

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

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 9:06 A.M.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Finance Director Patricia Parker presented the following report.

The County Checkbook balance is \$701,237.27

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$104,193.42

County Appropriations:

9% of the 2023 budget has been expended

Corrections Appropriations:

7% of 2023 budget has been expended

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

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the February 2, 2023 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant in the amount \$377,871.56 Unanimous.**

****A.Fowler moved; B. Johnson seconded to authorize the payment of the February 2, 2023 Jail Accounts Payable & Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$77,555.92. Unanimous.**

Trish Parker explained the new binders that have been made up for each of the reserve accounts. The front page indicates what is in each account and how much interest collected for each account.

In 2022, \$22,247.66 total for the year was collected in interest from the County and Jail accounts. Of that amount, \$15,000.44 was collected in interest just in the last two months of 2022 after she started making changes. In January

2023 alone the County collected \$20,363.62 in interest. 3.8% is the interest rate for revenue; TAN interest rate is 4.7%.

Commissioner Fowler questioned the fact that the budget on equipment repairs is over by 201%. County Clerk Arseneau explained that there was extra use of the Toshiba copier for the past two years due to her office copier not working. The County just got the bill for the 2022 overage. Finance Director Parker indicated that there would probably be other accounts going over into 2023. A. Fowler agreed and stated that the Commissioners requested the books be closed as of 12/31/22.

FACILITIES REPORT:

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

After 15 years working for the County of Waldo, Keith is submitting his letter of resignation and notification of his intent to retire. Keith's last day on the job as Facilities Manager will be April 28, 2023. The Commissioners thanked Manager Nealley for his 15 years of service to the County. Keith indicated that his helper, Chris Bryant, has been a

real find. Chris has been busy on many projects at Sheriff's Office. A.Fowler asked K. Nealley if he has a job description of his position as Facilities Manager to give to HR Director McLaggan. K. Nealley will be working to update his job description. Commissioner Fowler stated that the County would have to post the position to hire his replacement.

Barbara Arseneau has contracts for Commissioners to sign.

A.Fowler moved; B. Johnson seconded to approve signing Revision Energy Contract in amount of \$172,219.00 with a possible tax credit of \$52,000.00; Unanimous.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER REPORT:

Director Michael Larrivee reported that their new trainee is doing well. Another potential hire is a former Penobscot County dispatcher with 10 yrs. experience who left her position to pursue a medical job as a MA. She wants to come back as dispatch. A.Fowler asked how long she has been out of the business? M. Larrivee stated the potential hire will have to re-learn as she has been out of the field for 4-5 yrs. Commissioner Shorey inquired how many dispatchers is the County short. The Comm. Center has 12 employees and need 3 more. There is one other candidate with no experience and M. Larrivee will interview her at the same time.

9:28 a.m. A.Fowler moved; B. Johnson seconded to go into Executive Session under Title 1 405 Non-Public Info. 10:04 a.m. B.Johnson moved; A. Fowler seconded to go back in court session.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Penny Sampson reported that she has been on the County Budget Committee for 7-8 years. P. Sampson indicated that there is currently no treasurer for the County since Peter Sheff left the position. Being the most senior member, she has been working with Senator Curry and Mr. Feeley, the Governor's Aide, on steps to get Gov. Mills to appoint a treasurer. She was advised by Senator Curry to get the Commissioners to endorse her by letter to send to Gov. Mills. Commissioner Shorey stated it is a difficult thing to do as they do not endorse anyone politically. They do not send letters of recommendation. Ms. Sampson presented her resume with a cover letter.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Jason Trundy reported that he was invited by Senator Curry to attend a meeting a few weeks ago in Rockland. The Sheriff was invited by Senator Curry who is also the director of University of Maine to join law enforcement officials in Waldo & Knox counties. The reason for meeting was to pitch a certificate course that the college has, and Director Curry wants to pilot it with law enforcement. A representative from the Harold Alfond Center for workforce development was there. They have an initiative of a \$60 million grant to do workforce development. It costs nothing to become a member of the coalition. It would allow the County access to grant funding for each employee, \$1200. per year, and up to 50% towards training for employees if it enhances their work. J. Trundy thought it made more sense for the County as a whole and to make it available for all County employees. It would be better that just the Sheriff's Office pursuing it solely. A.Fowler would like to see more information. She asked if they pay for half the academy. Sheriff Trundy said the only thing they might balk at would be to pay for something the employees are already doing. Program is geared towards a certificate program in community policing and employees could get college credits. The Commissioners all thought this was a good idea. A.Fowler asked if the Sheriff could come in with these representatives and discuss this further at a future meeting. Sheriff Trundy said he will coordinate with Barbara Arseneau.

CORRESPONDENCE:

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau presented a letter from Olga Hussey of EMA discussing and providing the Commissioners with a list of warming centers in Waldo County. B. Arseneau also discussed cleaning out old statute books from the office about 7-8 years old which have not been updated with inserts. The Commissioners agreed that they were outdated and could be discarded.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Commissioner Shorey discussed the Spirit of America awards proposed this year. Bruce Flaherty has created a list from all the towns of the longest serving officials to be honored for their service. Certificates will be prepared and sent out to the towns to present the certificates to the individuals. Most of the towns will be having their regular town meetings again and the certificates can be given out to these individuals. A. Fowler will continue to be involved in the OPIOID class action suit that is continuing. There will be additional settlements that are available.

B. Johnson moves; A. Fowler seconds that the County continues with litigation in the lawsuit and A.Fowler be the official signer of the correspondence required. Unanimous.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT:

Director Annette McLaggan introduced new employee, Susan Prisco and requested approval of her hire as of 1/30/23. Her duties include assisting the finance director, county clerk and HR. Her experience includes many years working for state/county government in the courts as a supervisor and having owned and run her own business. She will work part-time, 24 hrs. a week @ \$21.50 per hr. Susan will assist Human Resources, Finance and the County Clerk as Office Assistant.

B. Johnson moves to approve the new hire, A.Fowler seconded. Unanimous.

Casey Ashley is resigning from the Sheriff's Department from his full-time position and requests to stay on for a part-time basis, as needed. Effective 1/19/23.

B.Johnson moves to accept the resignation, A.Fowler seconded. Unanimous.

Jan Banks from the Registry of Deeds has submitted her resignation effective 2/10/23. She is a part-time employee. Her supervisor will attempt to replace her in the Spring.

B.Johnson moved; A. Fowler accepted the resignation. Unanimous.

HR McLaggan updated Commissioners with her first two weeks on the job. All is going well and she processed her first payroll. A. McLaggan would like to be added to the agenda for each session.

A.Fowler discussed the junk email from Barracuda she has been receiving. HR McLaggan has spoken with IT Manager J-sun Bailey as another employee also received a questionable email. She stated after talking with J. Bailey, it is all taken care of.

The Commissioners commended A. McLaggan for her work. HR Director has a copy of Facilities Manager Job Description from Keith Nealley. Commissioners wish it to be posted as soon as possible. Discussion was made on how Chris Bryant could be trained on the computer and become familiar with K. Nealley's reports and systems.

B. Johnson asked for all the job descriptions for department heads who are not elected and the most recent evaluations so that she can look at those.

IT Technician candidate's information is going through the background check. He is Ray Monreal who has been a vendor for the County for many years. He will continue to run his own business and work for the County part-time. IT Director is drafting a job description and clearly delineating the personal business from the expectation of work for the County.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

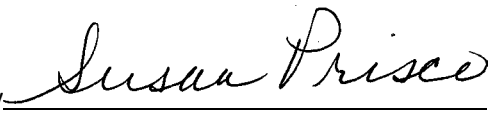
Elaine Higgins reported the following. There is not a lot going on with Waldo Broadband Corp. They are in consideration of a \$11 million grant. She wondered if the Commissioners knew of any corporations that would back the WBC. One of the hurdles she had not thought of was NOT having credit as an organization. The corporation has not asked the Towns for anything because they knew it would not sit well. E. Higgins was thinking of writing a letter to various corporations asking for sponsorship. The WBC figures it will be @ \$60.00 per month per household. Once the business is going, they can expand to municipalities. The five towns that started this will be grandfathered.

ADDITIONAL MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

A.Fowler indicated she spoke with Matt Bolduc from "From Above Ministry" who does a lot for the communities. He would like to come in and introduce himself and explain what his group does. He will get in touch with B. Arseneau to get on the agenda.

Clerk Arseneau advised the Commissioners that there may be a tax abatement hearing on 2/16/23 scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on the agenda.

B.Johnson moved; A. Fowler seconded to adjourn at 11:08 a.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by  Office Assistant
Susan Prisco

***For more details, please view the video.**