

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
(SPECIAL SESSION)
JANUARY 18, 2011**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey, Chairman, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Also present were Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth, and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take minutes.

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 8:30 a.m.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter related to consideration of employment according to M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405, 6(A) at 8:31 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of Executive Session at 9:27 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to grant a leave of absence for the employee requesting it until February 8, 2011. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

ADDING LINES TO FAIRPOINT LONG DISTANCE CONTRACT: B. Arseneau asked the Commissioners to review an authorization form to switch the long distance service on four of the County's telephone lines at 111 Miller Street to FairPoint. An e-mail from Technology Consultant James Arseneau explained that this change will provide better rates for those four lines, and informed the Commissioners that these numbers were not part of the County's phone plan because the numbers originally belonged to the Belfast Police Department prior to the dispatch consolidation. The Commissioners briefly reviewed the information and voted as follows:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to add the four additional lines to the FairPoint contract for long distance service. Unanimous.**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. **ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE DISCUSSION:** The Commissioners briefly discussed a vote that was taken on August 3, 2010 in which the Commissioners intended to change the status of the Facilities Manager and Facilities Technician positions from Non-Essential to Essential Employees effective at a date to be determined. The Commissioners agreed that this should not be put off any longer, and voted as follows:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to change the status of the Facilities Manager and Facilities Technician to Essential Employees effective today. Unanimous.**

2. **PERSONNEL POLICY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:** The Commissioners briefly discussed the revision process of the Personnel Policy. Another in-house workshop with Commissioner Shorey is scheduled on this coming Friday and Commissioner Johnson had expressed interest in sitting in on this, so she inquired if it could start later in the day, as she had another meeting to attend. W. Shorey explained that he had two other meetings that day but since this revision is very close to completion, he would like to start on it as soon as his last meeting ends, and B. Johnson was welcome to come in when she was done with her meeting. He reminded the Commissioners that a draft will come before them for review and that it will also go out to the Department Heads for review and input before completion. The Commissioners agreed that a draft should be ready to submit to the Department Heads by the end of January and preferably to be submitted to them during their January 27, 2011 Safety/Department Head meeting. The Commissioners recommended that the Department Heads meet at least once to discuss the

changes, and to put in writing any recommendations the Association wished to make to the Commissioners. The Commissioners would then hold a special court session toward the end of February to make decisions on any recommended changes to the Personnel Policy, with the goal of finishing it for distribution as soon as possible thereafter.

B. Johnson inquired about whether or not the Commissioner Chairman sat in on every Safety/Department Head Meeting and was told generally no. Both Commissioners Fowler and Shorey explained that it was easier for the Department Heads to hold discussions more freely without a Commissioner sitting in. B. Johnson noted that the Personnel Policy states the organization of the Safety/Department Head Association includes the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. W. Shorey suggested that perhaps this should be removed from the Safety/Department Head Association as part of the Personnel Policy revision.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn at 9:40 a.m. Unanimous.**

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