

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Betty I. Johnson (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler, and William D. Shorey. County Clerk Barbara Arseneau took the minutes.

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Kari Hunt reported the following:

1. The 0265 Technology Reserve needs to be replenished, as it is currently \$10,022.08 in the negative. The Future Technology Upgrade Reserve has \$105,000.00 in it.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to take \$22,000.00 from Future Technology Upgrade Reserve 0266 and move it into Technology Reserve 0265. Unanimous.**

2. A new Corrections officer has been hired who previously worked for Knox County, had taken Criminal Justice Training within the year, and Knox County sent a \$12,062.00 invoice for reimbursement of that training. Corrections Administrator Ray Porter checked with the Academy, confirmed the employee took the training, this was the cost, and asked if Knox could reduce it, but they refused. A. McLaggan explained that the cost also includes the employee's clothing, equipment, hours, etc. during the training time.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to pay the Corrections Officer's training reimbursement to Knox County from the Severance Reserve as requested. Unanimous.**

3. County Property Tax invoices were sent to the Towns on Thursday September 11, 2024. No new payments have been made.

3. The EMA's State LEPC checking account is currently with Bangor Savings Bank. K. Hunt must order checks and would like to move the account to First National Bank, primarily because the interest rate is 4.5% while Bangor Savings is only 05%.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to move the EMA LEPC funds account from Bangor Savings to First National Bank as requested. Unanimous.**

4. At a future meeting, K. Hunt will request an executive session to discuss the reserves, clarify past uses, establish current target amounts, and current purposes. She'd like to put them in three savings accounts, with the appropriate title, while recording and tracking each individually.

B. Johnson called a special court session 9:00 a.m. October 31, 2024 to discuss this further.

5. Additional OPIOID funds of \$25,403.21 have been received. The National Opioid Office Settlement Directing Administrator sent an email on September 17, 2024 stating that any funds used for other than opioid remediation purposes must be reported by September 30, 2024. The County does not need to report as no funds were used.

The County Checking Account balance is \$61,466.56. 66% of the County budget has been spent and could be 75%. So noted.

The Jail Checking Account balance is \$86,147.54. 61 % of the Jail budget has been spent and could be 75%. So noted.

The County's Health Fund has \$180,610.78. This does not reflect the September Health Plan payment. So noted.

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

## **WARRANTS**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 19, 2024 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$135,156.83 and the September 5, 2024 payroll of \$178,310.40 for a total \$313,467.23. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 19, 2024 MCRRC/Corrections Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$207,060.84 with the September 5, 2024 payroll of \$43,696.26, for a total of \$250,757.10. Unanimous.**

Brief discussion of the Garden account paying VOA and Maine Pretrial up to \$314,000.00. K. Hunt didn't recall the extra funds and where they were coming from. W. Shorey said he felt no need to have the Garden account sent funds four times a year. Everything else comes from the Jail General Fund.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

H.R. Director Annette McLaggan reported the following:

1. EMA Director Dale Rowley was receiving a stipend as ARPA Building Manager. Those projects are completed, so he is no longer be receiving that as it ended September 1, 2024. So noted.
2. Deputy Brad Hanson was selected to fill the vacant detective position at the Waldo County Sheriff's Office effective September 10, 2024 with a pay increase from \$33.14 per hour to \$34.80 per hour. He is a "blue pinner."  
**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve Deputy Brad Hanson to fill the vacant Detective position effective September 10, 2024 at \$34.80 per hour. Unanimous.**
3. Jeremy Bell has been chosen to fill a full-time Patrol Deputy position effective September 25, 2024 at the 5-year certified pay step of \$32.18 per hour, with 120 hours of vacation per year. He has worked at the Belfast Police Department. It is unknown if J. Bell's previous training will need to be reimbursed by the County.  
**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve Jeremy Bell as full-time Patrol Deputy effective September 25, 2024 at the 5-year certified pay step of \$32.18 per hour, with 120 hours of vacation per year. Unanimous.**
4. Amanda Stover's position ended August 15, 2024 as she is a law student. The position will need to be reposted until September 27, 2024 because the first round did not result in hire.

A. Fowler said that Prosecutorial Assistant Eric Harvey was notified by the State that there will be a \$15,000.00 increase in the technology costs related to the State and D.A.'s Office. This will increase the County's 2025 budget request.

6. An employee has completed administrative leave, is currently on unpaid suspension, and will return to work September 18, 2024. The employee has been out since January 9, 2024, and it has taken until the middle of August to conclude the investigation. It has cost the County roughly \$43,000.00 in the employee's salary. There were additional employer costs during this time for MainePERS, Social Security, and health insurance. The Commissioners expressed concern and displeasure at the time and expense.

7. Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA) has requested that the Sheriff's Office provide law enforcement presence at the Common Ground Fair this coming weekend. The Deputy's Association has requested to open the union contract and change the detail rate of pay from \$50.00 flat rate to \$70.00 per hour for a minimum of 4 hours, as incentive for employees to work details. There was consideration of charging outside organizations the additional funds as taxpayers would not be paying, and whether the higher rate could be billed without opening the contract, as this will likely be discussed during upcoming negotiations. A. McLaggan explained that this would need to be an MOU. The Commissioners decided to apply this higher rate to MOFGA for the time being.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded that in this specific case of MOFGA detail, the Commissioners approved paying Sheriff's Deputies who work that detail \$70.00 rather than \$50.00 that is in the contract, and Human Resources will figure out the formula to bill out to MOFGA. Unanimous.**

A. McLaggan said that when MOFGA bills the County and pays the County, the full amount being billed for the employer costs comes from the Employee Benefits budget for FICA, etc. and she recommended that the money reimbursed for these costs be returned to Employee Benefits budget, as she didn't know if it has been in the past.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded that when MOFGA is billed, the appropriate accounts that funds were paid from will be reimbursed from the incoming funds. Unanimous.**

8. Wellness Program: A. McLaggan reviewed past practice of Waldo County giving employees two \$100.00 gift cards in appreciation, usually totaling about \$20,000.00 per year. She asked if the Commissioners wished for her to order and obtain the gift cards this year, but said she also felt that she should advise the Commissioners that there are not enough funds for gift cards this year. She anticipates that the County health fund account will be in the negative this year. The Jail health fund account has funds available, but only those employees could receive the cards. The Commissioners decided to discuss in executive session later.

9. Regarding an employee out on medical leave, A. McLaggan asked if the employer health insurance cost per month for employee only would continue to be paid.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to continue paying the employer health cost for an employee who has been out on medical leave of absence from July 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of December 2024. Past by two, W. Shorey opposed.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Communications Director Michael Larrivee had sent an email that he must cancel this presentation.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Commissioners received draft April 29, 2024 minutes at the September 5, 2024 court session. B. Arseneau reported she inadvertently omitted the unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2024 and July 18, 2024 court sessions and asked to amend the August 29, 2024 minutes to include that.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to amend the minutes from the August 29, 2024 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session to include the Commissioners' unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2024 and July 18, 2024 court sessions. Unanimous.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

1. B. Johnson will be attending the Coastal Counties Workforce, as she has been assigned to this 6-county board for several years. There is a meeting in Freeport, and she will be attending the night before. The Coastal Counties Workforce will be half of that, and she thought she would pay the other. After brief discussion by A. Fowler and W. Shorey, the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded for the County of Waldo to pay the other half from the Commissioners' lodging line. Unanimous.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

IT Director J-sun Bailey reported the following:

1. Some fire walls crashed this weekend, and he has finished taking care of that.
2. He is working on computers in the Sheriff's Office and Islesboro to remote into Spillman. B. Johnson asked if the Technology Technician could be doing that and was told the Tech is currently wiring at the Communications Center.
3. He is in the middle of replacing five (5) computers for the Communications Center.
4. He has applied for and is "cautiously optimistic" about a grant.
5. He is moving phones from U.S. Cellular to AT&T because he finally received the tax-exempt certificate.

## **VEHICLE PRESENTATION**

Present were Sheriff Jason Trundy, LT. Cody Laite and Account Executive of Enterprise Fleet Management Tucker LeClair.

T. LeClair gave a slide presentation demonstrating how Enterprise could create an analysis and implementation plan that minimizes the cost of fleet ownership. Enterprise would handle acquisition, financing that would get more out of the capital budget, upfitting the police-rated vehicles, maintenance, negotiating parts and labor, vehicle resale, etc. It takes about 6 years to cycle the entire fleet, and one goal is to reduce the vehicle life cycle to 4.96 years for newer, safer vehicles. Recalls will be closely monitored. The County would have two dedicated local managers who visit in person. Some local garages are used for maintenance and repairs. The current fleet is 24 vehicles and should be 26. Maintenance would be a fixed budgeted cost. 10-year savings are estimated at \$702,790.00. At the end of the lease, the county could own the vehicle or turn in the equity toward the next lease cycle.

J. Trundy stated that current, conservative year numbers are being used, and the current fleet is mismatched with different types of vehicles. Enterprise's buying power, reliability of vehicles, and the cost savings are all important to consider. This does not include Jail vehicles, but the County could consider including all departments with County vehicles. The Commissioners requested copies of the slides presented and requested that Searsport Motor be included on Enterprise's maintenance roster if possible. The Sheriff and Lt. were instructed to pursue this and to bring contract back for their review. The Sheriff requested time on the next agenda.

#### **GENERATOR PURCHASE**

EMA Director Dale Rowley requested to purchase a generator trailer for 3-phase power for \$35,400.00, to be paid from the EMA Equipment Reserve and reimbursed later by a grant.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve purchasing a trailer-mounted generator from the EMA Equipment Reserve, to be reimbursed by the grant. Unanimous.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 11:21 a.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to come out of executive session at 12:20 p.m. Unanimous. No action taken.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to go into executive session at 12:20 p.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to come out of executive session at 12:44 p.m. Unanimous. No action taken.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to adjourn at 12:45 p.m.**

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