

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
JANUARY 19, 2023**

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

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Patricia Parker reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$762,043.63 and the Jail Checkbook balance is \$99,387.46.

**TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:**

The Commissioners signed the Tax Anticipation Note for 2023.

**County Appropriations/Revenue:**

5% of the County 2023 budget has been expended. 0% of the County revenue has been received.

**Corrections Appropriations/Revenue:**

5% of the Corrections 2023 budget has been expended. 0% of the Corrections revenue has been received.

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to file the Financial Report. Unanimous.**

**WARRANTS**

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the January 19, 2023 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and payroll in the amount of \$314,554.02. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the January 19, 2023 MCRRC (Corrections) Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and payroll in the amount of \$140,053.24. Unanimous.**

**TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE**

Finance Director P. Parker presented paperwork from Eaton Peabody for the 2023 TAN, with an interest rate of 4.9%.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept and sign the Tax Anticipation Note. Unanimous.**

P. Parker briefly reported checking accounts that would be moved to First National bank, interest rates, etc.

**DEEDS AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OFFICES MOVE UPDATE**

EMA Director Dale Rowley submitted documents to the Commissioners with submittal criteria for construction permits, the overview plan to complete the projects, construction activity for the EMA

Building and Warehouse, construction activity for the Deeds Office renovations, and reported the following:

Permitting for these projects:

1. D. Rowley will be contacting WBRC Architects to see if the County can purchase the CAD drawing files for the Public Safety Building.
2. The plan is to hire Haley Ward Engineers and pay by the hour for them to complete the drawings for the Public Safety Building Renovations sufficient for submittal to the Fire Marshal's Office for Construction and Barrier Free permits. A simple design for electrical and mechanical in the old EMA garage will also be needed.
3. Since both Deeds and D.A. Offices projects are renovations and the County is not going out to bid, full construction drawings and specifications are not needed, nor are concept drawings. If there are no changes to walls and doors in the new Deeds Office, he won't need to go to the Fire Marshal for permits. If these permits are needed, Haley Ward would be hired for this project, also.
4. Complete Building permits will need to be obtained with the Belfast Code Enforcement Officer, but there is no need to go to the City Planning Board unless they want a Traffic and Parking Plan.

Construction for these projects:

1. For Deeds: the builder will be Dennis Frye, the telephone/data will be performed by Quality Communications, and the electrical is still unknown.
2. For the D.A.'s Office: the builder will be R.H. Lambeth, Electrical will be done by MAC Electric, telephone/data will be performed by Quality Communications, and the mechanical work is still unknown.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None finished at this time.

#### **NEW HR DIRECTOR**

A. Fowler introduced new Human Resources Director Annette McLaggan, stating that all are so glad that she has come on board.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to hire Annette McLaggan as Human Resources Director effective Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at a salary of \$59,000.00. Unanimous.**

A. McLaggan has worked for the State of Maine, has a great knowledge of MainePERS, and comes with extensive Human Resources experience and knowledge.

A. McLaggan said she looks forward to giving reports to the public in the future and sharing success stories with all.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

IT Director J-sun Bailey reported that he has been working on the following:

1. Setting up a new dispatcher.
2. Checking on outsourcing for an IT Technician.
3. Has ordered equipment for the servers that went down in November.
4. Working on website updates and changes.
5. Expressed his condolences to Commissioner Johnson.
9. Waiting on IT background checks.
10. When asked about iPads and laptops that were purchased, J. Bailey said he has given one to H.R., and has sent Detention Manager R. Walker's to him. J. Bailey has not had time to set them up and will assign that to the IT Tech. When asked how many computers will need to be replaced, he stated it would be in the amount of between \$10,000.00 and \$25,000.00. Command staff has newer laptops. He has done one for Deeds, has another for them, and can finish that soon. He believes M. Larrivee applied for a grant to replace computers in the Communications Center, and that included lift Stations. They currently have 3 lift stations and will make sure it all fits. The desks were pricier than anticipated.
11. He is waiting for a quote from Eventide for a recorder to replace the Acorn recorder. Acorn cannot record text messages and 9-1-1, so the Acorn contract will be eliminated. The new one will do all. He wants to be sure it will not be cost prohibitive before making any change.

### **REVISION ENERGY SOLAR CONTRACT**

1. Revision Energy representative Andrew Kahrl was present along with Facilities Manager Keith Nealley and EMA Director Dale Rowley. A revised solar contract was presented with some small improvements to the proposal since the first time Guy Marshall presented it to the Commissioners last month. It went from \$18.9 to \$23.5 cents. The savings opportunity from solar is much stronger than last year. W. Shorey asked if increase in electrical costs will be effected by the increase in solar. A. Kahrl explained the value of solar will be impacted largely by the 2025 solar study. There was brief discussion on how to create a fair market for solar generators such as Waldo County. There are two different types: A power plant that goes directly to a sub-power station, or bill credits, offsetting supply. Rooftop generation doesn't have to be delivered from somewhere else but is issued to the grid and goes out and like water downhill to the next customer. CMP's largest cost is transmission lines and substations. The high tension lines must be built to 3 times the local peak load. For example, during summer when summer people are here and using AC, it's higher. This shaves the top off annual peak loads and is major savings for CMP. "Peaker loads" are used and are only turned on during peak times. This reduces the need for additional "peakers." W. Shorey asked when it could be installed and was told that contracts signed today will be scheduled for spring 2024; possibly during winter of 2023. W. Shorey assumed that the \$172,000.00 must be paid first before the \$52,000.00

investment tax credit is refunded. A. Fowler asked what other costs were associated with this, or if they were already included in the amount and A. Kahrl said there would be a set of allowances that are included in this price including interconnection with CMP, who will tell them what it will cost. They think it will be about \$5,000 and the application may be about \$2,000.00. If it's more, they will ask for more, if less, the County will pay less, and this should be known about 10 weeks after the contract is signed. A. Fowler said that Waldo has an environmentally conscious Budget Committee. The Commissioners agreed they wish to start this project as soon as possible.

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the contract with Revision Energy.**

Discussion. D. Rowley said they are doing a project with another solar company, and he wants to make sure that the correct buildings are being credited with the correct companies and not duplicated. He made some suggestions about the process. Kilowatt hours were discussed. D. Rowley asked what format Revision preferred and was told digital – CAD preferably or PDF. Under the Inflation Reduction Act a public entity can access the value of that tax credit. D. Rowley would like to find the information out so he can estimate. K. Nealley asked how permitting has been with city of Belfast and A. Kahrl explained that it was very easy, they have a long-standing relationship with the City, and they wish to be good citizens with the City as they appreciate the longstanding relationship. **Unanimous.**

A. Kahrl said he would send a repopulated contract over to the Commissioners as soon as possible.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

1. L.D. Bill 1199 To Clarify Boundary Between Knox and Waldo is coming up. A. Fowler, D. Rowley, and R. Hoey will write testimony. D. Rowley said he was interviewed by the Republican Journal regarding this.

2. An executive session is no longer necessary, as Waldo County has started a conversation with Knox County regarding Knox's concern that they may not be able to fill shifts in the Knox PSAP Dispatch Center because they are very short-staffed. W. Shorey said that they have a new dispatch station at Waldo and if anyone from Knox needs to dispatch, they can come to Waldo and dispatch from that station for that shift. That's all the discussion there has been at this moment. This is what Waldo is proposing but is willing to have a discussion with Knox.

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 10:07 a.m. Unanimous.**

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