from the applicants where they heard about the job as Indeed is expensive to advertise with. J-sun stated he would check with the applicants and check back on that issue.

2. He is working on reallocating and importing emails with the new Probate Judge, new Sheriff, new Chief Deputy, and new Lt. and sending some emails requested by Sheriff and archiving the rest and is working on how to archive these to meet FOAA requirements. He has moved Probate on to the new email server. He also got B. Walker on the new mail server and his laptop setup. He had to set up new laptops for cruisers for Belfast PD's for Spillman and Maine Crash System, and the connection into the County's Spillman system only to find out that these were only temporary computers, so he had to do it again.

3. B. Arseneau gave him contacts for each of the counties so he reached out to see how they handle costs and access and any written agreements related Spillman/Motorola with outside agencies, which he will compile and share later.

4. Ray from Quality Communications is running wiring and cabling in the new EMA building. He wired the new Sheriff's Office, and the former New Hope Office was wired for their own use, so it has been rewired so the Sheriff can move there, and three other employees there are changing offices, as well. The Commissioners acknowledged that J. Bailey is stretched very thin, and they are hopeful that the new IT Technician will be very helpful with the workload.

M. Larrivee said that many fire departments are also asking if they can come onto the Spillman program, too. J. Bailey said he needs to figure out how to move forward with this before anything is decided.

CORRESPONDENCE

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reported correspondence as follows:

1. Mileage Rate for 2023: Effective January 1, 2023 is 65.5 cents for business use.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the 2023 mileage rate at 65.5 cents per mile. Unanimously approved.**

2. B. Arseneau let B. Johnson know that she drafted up the certificate of incumbency just for our records and sent a copy to the commissioners. B. Johnson's term is the only one that changed recently and is now ending on December 31, 2026. B. Johnson stated that is correct. B. Arseneau also let the Commissioners know that she has sent out a list of the 2023 Holidays.

3. In early December when the Commissioners decided to join NACO, they had not received a bill as of the end of 2022, so it will have to be paid from 2023 funds. The Commissioners understood.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None prepared due to being short-staffed in the office.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Already covered under the Communication Center business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. B. Johnson asked if A. Fowler is attending the January 11, 2023 MCCA Annual Meeting at the Senator's Inn. A. Fowler said she doesn't know if the Risk Pool is attending or not. B. Johnson said she cannot attend, so A. Fowler said she will attend.

2. A. Fowler said she has been filling in with HR, interviews with HR candidates are going on, and she commended P. Parker for doing so well with the payroll process with limited training.

3. W. Shorey reported planning on the Garden for 2023 including hiring someone to spray on a schedule, that a harrower was purchased, he plans to streamline the operation, and his goal is 80 to 100,000 lbs. of produce, with potentially more in the future.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 9:49 a.m. Unanimous.**

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