

**WALDO COUNTY FY2013 BUDGET COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2012**

PRESENT: Budget Committee Members Roger Lee, David Barrows, Peter Curley, Richard Desmarais, Bill Sneed, James Bennett, Harry Dean Potter and Clement Blakney. Also present were County Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson, Treasurer David Parkman and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take minutes.

Call to order: Commissioner Shorey called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and asked everyone to make introductions.

BROWNFIELD GRANT PROCESS:

W. Shorey reviewed the Brownfields EPA Cleanup Grant application process the County was currently working on.

W. Shorey: These are funds to remediate the Old Jail and old Sheriff's Office. The City of Belfast has bent over backwards to help with this. Tom Kittredge and Wayne Marshall have been tremendous help. Within three days, they got us an assessment grant, done by Ransom Engineering from Portland. It is a very long and tedious paper to prepare. Kittredge has offered to be of assistance and Dale Rowley, EMA Director, is helping. I'm on the Committee as well as Wayne Marshall and Andy Hamilton, our attorney from Bangor. We're very excited. Because we have two buildings, there is a possibility of receiving two grants and each grant would be for \$200,000.00. This would put us a long ways towards solving the problem of two decaying buildings that are an albatross around the neck of the County. There is no future to those buildings unless we can get them cleaned up. As we went along in this process, we encountered another problem in how to separate these buildings. I had a contractor look at the wall between the jail and the old Sheriff's Office and he said it would be \$75,000.00 to take out an 8' section. That didn't set well because it's prohibitive. We can't do that. Wayne Marshall, Thomas Kittredge, Andrew Hamilton, Barbara Arseneau and I brainstormed and we started thinking about a condominium arrangement. We got an expert on condominiums from Brunswick on board and the plan is that the Old Sheriff's office and the old barn would be Unit #1, and the Old Jail would be Unit #2. The rest of the campus of Waldo County would be Unit #3. The reason we are doing this is that separation setbacks created problems that we couldn't overcome. There was no way to proceed any further unless we did this. We have a limitation on parking spaces up there so we had to be careful what we structured it to but at the present, we are thinking about a duplex in the Sheriff's Office. Belfast's Roger Lee would probably know more about this than I do, it has been indicated that the City is looking for storage and the if the Old Jail got completely cleaned up it would make a wonderful storage area, After we do a review of the budgets, you will have to elect a chairman for next year. Then it will be up to you to figure out a time schedule. If you could give us a little leeway up to November 20 because we are under the gun and have dozens and dozens of government reports to get ready. That's good news.

B. Sneed: These are matching grants?

W. Shorey: No, they have hardship grants and we are hoping we will fall in that category. The grant match that we would have to come up with on \$400,000.00 is \$40,000.00. We are going to go down that road to begin with in hopes that we will prevail. We will probably know in 6 months. They tell me that it's common to be turned down once because of something wrong with the application, then we can go back to them and pass the second time. We have the ear of the Regional Administrator of the grants as well as the help of Ransom Consulting in Portland, who are a very well known firm. Belfast has an expert in Thomas Kittredge, who has worked on Brownfield Grants, so we feel good about it. I just wanted to bring you up to speed so that you would be aware if you heard something out on the street, you would have some idea of what's going on.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:

W. Shorey: I'll get Dave Parkman to help me pass out some books and we'll get underway. Last year when we started this process, I think the consensus of your committee was that you would prefer to get your books and have an opportunity to review the material sometime before we started hearings on them. I hope that we will accomplish that tonight. I'm going to just run through quickly the highlights and not dwell on them too long. You are certainly welcome to ask questions if you wish and we will try to answer them to the best of our abilities.

PROJECTED REVENUE:

W. Shorey: If we could start out with the tab, Projected Revenue, which is an orange tab. 2012 was \$576,319.84 and the two department heads, Deloris and Sharon are projecting a few dollars less for this year. It's a very small amount - \$6,000.00 or \$8,000.00. Did you all find that page o.k.?

A. Fowler: Bill, if I may, before you go on, just for Clem, the new guy, what you are being handed out right now (remember when we first started we were wondering what all this was) is the current up to date expenditures. What has been spent so far from all of the departments? For example, this first page is EMA, 1010. When you flip to that, you will be able to look at that and see from the first column how much they were allocated last year, what's been spent so far, what's left, what percentage rate they're at. You can go through each department and see where they are.

C. Blakney: Thank you.

E.M.A. (1010) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: The yellow tab is 1010, EMA. If we look at the bottom of the page in the first budget, we see that in 2012, they were \$98,224.00 and the request for 2013 is \$100,783.00. When you turn the page, the new deputy clerk is saving on paper so the pages are printed on both sides so you want to be looking to the left when you turn pages. As always, when we go back there will be a lot of discussion on many different figures.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (1015) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: Last year, we started restructuring the D.A. Office and there will be an increase from \$215,793.00 in 2012 and \$235,169.00 for 2013. That is due to the new P.A. that they hired and restructured how their office is functioning. It seems to be working out pretty well.

B. Sneed: Is that over and above the woman you transferred from Deloris Page's office?

W. Shorey: That position isn't there anymore. That person is gone, Bill.

B. Sneed: so you moved somebody from Deeds last year into the D.A. office and now that person is gone and they hired somebody else?

W. Shorey: Yes, but this is a legal person to help with the cases, has a legal background and is a big asset to the office.

A. Fowler: That position, Bill, not to underscore it, was more of a secretarial position to answer the phone and assist. The D.A. really needed someone as a Prosecutorial Assistant.

B. Sneed: Are they calling that Clerical Aide, Legal Secretary, or...

A. Fowler and B. Arseneau: Yes

B. Arseneau: The name changed. Correct.

W. Shorey: While we are talking about the D.A. office, this is not part of that budget but I would like to mention this while we are going along, these people are extremely crowded. It's really too tight. Keith and I were over there and did a survey of the offices and, the long and short of it is this, the state has an office that is open downstairs that they don't use very often – almost remotely. They could easily be moved across the street and all of the D.A. personnel could occupy the left side of the building. They could go from one office to the other one without having to come out in the corridor, which from a security standpoint, would be good. The state does not want to give up any space, so we're going to have to have some lengthy discussions with them because it would be an easy fox for us and an easy conversion, maybe \$10,000.00 or \$20,000.00 to move some equipment. The state is really dragging their feet on this and we have a little advantage, since they rent the district court from us and we can drag our feet just as much the other way, so we'll see how it comes out. We have to have some more discussions on that segment.

COMMISSIONERS (1020) BUDGET OVERVIEW

W. Shorey: We come to the Commissioners budget and I would like to go to the last page, which is a letter. You recall, last year we talked about having to have a technology upgrade for practically everything that we have and we elected to take the radios on first at the Communications Center and you people were generous to give us \$25,000.00 so that we could at least obtain a lease to lease these radios. We had some leftover funds from the new building and we were able to make an early purchase and save about \$10,000.00, so the radios in the

Communications Center are completely paid for and that is off the table. Next up, we talked about doing this project a third, a third and a third because it's an expensive project with no reserves to support it. We thought about this and we worked on this account a long time. About the fourth paragraph down, is the essence of what we would like to do. We would like to see a one-time increase of \$164,000.00. Add that to the budget amount of \$182,000.00, which is that amount because there is \$25,000.00 left on a lease that will be gone next year. We took \$164,000.00, we took \$104,000.00 from Unrestricted Reserves, and that made \$268,000.00. For \$268,000.00 we could replace the server that, Bill, you recall you were in and talking about that, the server that we have is an old server that is only warranted five days a week between the hours of 7:00 and 5:00 with no warranty on it in between because it's an old piece of equipment. We would replace that...\$28,000.00 to replace the Sheriff's laptops, \$170,000.00 needed to replace 41 PC's. 16 Business laptops and 22 laser printers. This would save the county \$24,000.00 in interest if leased over 5 years. The entire total for the 3-year technology budget would be \$346,190.00. They can be leased. The County has been thrifty in trying to keep ourselves out of debt. This will take care of step #2. Step #3 would be to duplicate the same thing next year and we would be done with leases for probably a five-year period. We would call those leases quite expensive. Thinking about this further, these technology upgrades last about five or six years. The County has some land that they have been waiting for an opportunity to sell along with the buildings that we are going to rehab. If we did those two steps and we were successful in selling this property over the next two years, this County of Waldo wouldn't be involved in any technology increases for the next 10 years. That's just something to think about, but if the technology weren't in this Commissioners budget, which I happen to think is a bad place for it to be because it should have an account all by itself, the Commissioners budget would actually be less than it was last year. It would be \$495,000.00. When you have to have an upgrade, it shoots this budget up and it shoots it up quickly. If we are willing to bite the bullet, we can get ourselves debt free in two years. We are practically debt free now because we only owe \$25,000.00 for one lease. There are no other mortgages. This is something for you to consider and we can talk about it and see where we come out down the road. Any questions on that?

B. Sneed: In previous years, we've had detail breakdowns of 7100, 7101 and 7102. I see nothing this year.

W. Shorey: We will provide those, Bill.

B. Sneed: We don't have a printout currently of reserve accounts.

W. Shorey: Okay.

B. Sneed: Parkman's hiding them.

A. Fowler: he hasn't accessed a computer!

W. Shorey: He isn't hiding them, he's ashamed to hand them out because they're so small. We'll get those printouts to you in a timely manner long before you start your discussions. Is that acceptable, Bill?

B. Sneed: Oh sure, as long as it's out there some place.

TREASURERS (1025) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: The Treasurers Account – they managed very well and you can see the only thing that's in there are some increases of which, I presume is in salary. It's \$65,000.00 to \$67,000.00 so it's a fairly good account. Let's move on to the Facilities account. I was looking through that today looking for hotspots in which the budget is up. One thing is fuel oil, which is up \$9,000.00 over last year. Keith has Capital Outlay in there, which he will explain, but between those two, it's \$34,000.00. Any questions as I'm moving right along? If there are, and I'm moving along too fast, please speak up and I'll slow up and we will do it another way.

DEEDS (1065) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: Registry of Deeds has something that is worthy of comment. It was put in for making the part time person a full time person. The Commissioners didn't agree with that. The 2012 budget (for personnel) was \$125,879.00. We agreed to keep the part time person, which was \$131,595.00. The Deeds department had wanted \$142,141.00 to make that a full time position and it was the recommendation of the Commissioners that we not do that.

PROBATE (1070) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: Probate Court is self-explanatory. Very little change and things are probably pretty well in order.

SHERIFF (1075) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: The Sheriff's account - The sheriff is away right now and he will be home on the 29th but I think he did a good job with his budget. I think his budget was somewhere around 2%, but he will be around to explain it when you people beat on that. He did a real good job on his budget.

COMMUNICATIONS (1076) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: The next one is the Communications Center budget, which is usually good for some lively discussion. If you would go to page two towards the bottom to the wages (3100), you will see that they are asking for \$728,894.00. We actually looked at that seriously and we reduced the part time to \$19,500.00 and the overtime we reduced to \$30,000.00. The floater position that we talked about last year actually indicated that it was doing quite well and we were quite adamant that we wanted to see a second floater position added this year and we would like to see that account reduced to at least \$30,000.00 and maybe more. Time will tell.

B. Sneed: That's the overtime, Bill?

W. Shorey: Yes, in 2011 its \$59,000.00. It's been hard to control. We've talked about that a lot and we are going to have these two floater positions. It would seem to us that the overtime

should be minimal as we go down the road and we get the experience of two years under our belt.

B. Sneed: So you cut the overtime by half and the part time by half and the world has not ended in the Communications Center?

W. Shorey: Yes.

A. Fowler: Not exactly.

D. Parkman: Because of the floater.

B. Sneed: The world has not ended as we've been told.

D. Parkman: There's a reason for it, Bill

A. Fowler: We should have done that a long time ago, Bill, and remember we kind of played around with the schedule and we discovered that if one is that successful, imagine if we added another one. It's working out really, really well.

W. Shorey: Dave has something he'd like to say.

D. Parkman: While we're on this Communications discussion, I'd like you to take a good look at these tower site operations. We are \$12,000.00 in the red. We're probably going to end up at \$15,000.00 in the red. That's where you people told us to cut this budget, so we have to bring that up to the actuality of what is spent on these towers.

B. Sneed: Bill, if we could come back to that floater position and talk about it just a little bit. We negotiated that in the contract so that we could have the authority to add up to two. I have never understood the position of paying out so much overtime because overtime is a tremendous expense and when you get to paying out \$60,000.00 with it, it's a lot of money. With two floaters, seems to me, you have to have some overtime because there are going to be holidays or something. If we could get that a third, a third, and a third, that's probably as well as we're going to do. We are focused on that this year. Any questions?

W. Shorey: Yes. I was looking at this floater position and was thinking that maybe we don't need as much part time help, but, as I understand the rules, you have to have some part time. The \$19,000 just about covers the minimum that a person has to work to stay current. All set?

B. Sneed: Yes, but there was a time not too many years ago when they were getting as much overtime as the Sheriff's department. The Sheriff's Deputies have to come here (indicating the courtroom) and sit hour after hour and they (dispatchers) sit up there hour after hour. You guys have straightened it out? Thank goodness.

W. Shorey: Well, thank you. We're trying to, Bill.

B. Sneed: Well, you keep trying and it will be down by another third next year. David, could you repeat what you said about the Tower Account?

D. Parkman: The budget committee cut the Tower Account last year. I don't know, \$10,000.00 or \$20,000.00.

B. Sneed: Yes, its Dicks fault.

D. Parkman: All I'm trying to say is that we have to bring that back to some sort of reality this year because you can't just say the bottom line and then take it out of towers. You have to have a budget that's halfway realistic on some of these lines.

A. Fowler: One of the other things we're doing at the Communications Center; we didn't realize in the past we didn't have 24-hour on-call coverage for our towers. I guess you have to have a real bad problem to make you find out that you don't have coverage that comes in 24 hours in those towers. We've actually looked into investing into that and it's really not even that, it's basically insurance to cover yourself because when the towers go down, maybe it won't bother you, but Stockton Springs might not receive any transmissions into their fire departments and stuff. Therefore, we have done a lot of work on that and obviously, because we've had all the tower trouble is why we've gone into the red this year. Maybe it won't happen again, but who knows? It's built back in and the increase you see in that line is so that you have 24-hour coverage on call people.

B Sneed: They cut \$25,000.00 last year and at 80% of the budget, they're only down \$12,900.00, so, they didn't die because the \$25,000.00 went missing.

A. Fowler: Actually it was \$23,180.00, wasn't it?

B. Sneed: I don't know. Ask Dick.

A. Fowler: But that came specifically from that line. We took it specifically from that line. You're correct, sir. That department hasn't run in the red and I don't think it will.

W. Shorey: The long and short of it is, we are extremely aware of that account and we're taking steps to correct it as quickly as possible.

B. Sneed: Can we take a second and explain to Clem that monies can be moved around within a department as the department sees fit, but they cannot be moved across departments.

C. Blakney: Okay, makes sense, of course.

A. Fowler: It's no different from your selectman's budget, in a certain area you can move money around in that particular department, but we can't slide it.

A. Fowler: Actually, the Communications Center is actually right on, I mean, right now our budget should be at 83-84% expended and they are only showing 80%, so this is a really, really good thing.

W. Shorey: The deal is working for us, and another year should bring it to two figures of what we can do on a yearly basis.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION (1080) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: I would like to explain what the Commissioners thoughts are. We had the Time & Tide people in, and as near as we could determine at the time that we had them in they didn't have a manager or any projects. What we could glean from the conversation is that they were going to push our gardening concept and we have already a highly successful garden project in Waldo County that's producing in excess of 20,000 pounds of fresh vegetables a year for food cupboards in Waldo County. We looked at that and we were enthusiastic, and at the same time, the Firefighter Association was in and talking to us about some money for training and they wanted to train 75 firefighters for a \$5,000.00 fee. Well, as of today, Time & Tide has never requested the money that they were allotted last year and the Commissioners were a lot more concerned with training firefighters than they were Time & Tide because they still displayed a lack of management. We assumed there might be a discussion about moving some money around among those accounts. We went with Eastern Maine Development's request because, and I have only hearsay information on this but there seems to be other things out there that are somewhat exciting possibilities so we went with their request. We can talk about that and whatever it is, it is. That's what we determined it to be at the time we were talking about it. Any questions?

J. Bennett: Where is the Eastern Maine Firefighter Association?

A. Fowler: It's not the Eastern Maine, Jim; it's the Waldo County Firefighters Association. Every department in Waldo County belongs to it along with their Chiefs. It's actually quite wide. As selectmen, every one of you knows that within your budgets and in the fire departments budgets, the easiest thing to cut is training many times. We can't afford it. What these folks have done is instead of one department; let's pick on Belfast, saying that they can get more training because they have the ability of the funds to do it. They have all banded together to form this group. There is actually a piece of property in Waldo, I think, with an actual burn house where they do the training. They've gone ahead and already trained 75 firefighters throughout Waldo County to the level of Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2, which is a benefit to any of us that own homes or rent. Furthermore, I've supported Time & Tide in the past and I think in the past, historically, they've been a good organization and done good things for the community. Once they lost a lot of their leadership and the composition of their board, they're spinning in the mud. If you look at you paper, folks, they money that you allocated to them last year hasn't even been asked for yet. I don't think they even realize they haven't gotten it yet. Do you know what I mean? They couldn't tell us where their office currently is located, who is running it, or where their files are. I can't make this up. This is when they came to see us to make this request. Then, here's your Waldo County firefighters that are composed of maybe some of yourselves or some other members of your community volunteering, doing well for all of us....that's where my money went.

J. Bennett: You say that this is Waldo County Firefighters? This says in here Eastern Maine.

W. Shorey: That's a misspelling.

A. Fowler: If it does, that's a terrible typo, Jim.

B. Arseneau: I think it carried down.

A. Fowler: Yes, it is the Waldo County Firefighters Association.

R. Desmaris: Jim Dittmeier was in here looking for money for the Confined Space Rescue. I don't see that listed on here, but that team has to be kept together and there was money appropriated for that. I believe it was Confined Space Rescue.

A. Fowler: That falls under the LAPC Account. That is funded.

R. Desmaris: Okay, you have it down here. We have all that equipment and they have to get the training. They have to be certified.

A. Fowler: Yes, absolutely, and we're very fortunate, again, for that.

B. Sneed: Eastern Maine Development - are there any performance metrics to this?

W. Shorey: It's difficult. I don't, in answer to your question, I don't. All I know is I hear stories, and I guess that my thought process goes this way; a railroad and a port should happen in that area and they should be helpful. Now, having said that, I would have to admit that I went to James Gilway when we were talking about this Brownfield Grant. James took us to Bangor and introduced us to the folks up there. He worked with Andy Hamilton on other projects, they had stayed in the loop, and they are going to stay in the loop with support letters. We got it this far. It's up to you, gentlemen, what you want to do and what you want to approve and we understand that 100%. We thought that it might be worthy of discussion. If it isn't, that's that, it's not going anywhere. Betty?

B. Johnson: I hope my voice lasts. The other thing with the Eastern Development – Waldo County was cut up, divided up. There are four towns that went with the Midcoast Economic Development and about nine or 10 towns with the Eastern Development. Then, of course, we have in the Unity area and so forth, the Kennebec. Waldo County is pretty well divided by three groups. Midcoast was looking at maybe coming and asking counties to help pay for them. My big question is, how can you justify four towns with the whole county paying for it. This is something that, maybe, you want to talk about when you are talking about funding for the Eastern Economic Development. I believe the Midcoast Economic Development will be coming that night because this is the first time they have thought about asking counties to participate financially and they are a little late on the draw in doing this. When one grant wasn't granted to them, they had to figure out something to do. Whether other development groups decide later to ask for money, too.....I just have a problem with giving money to one and not the other and that

type of thing. Of course, right now you don't have any question there in front of you. I assume there's going to be one coming in but at this point the County Commissioners have nothing to work with and the EMDC was the one that came in asking for money and they voted for that. I did vote against because I sit on the board for the Midcoast Development. It's one of those things where I think we will have some discussion about what some of the other towns are getting out of it. That's what you have to weigh. That's all I'm going to say on Economic Development.

R. Desmaris: You're going to be voting on a bond issue on monies for ports and that stuff on the sixth. It's going to involve rail modifications that will bring manufacturing, black wood pellets, for heating efficiency that are going to Europe, for starters, and will be sold in the United States. I believe EMDC has a big hand in getting all this together, so they are active in our county. EMDC is like the hub of a lot of stuff we don't hear about and don't think about every day.

P. Curley: I'd like to make a comment to Dick. At that meeting the other night, the tank, they're urging everyone to vote against that and the reason being, they think it's strictly for the tank, for ships bringing in the LPG. So, you might be aware that's what they are trying to spread around – or not trying, they are.

R. Desmaris: I can tell you that the tank is such a sensitive issue that, it was a few months back, one of the selectmen wanted to send a letter of appreciation to Susan Collins for her work on the 100,000 pound weight increase and one of the selectmen said, "well now that's accomplished, what about the east-west highway?" I tell you, we had part of the TNBT (Thanks But No Tank) crew all over us. They want no development of any kind, some of those characters. It's the way it is now, and it's going to stay that way forever. If you have, you have and if you don't have, tough. It's getting very sickening after being hammered for a year and a half.

W. Shorey: I would think so. I would just say, winding up, when I look about me and think about what was left to develop and I still come down, my senses tell me that if you get a railroad and a port, you have a chance at something. There aren't many other places that have a railroad and a port that have these possibilities. Now I realize the people from Unity or Thorndike might say, that's Searsport, but we are all in this game together and if we get tax revenue, it helps us all out. We're all in the ball game together.

AUDIT (1090) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: Okay, let's move on to the Audit. Auditing is showing a little increase this year and I would just say that we are going to change auditors in the next 30 or 60 days and it might be a little more expensive. I think Dave is itching to say something, so I'll let him his say on this audit if he wants to.

D. Parkman: Yes, I would like to tell you what our reasoning was on this. Normally our audits have been about \$8,000.00 last year. This year it's about \$8,500.00 because we have two audits. We have a jail audit, which is separate from the General fund audit. Some of it's paid on the jail side. We were caught two years ago, as you remember, over half a million dollars in grant money. You're supposed to have an extensive Federal audit.

B. Sneed: But that's not the case.

D. Parkman: That's why I said we were caught a couple of years ago, Bill. We were caught this way without any money for this audit. Dale didn't put it in for the EMA building as Administrative cost so we had to do a little running around on getting that audit done and paid for, which we accomplished. I thought, just in case there's another year coming up for this Federal Audit, so I thought maybe another \$1,500.00. That's why you see it at \$9,500.00. It might cover some of that cost.

B. Sneed: I thought you were going to try to write the cost of the audits into the grants themselves.

D. Parkman: Well, you know, I mentioned that to the Commissioners already once, but you know, I haven't really heard from the Department heads on this. I got after Dale about it one year and whether he's going to put it in or not, I have no idea. He hasn't said whether he's going to put it in as Administrative costs.

A. Fowler: It needs to be built in, initially, when you apply for the grant, not after the fact.

D. Parkman: That's absolutely right, not after the fact.

A. Fowler: We've gotten after them.

B. Sneed: If he doesn't put it in, it ought to come out of his budget.

D. Parkman: You remember him when he's up here at this public meeting. Ask him the question, is he going to put in any administrative cost. However, he's not the only one.

B. Sneed: Parkman wants to know...are you going to put it in your administrative costs.

C. Parkman: That's right, Parkman's sick of paying for his bills. We are changing auditors. I've met with the new auditor and I like him very, very much. We don't really know how much that is going to cost, so we have a little extra money in there.

W. Shorey: I would just say this without saying too much, we had a lot to be desired with the company we were with. Having said that, everybody was unanimous with the Commissioners on changing the auditor and I agree with Mr. Parkman that we have a firm in Bangor that I think will do a good job. They are nearby and we can get our audits on time and in our hands when we should.

INTEREST (2000) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

D. Parkman: We're up and down on some of our cash flow. Overall, we went in at about the same amount as we did the previous year, which is \$4,000,000 TAN Note. Because of the circumstances this year, I think we have \$50,000.00 left on the \$4,000,000 TAN Note. We are

hoping we get 4.3 million dollars. What that does to the interest, we don't really know. That's why there is a little bit of an increase in that.

W. Shorey: Thank you, Dave.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (2005) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: Extension...exactly \$43,849.00 in 2012. Actually, we're down a little bit. This is one we like to read - \$40,825.00. They do a real good job out there and we always appreciate them.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (2025) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: We'll move to the second page on Employee Benefits. We walk a tight rope on the insurance program that we're on and it's a good program. We have a Wellness Committee going now that's doing a good job. We increased 5% this year. I didn't get a figure from Karen today, but the last I knew we were about \$610,000.00 or \$615,000.00. We're trying to get a target of \$750,000 because it's a pool that we work off and that would make us relatively safe. Maybe in two more years we'll get there and if we do, then it's a good program. If we look at insurances going up around us, our insurance is stable and the increases are minimal in our self-insured program. Any questions? (None) Thank you.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION (2035) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: Soil and Water – for years and years they didn't ask for an increase.

A. Fowler: 10 years, I think.

W. Shorey: They've asked for a little increase this year and the Commissioners are sympathetic to them because they have been good stewards of that account for a long, long time. Reserves, at this time - we usually talk about reserves at the end of our budget sessions. I guess you could say they're mandatory because the employment security has \$6,600.00 in it and the severance has \$8,236.00 in it, so we're asking for \$25,000.00 for each one of those to keep them in the black for another year. One of these \$25,000.00 figures is uncompensated benefits that we talked about. That's the only thing we have listed for Reserves at this time. That may change. We usually do that at the end of the meeting.

JAIL (1050) BUDGET OVERVIEW:

W. Shorey: The jail is out of the ballgame, almost, so that completes going through the budgets, gentlemen.

BUDGET SUMMARY DISCUSSIONS:

W. Shorey: We can go back to the sheet that we started with, the summary of the budgets, and if there's anything else that I can tell you or questions that any of us can answer for you, we are please to do so. We understand that you gentlemen have the authority. We think we understand

what it takes to keep the county running and somewhere down there you can have a meeting of the minds, but we realize you have the authority. What you give us we will try to work with.

R. Lee: Union negotiations, union contracts, are we in a multi-year contract right now?

W. Shorey: Yes.

R. Lee: So you know what the increase is. What is that increase?

W. Shorey: 3%

R. Lee: so what was the outcome of the negotiations? Is it two years, three years? How long is the contract?

W. Shorey: The contracts are all for three years.

R. Lee: what are the increases in those?

W. Shorey: 3%, 3%, and 3%.

R. Lee: and what were they in the prior Union contract?

W. Shorey: Prior to this contract, we had contracts out there that were 3%, 3%, and 4%.

R. Lee: In the limited experience that I've had in reviewing with other towns and in Maine have been able to achieve in Union negotiations, Waldo County's increases are high. These increases probably put Waldo County right up at the top in the rate of increase in pay and that's unfortunate.

W. Shorey: That is. You know, Roger, I'm not trying to weasel out of anything, but we had a change midway in the contracts and the Deputies Association were the first ones up. Actually, everybody survived pretty well with those. We realize that and we're not about throwing money away. Once you get a three, three and three on the board, you have a very difficult time with the other two Unions because they essentially are going to hold you hostage or you're going to spend \$80,000.00 in lawyer's fees, which we have done before. This year, we didn't incur any legal expense but I can tell you that our sites are set. One comes up earlier than the other two and the other one that will come up will be high on our agenda to get that price down.

B. Sneed: A quick question about the jail. David, have you had any better luck this year being reimbursed from the state?

D. Parkman: As far as the Board of Corrections? No, I don't think....we pay it here; anyway, what we have here as far as Waldo County goes. Statewide, I think they're just in the hole as they were other years. There's not enough funding. The bottom line is, if it's costing \$100.00 a night for state prisoners in there and they're only sending these prisoners out to the counties and only paying \$22.00 for the boarding cost, that's a road to bankruptcy eventually.

A. Fowler: The big problem, Bill, if I may, that we ran into in the past is because you're capped at \$2.8 million for your facility and it only costs roughly \$1.4 million to run our facility, the remainder of that money goes into the Department of Corrections. From there, they are supposed to disperse it and pay our bills. All of our inmates from Waldo County go to Two Bridges Regional Jail in Wiscasset, Maine. We are only a 72-hour hold. The remainder of our jails is re-entry for state inmates. What we were running into in the past is, the state is supposed to reimburse Two Bridges the measly \$23.00 for our inmates, kind of like the child support, but they wouldn't pay it. Therefore, David and I wouldn't pay. We just decided we wouldn't pay the state. We held off as long as we could. It was naughty and wrong and we made our point. Period. We're not out of the clear, right now. Make no mistake, right now I remind you all of our inmates are going to Two Bridges Regional Jail, which is brought together by Lincoln and Sagadahoc County. They share \$34,000,000 debt on that facility. On any given day, Waldo County has more inmates in Sagadahoc and Lincoln's jail than Sagadahoc County does.

D. Parkman: And we pay none of their debt.

A. Fowler: so just remember, we're nice to them because right now they're not very impressed with us.

B. Sneed: The County pays for each individual prisoner from Waldo County, right?

A. Fowler: Not per say the County, no sir. The money that we don't spend goes to Augusta and from there....they are supposed to pay \$23.00 per day per inmate to Two Bridges Regional Jail.

B. Sneed: They have no quarrel with the County because we're paying our bill and they're not.

A. Fowler: Bill, you're absolutely right. It's a constant; it's the greatest snafu that you can fathom. As I say, we are very, very nice to Sagadahoc and Lincoln County.

D. Parkman: We've had legislation to get two more County people on that board. It's a board of nine. When it was established, the county only had two representatives and they talked about the county and their problems 100% of the time. We got legislation to get two other county people on there and, I believe, we have one of the public ones that we can get to choose. So, potentially, we could have a majority on that board, but the state is not paying what they should be paying.

B. Sneed: What's the bottom line?

A. Fowler: When they took us over, it's no different than your school funding, have they ever funded what they were supposed to to the schools? Ever? In the original legislation by Governor Baldacci, the inverse debt on these facilities was supposed to be funded and it's never even put in the budget. It's still critical chaos.

B. Sneed: We're still capped at \$2 million plus and it hasn't gone up in four or five years and it was going up a million dollars a year prior to that, so, as bad as it is, it could be a heck of a lot worse like under the old system.

D. Parkman: It wasn't going up a million dollars, but it was right up there.

A. Fowler: As I said, the board was out of control.

B. Sneed: The figures that I remember, which you handed me the day we were out before the Corrections Commission, in six budgets we went from something like \$55,000.00 to \$700,000.00 boarding prisoners out. It jumped that much in that short period. That's when they seemed to start getting involved.

W. Shorey: On the last page of this budget is something that I put in there about the Garden Project. I would like to mention a few things about that. We started a garden project for the Level 1 clients coming into the Reentry Center. We lease five acres from Mr. Nickerson in Searsport – an old farm place on Route 141. The first year we produced 7,000 pounds of fresh vegetables, the second year we produced 11,000 and this year we were in excess of 20,000 pounds. The Unity people were at an award service we had at the EMA building last Saturday and they were saying that we called them up to come down and pick up some squash and thought they were getting a good amount, but we sent them 1,500 pounds of squash in one day. We produced some real good tonnage. These people have made some serious mistakes and this is an opportunity to come out and work in the garden. I volunteer about 400 hours of my time in the summertime to manage that project. It's a good project and it's very good for your food cupboards and all your local town soup kitchens, Senior Spectrum and entities like that. It's a project Waldo County can be pleased to have. I have no more to add and will be glad to take any questions, if you have any.

D. Parkman: I want to thank the towns that have paid their county tax because it has really helped us out. The towns have been slow to pay, you can tell the economy is a little slow because the towns are a little slower. I don't want to start naming them because I don't have a sheet in front of me, so I will miss some. I do know that Freedom paid first, and they paid in June.

B. Sneed: Prospect paid last week.

D. Parkman: Yes, you did.

A. Fowler: So, in your binders, you don't have the technology breakdown that we do? (To W. Shorey: why didn't they have that in theirs.)

W. Shorey: Because it was a last minute thing and they will have it before they have a meeting. The breakdown that they are going to have is only that \$160,000.00 request that is standard fare every year. We will get it in there. We will have it to you next week. We had a little trouble determining prices and coming up with costs because it's hard to get costs sometimes unless you are willing to place an order at the time. They don't want to quote for three, six, or eight months down the road.

DISCUSSION OF VACANCY ON COMMITTEE:

B. Sneed: What's to discuss about the vacancy? It is what it is. The next item on the agenda was to discuss the vacancy. There's nothing we can do. The law is the law.

W. Shorey: I guess that it is on the agenda to see if there is any way that you, collectively, as a group can motivate them to get an individual over here.

A. Fowler: Is there another town in District 1 that can be represented. We seem to get Belfast...

B. Arseneau: We have to finish that term...

B. Johnson: For one more year, I believe. I have talked to Islesboro, but haven't gotten very far.

R. Lee: Why does a person have to come from Islesboro?

A. Fowler: I had forgotten, too, Roger. It's because they would be finishing someone else's term. I thought it said in statute that if there is no one there that wished to do that...

B. Sneed: No, it absolutely has to come from the same town.

R. Lee: Has someone actually spoken to the Islesboro Board?

B. Johnson: Yes, I have. Maybe whoever is elected Chairman of the Budget Committee could write a letter, formally, to Islesboro saying that they do have a responsibility. I'll be happy to, again, talk to them and at least have a name there and have them attend at least one meeting.

B. Sneed: It has to be a selectman.

B. Arseneau: Selectman, Counselor, or Mayor. That's what the statutes bring out.

B. Johnson: Considering Islesboro doesn't have a Mayor or a Council, it would have to be a Selectman.

B. Sneed: Winterport asked a few years ago; because they have an elected Budget Chairman, if they could replace Sam Butler with their elected Budget Committee Chairman, and the answer was no.

2013 BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

****J. Bennett nominated, B. Sneed seconded. Bill Sneed will serve as Chairman for the 2013 Budget Committee. **Unanimous**

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION:

B. Sneed: Jim came up with a good idea. We would like to have a few days to look this over, so how about we come back for half a Saturday on November 10. Would that work for you guys?

W. Shorey: You know what would work very well; if you could get it into December because we are having a difficult time with this grant that we are working on. It is all time consuming.

B. Sneed: So you want us to wait until you've done the grant?

W. Shorey: No, we just have a mountain of work to do. The grant has to be done by November 20th or 22nd and its taking all the resources the County has.

R. Lee: Could I just make an observation?

B. Sneed: Go ahead, Roger.

R. Lee: I've been on this committee for several years now; I think you three have been on longer than I have, and I find it very unsatisfying, the role we have. I think we all know why. It's because we don't have a real understanding. We don't spend enough time on any of these budgets to provide any....I would say, almost always, it's not very helpful to the Commissioners. We feel like it's just too much money so we arbitrarily cut a line here, cut a line there. I would like to, maybe it isn't possible, but I think there are one or two budget lines in this budget that really deserve some attention. Number one for me is the Communications Center. Still, even though they have made some improvements on this. Just take that for example. I would like to take a little time to see if we could scratch the surface a little bit more than the Budget Committee has historically done with the budget. Maybe that's just a pipe dream, but that's just my concerns. I just don't find it a very satisfying process. I will say that this increase of 7.24 percent, which is the number that you really need to look at because the jail part is capped, is too high. You have a three percent increase for wages, why do you have another 4.24 percent? Where? Why?

W. Shorey: \$268,000.00 in technology will go a long way towards that.

R. Lee: Maybe it's so. The City of Belfast doesn't get away with that kind of increase, never has in the five or six years I've been on the council. Never, they've never done it. Not one year. So how can the County?

W. Shorey: Well, you know Roger, we are mandated to upgrade technology every five or six years.

R. Lee: How do you mandate it? Let's just take that. You go over to the City of Belfast; you'll find old computers. They don't have anything like this sort of stuff that Waldo County has.

W. Shorey: Well that could be, but maybe they aren't operating as complicated entity as we are. If you recall, we come here continually and we say that we don't have any reserves for this or

that. If you want to kick the can down the road, and if you want to pay interest on leases the rest of your life, then you do it. If you don't want to do the upgrade to technology, you don't do it. All we can do is try to be somewhat responsible and operate your County in an efficient manner.

R. Lee: I think the increase is just flat out too high. It shouldn't be that high. We need to find a way to cut it. We shouldn't be spending 4.2 percent over and above what the negotiations for employee contracts have gone up. That's where I'm at, and yet I know that there is nothing very satisfying that we can do about it if we proceed as normal because we'll just take out a machete, hack out two or three lines and then we'll go home.

B. Sneed: I take it the tape recorder is still running. [B. Arseneau indicated that it was still on.] You sit here long enough to talk to the department head of the Communications Center to know that to get a straight answer from that person, you might as well ask that water bottle. To get a detailed explanation of anything verges on the impossible with Owen Smith. We could sit here, we could question him from now until the end of December, and you wouldn't get a straight answer out of the guy.

R. Lee: Well, maybe we don't need answers.

B. Sneed: That's why he got \$25,000.00 lopped off his Tower Account last year. He's incapable of providing an answer that satisfies the Budget Committee. It didn't satisfy the majority of the Budget Committee last year. How else to do deal with him?

R. Lee: Well, if I was the County Commissioner, I would want to go out and find out what other Communications Centers cost to operate in this state and I think you would find that we have a Cadillac of Communications Centers. We're paying more, we have more hours and more people. I'd cut the number of staff at the Communications Center, I think. I'm not very satisfied with the process. I think that's an area where costs are higher than they need to be.

A. Fowler: If I can just jump in there, Roger, because I have been quite involved with the Communications Center in regards to the legislation and I know what their call basis is. With the staffing, matrix wise, we are right on the money for the personnel we have with the amount of calls they have, and the new 9-1-1 calls that are coming in there. We are not overstaffed. Period. The intimidating thing about the Communications Center budget is, unlike other budgets where you can blend in everything from the maintenance to the building to the equipment. The Communications Center's budget is $\frac{3}{4}$ personnel. Plain and simple. Now you're looking at not only personnel, you're looking at these figures of union employees. I don't know who sitting here is union, but you know you can't touch it. As Commissioner Shorey said, when you have to negotiate three contracts at three different times they don't all fall simultaneously, people can talk. It's not as if you can say, shhh, don't tell anybody but this is what we're looking at. Now you have three contracts that have to start mirroring each other.

R. Lee: When the news comes out, pay attention to what Belfast negotiates with its two contracts. You'll hear about it in a couple of weeks.

A. Fowler: I'll be anxious to. I want to make you very aware that this \$264,000.00 that Bill is proposing concerning the technology this year and next year; this isn't about the Communications Center any more. This is technology throughout the County. We have a very deep breakdown of the expenditures of this and what it is and what it needs to be. I apologize that it's not in your binders yet. I'm sure they will get that right out.

C. Blakney: Can you email that to us?

B. Sneed: Well, if we're going to put the next meeting off until late November, early December, then you can just stick it in the snail mail to us.

D. Desmaris: If you put it off that far, then you have Christmas out. It's too far. You can't do it.

A. Fowler: Even if you want to do a half day then, it's your meeting, frankly.

B. Sneed: Clem, what days can you make it?

C. Blakney: Any day. I'll block my schedule around it.

A. Fowler: Thank you, sir

B. Sneed: Any day we settle on, you can make it.

C. Blakney: Tonight was just an unfortunate conflict.

R. Lee: Don't selectmen meet on a certain night of the week?

C. Blakney: Monday night, yes.

B. Sneed: You wouldn't like to meet on a Monday night for this?

C. Blakney: That's true.

B. Sneed: OK, so Monday's is out for you.

D. Parkman: If I can help you out in any way, let me know, as far as budget items or if you need anything.

A. Fowler: All of us, any of us.

C. Blakney: I hate to rush, but I'll be here for the full meeting next time. Snail mail is great for the I.T. portion there, too. I spent 20 years in I.T.

A. Fowler: Oh, this is nice to know. We'd like your resume (joking).

C. Blakney: Thank you. (C. Blakney left the meeting at 7:17 P.M.).

R. Lee: I have a question about the increases - the step schedule that you must have for all employees in the County even if the union increase is zero. Is that something that the Commissioner's could, if they chose to, just alter on the spot; say we're just not doing any steps next year.

W. Shorey: We did that this year.

A. Fowler: Actually, we did on a particular employee.

W. Shorey: On the ones that we could. Some ones we can't change because they're union employees.

B. Arseneau: Not when they're in the middle of a contract.

R. Lee: They steps are in a contract.

W. Shorey: The other ones, we did. You will identify those – you'll see the figures when we go through. This Board of Commissioners hasn't been known to throw too much money around. We might be up three or four percent but you take oil and I.T., you're eating up close to \$300,000.00 right there. \$300,000.00 on a 5 Million dollar amount is a substantial amount.

R. Lee: I understand that – that's true.

B. Sneed: Didn't Belfast go up?

W. Shorey: 10%, didn't they?

R. Lee: It's all schools and County. It's a lot of fixed costs. If it's Union contracts, there's nothing you can do about it, right? That's the bulk of this personnel. All of us face the same thing in our own towns. There's so much that you have little to do with.

R. Desmaris: When you look at the costs to run a department, Communications is heavy in manpower. You're looking at \$858,000.00 here and that's not a true figure because all of those have medical insurance and all the benefits. You're well over a million dollars in this department. In our town, we break it down. The cost of the department includes medical benefits and everything else. Here, they're lumped into one group. I don't like that.

A. Fowler: We used to do it that way, if you remember, Dick.

R. Desmaris: I don't remember. I've asked, but I don't remember.

A. Fowler: The insurance was actually broke down, and I remember that one of the reasons we had to take it out was because of Right to Know Laws. A small department would be two or three members. Let's pick on Dale. You would be able to zone in, figure out what the insurance cost is, and who is participating.

B. Sneed: Seems very vaguely familiar to me.

A. Fowler: It was put into its own category.

R. Desmaris: I want to say one other thing. You guys are dealing with the union, you're negotiating the contracts and everything else. I just want to say for the 19 people in our town; they've gotten a total in the last three years of one two percent raise. We may or may not give them a raise this year. That will be four years operating on one two percent raise and they pay a portion of their medical.

D. Parkman: Are they Union?

R. Desmaris: No, not yet. It scares me every time.

D. Parkman: They should be.

A. Fowler: I know, you should be. Remember that these folks do now also pay a portion toward their health insurance, which they rightfully should. They didn't have to for many, many years.

R. Desmaris: We've been doing it since the second year I was on the Board. We played with it every other way and I finally sat down with the other selectmen and said let's do it this way. Let them share the burden. We can go to the public and say when there's a bump coming through, we all share it, the employees and the town.

A. Fowler: Absolutely!

R. Desmaris: We all agreed on it and we haven't had any problems with the cost of insurance. The employees are paying 15%.

A. Fowler and W. Shorey: That's what we are.

R. Desmaris: We have talked about possibly going up, but until we can start giving some raises out I have no interest in upping their share of the insurance. That's my feeling. I think it's a shame. We had another resignation today. One of our police officers out of the academy is going to Ellsworth because he's young and there's a future there and he's getting a paycheck. We keep losing them. We're the incubator for the State Police, the Sheriff's Office, Bangor, Ellsworth and places like that. When we look around and see you give a three percent increase, it's reflecting down to the towns. Lincolnville, instead of having a full time officer, pay a higher price on the hourly wage, so when you have a Sheriff that's looking for some extra hours, he looks at Searsport and Lincolnville and he's going to go to Lincolnville. We'll run a blank on it if we have to or our guys will cover with overtime. It reflects; it ripples down.

D. Barrows: Not any more in Lincolnville. We fired all of our part-time help. The town meeting took all the money away from them. We have just the chief.

A. Fowler: And that wicked nice cruiser. That is a wicked nice cruiser, just saying.

B. Sneed: Can we get to a more mundane topic? I don't see how we can get this done between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I just don't see how we can do it.

W. Shorey: Well, you suggest something.

R. Lee. We'll just have to have our meetings. You probably won't be able to support us as much, but we have to meet.

B. Arseneau: Well, bear in mind that the County has to provide the clerical assistance.

A. Fowler: Are you out of town that day?

B. Arseneau No, I'm not available that day. That's one of the very few Saturdays I'm not available.

A. Fowler: What about Linda?

B. Arseneau: She may be, I can ask.

B. Sneed: It was just a thought.

B. Johnson: Let's put out some dates.

J. Bennett: How about the 17th?

A. Fowler: November?

B. Sneed: Come in for half a Saturday on the 17th?

B. Arseneau: I can do that.

J. Bennett: That's a Saturday and we could work half a day.

B. Arseneau: Oh, no I can't. I'm sorry. There are two Saturdays in November that I'm not available and that's one of them. I could come in on the Thanksgiving Saturday.

B. Sneed: Those are the only two we can do. We have to do either then 10th or the 17th.

H. D. Potter: The 17th is better.

B. Sneed: How about we need for half a day, from 8:30 to about Noon on the 17th.

B. Arseneau: I'll ask Linda.

B. Sneed: Then we can probably get rid of Parkman, the audit and the rest of them.

B. Arseneau: So what was the time, again, on that, Bill?

A. Fowler: 8:30 to Noon.

B. Sneed: Does that make sense?

W. Shorey: What other day, Bill are you looking at?

B. Sneed: We're probably going to have to a couple of evenings thereafter. Nobody wants to work Thanksgiving week, we've been through in past years and for reasons I don't quite understand, nobody wants to work Christmas Day!

A. Fowler: What? (Laughter)

B. Sneed: We have had our last meeting on December 31.

A. Fowler: I can remember New Years Eve, going through this.

B. Johnson: I think I was on the Budget Committee then.

R. Lee: I've worked many a Christmas. I didn't have any problems.

B. Arseneau: I can work Thanksgiving and Christmas. I don't care, but I'm sure the rest of you do!

R. Desmaris: I've worked, but frozen turkey dinners weren't invented for nothing!

B. Sneed: Ok, so the 17th?

B. Arseneau: Do you have any other dates after that, just so we can get your departments in that you want to talk with. Who do you want to see on the 17th so I can find out if they're available?

B. Sneed: Dave, can you make it, for the Treasurer's Department?

D. Parkman: Yes, I can probably make it.

W. Shorey: We could do the sheriff.

A. Fowler: Yes, I bet the Sheriff would be back by then.

W. Shorey: Yes, he'll be around.

B. Arseneau: So do you want to tackle all the other budgets like audit and all that?

D. Parkman: Yes, when he says Treasurer, that's what he means.

A. Fowler: So, the Treasurers Department, the Sheriff and the communications?

D. Parkman: Those are the two biggest departments we have, the Sheriff and the Communications.

A. Fowler: If you have questions or anything else, you'll have ample time.

D. Parkman: The Commissioners, I'm not going to talk for the Commissioners. I can get in enough trouble!

J. Bennett: So which ones are we going to have? The Sheriff?

B. Sneed: The Treasurer?

A. Fowler: Sheriff's and Communications.

B. Sneed: Does anyone know when Thanksgiving is?

B. Arseneau: The 22nd and 23rd.

B. Sneed: So the following week is not a Thanksgiving week.

B. Arseneau: It's Dec 1, actually.

B. Sneed: So Clem can't do Mondays, who else cant do Mondays? Who can't do Tuesdays? How about November 27 for the next one? In the evening... It's a Tuesday.

A. Fowler: 6 o'clock, Bill?

B. Sneed: Yes, 6 o'clock is when we usually start. Should we be optimistic and say Tuesday the 4th.....no, that's the first Tuesday, I can't make it. Can anyone make Wednesdays?

W. Shorey: The first Wednesdays are difficult for me.

B. Sneed: How about Pearl Harbor Day? December 7th – it's a Friday (all agree) 6:00 P.M. Could you get in touch with Mrs. Page, Probate and Dale?

B. Arseneau: Does it matter to you who you see on which night?

B. Sneed: We should know ahead of time. Could you guys figure out which department heads can make those days?

B. Arseneau: So, in other words, for those two nights you want to see the rest, try dividing them up between those two meetings.

B. Sneed: If we can do it.

B. Arseneau: Ok.

B. Johnson: You'll ask if any of these other people have to come back a second time, the Communications Center, or something?

B. Sneed: We always revisit this budget the last public meeting of the year, anyway. That never goes quickly or smoothly. If worse comes to worse, December 14 as a final.

W. Shorey: Did we have December 17?

A. Fowler: No, December 7.

B. Arseneau: These are all starting at 6 o'clock, the evening ones, correct?

A. Fowler: So just for clarification purposes, right now we have **November 17, Saturday, from 8:30 AM to Noon**. You'll be seeing the Treasurers, Sheriff's Department and the Communications Center budgets that night. **November 27, Tuesday, 6:00 PM**, and you'll see whoever will show up. **December 7, Friday, 6:00 PM**, same thing, you'll see whoever will be here. Tentatively, right now, December 14 for any leftovers, holdovers or problem child.

J. Bennett: So, you're going to find out the people who are going to be here on the 27th and the 7th and let us know, right?

A. Fowler: Oh, yes.

B. Johnson: As soon as we know.

B. Sneed: If we don't have to do the 14th, then we could do some night the following week for the final.

B. Johnson: When would the public hearing be?

A. Fowler: As Bill said, if we don't need the 14th, we could set it that date on because it has to be so many days afterwards.

B. Sneed: Seven days, is it, Barbara?

B. Arseneau: You have to have 10 days notice for the public hearing, so if you set it now, I can get that out.

J. Bennett: How do you know where you're going to be?

B. Sneed: We could wait until December 7 and still give you plenty of time for the public notice, right Barbara?

B. Arseneau: The newspaper runs on Thursdays, so bear that in mind. I have to get it in by Monday for the deadline for them to run it on a Thursday. When were you thinking of possibly having it, the 21st?

B. Johnson: On the seventh, is that what you're saying, if you decided then when to have a public hearing, is that what you're asking.

B. Sneed: Yes, so that means you could put it in on Monday the 10th?

J. Bennett: The 27th, you'll have two meetings by then.

B. Arseneau: Yes, notice of a hearing shall be given at least 10 days before.

B. Sneed: Jim's right, by November 27, we should know where we're going to be.

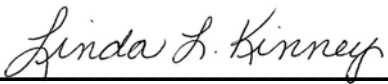
A. Fowler: Yes, if you're handling your biggest budgets before then.

J. Bennett: We'll know where we are so we could set it then.

B. Sneed: And, the good Lord willing, we'll be done before Christmas.

****H.D. Potter moved to adjourn, P. Curley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by


Waldo County Deputy Clerk