

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JULY 12, 2011**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey – Chairman, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Present to take minutes was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present with the Commissioners at the call to order were Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Senator Michael Michaud, 2011 Waldo Budget Committee Member James Kenney, Victim/Witness Advocate Deborah McAllian and Clerical Aide Karen Knox.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

COUNTY BUDGET:

D. Parkman reported that 67.46% of anticipated revenue has been received to date. He also reported that the overall budget has been 48% expended, and could be 50% expended at this point in the year.

D. Parkman noted that the Sheriff’s budget looks good, but K. Trussell added that after this warrant with three new cruisers, this budget will be more expended. D. Parkman commented that the Communications Part-time budget line is 95% expended and he anticipates it will be overdrawn by next warrant.

CORRECTIONS BUDGET:

It was noted that the 2011-12 Waldo Reentry budget has been cut over \$60,000.00 by the Board of Corrections.

D. Parkman read expenditures from the Reserve Accounts, which are included in the warrants that were voted on by the Commissioners.

D. Parkman reported approximately \$8,000.00 is left in the T.A.N., but said the County had to borrow a lot for the Corrections Budget this year.

When asked by W. Shorey, D. Parkman responded that the T.A.N. had not been used until May of this year, noting that this was “a far cry from having to borrow it three days into the year” the first year he was treasurer. He explained that the County has tried to build its funds up so that it does not have to borrow as early in the year.

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 30, 2011 General Fund/Accounts Payable Warrant & June 23, 2011 Payroll in the amount of \$188,495.66. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the June 30, 2011 Capital/Active/Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$38,814.42. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 29, 2011 Reentry Accounts Payable Warrant & June 23, 2011 Payroll in the amount of \$96,101.10. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 30, 2011 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$11,379.69. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the June 30, 2011 Reentry Final Warrant in the amount of \$100,399.70. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and July 12, 2011 and July 7, 2011 Payroll in the amount of \$215,220.38.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the July 12, 2011 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$172,061.75. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 12, 2011 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and July 7, 2011 Payroll in the amount of \$34,555.83. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the July 12, 2011 MCRRC Capital & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$703.50.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to file Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

D. Parkman commented that when he first was elected Treasurer, there was only about one warrant each month but now there are about a dozen or so.

W. Shorey said he would like to state that with the cooperation and understanding of the Treasurer's Office, it was possible to build the new EOC/Sheriff's Building.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Scott Story to discuss the following:

1. RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION FOR MT. VIEW SCHOOL:

This discussion was a follow-up to conversations S. Story had held with the Commissioners during their April 11 and June 21, 2011 Court Sessions. S. Story explained that any cost with this program would be minimal to the County, as the costs are figured into the school's budget. This position will need to be a 52-week position. S. Story suggested that the person would work 43 weeks and then be on "vacation" for the other nine, but the salary would be spread the salary over 52 weeks. S. Story recommended this arrangement if the position were filled by a non-County employee. If a County employee wants this position, it would need to be understood that this position was not eligible for call-outs, etc. If a County employee was going to fill this position, S. Story said he might suggest to the Commissioners that the remaining nine (9) weeks possibly be funded. If that were the case, the union may want to request it as a union position. It would give the employee "bumping" or seniority rights, plus it would make it so that they could get some overtime in the summer. If there is an outside person hired, he would rather not budget for the additional 9 weeks. He stated that he was not trying to complicate things. Right now there is funding through the school for one year. The right person needs to be hired to work with both kids and parents. S. Story asked, for the present, to have authorization to make this a 43-week position with the salary spread out over 52 weeks. He might come back later and ask for more pay depending on who takes the position. He would respect whatever decision the Commissioners made at that point.

The Commissioners agreed to the first part of the request and said they would have to wait and determine what their position would be regarding any additional cost to the County, if that was requested later.

S. Story commented that the Resource Officer position works well, and is more of a type of counselor and mentor with the students, and often meets with both students and parents.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded, to authorize the Sheriff to work with the school under the conditions of the Resource Officer Position being funded from the School's budget.**

Discussion: S. Story said he had been working closely with H.R./Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth and an attorney; both of whom have been very helpful. **Unanimous.**

2. Pay Scale for the Jail: S. Story said that he had not included the Captain/Jail Administrator's salary when he met with the Commissioners during their last court session and discussed Corrections pay scales. He asked that he be allowed to make the pay scale change, based on the scale he had proposed earlier in the year, which will be less than \$100.00 more for the year.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to implement the new pay scale for the Captain/Jail Administrator's position.** Discussion: S. Story noted that this position is part of the Administrative pay scale, which also included some other positions in the Sheriff's Office, but he was not addressing those at this time. **Unanimous.**

S. Story asked if he would be needed for the 2011 Budget Update scheduled later this morning and was told that the letter he had provided should be sufficient, but if he wished to be in attendance, he certainly could be. S. Story stated that not having the union contract finished before the budget was finalized, and some other things that were beyond his control were the reasons his budget was going to be in tough shape this year, and he further noted that it would likely "not be a pretty picture" in the 2012 budget, either.

W. Shorey acknowledged that the cost of fuel is impacting everyone who uses fuel extensively.

S. Story reported that he looked back through recent budgets and other than the year that the Jail budget was separated out, the budget has been held pretty low. He noted that more people are calling for service each year and fuel consumption has been up substantially. Another factor in the budget expenditures this year was that the staff has stayed at full capacity, without any vacancy in positions or officers at the academy.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau, as follows:

1. The Commissioners had already been sent documents to review and for the Chairman to sign related to internal changes with Meritain Health Insurance that would establish ECHO Health, Inc., to initiate debit entries for the approved benefit plan payments, credit entries and adjustments as necessary to the Employer Benefit Plan's account or "Depository." The Commissioners acknowledged that this was authorized and voted so as follows:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded authorization of the Chairman's signature to implement ECHO Health, Inc. as indicated. Unanimous.**

2. EMA Director Dale Rowley has sent a copy of the Waldo County Emergency Management Agency Guidance for County EMA Work Plan 2011-2012 Strategic Plan to the County Commissioners for review and approval.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the Chairman's signature on the Guidance for County EMA Work Plan 2011-2012 Strategic Plan. Unanimous.**

3. The City of Belfast Assessor Robert F. Whiteley sent a copy of a letter to EMA Director Dale Rowley indicating that this communication was to confirm his conversation with EMA Deputy Director Olga Rumney regarding the numbering of the various occupants located, or to be located, on Public Safety Way and enclosed a sketch of this. It described the names and numbers of each of the buildings on Public Safety Way. It was noted that the number "45" should remain affixed to what is this moment called the Waldo County Sheriff's Office and that the Waldo County Jail and Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center will remain at their same respective locations with the same 45- B Congress Street address. Mr. Whiteley further stated that they "will in all likelihood sign "Response Drive" but the final disposition on this matter remains unknown at this time.

4. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that effective July 1, 2011 the IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate had increased to 55.5 cents per mile. Since the County's mileage reimbursement rate has been established to be set at the same rate as the IRS, the County's rate also increased to 55.5 cents per mile effective July 1, 2011. The Commissioners noted this.

5. Communications Director Owen Smith sent recommendation to promote part-time Dispatcher Stephanie Gracie to Full-time Dispatcher at a rate of \$15.55 per hour effective June 26, 2011 retroactively to fill a vacancy left by Michelle Clement who is no longer employed with the County of Waldo.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the hire of Stephanie Gracie as Full-time Dispatcher at \$15.55 per hour effective June 26, 2011. Unanimous.**

6. Caremark Rx, Inc. has sent the County a credit remittance of \$1,498.51. Receipt of this funding was noted by the County Commissioners.

MINUTES APPROVED:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2011 and June 21, 2011 Commissioners Court Sessions. Unanimous.**

CONFINED SPACES RESCUE TEAM:

Present with the Commissioners was Searsport Fire Chief James Dittmeier. Chief Dittmeier informed the Commissioners of some of the other responsibilities he has, including establishing the Confined Spaces Rescue Team. He reminded the Commissioners that for 2011, the County allocated \$1,000.00 for this team. He explained that the team drills twice per year and has gone to four different areas in the County to see what it would look like if the team were called to assist. He stated that the team currently can only do vertical rescues in safe air confinements, but would like to go to the next level and purchase an air system similar to scuba divers at \$3,800.00 to do so. So far, the \$1,000.00 allocation is still saved and the team has received a grant from Maine Municipal Association, but they are still \$800.00 short. He has sent out other requests for funding but is not receiving responses and he stated that he hated to keep asking. J. Dittmeier said he was hoping to save another \$800.00 so that he can buy this equipment. After that, he does not see the team using the \$1,000.00 each year but requests that the County fund up to \$1,000.00 each year in the County budget. If the team only needs

to spend \$300.00, that is what would be expended, illustrating with the example that occasionally equipment breaks or other supplies might be required. He explained that one other situation was that this had created a problem with the Town of Searsport, who created a special account for the program. If that money is not spent each year, it is gone. He stated that he would rather have the County budget for the money and keep any that was unexpended, and he would invoice the County as needed.

The Commissioners discussed the use of the HAZMAT Reserve and A. Fowler suggested that this Reserve fund the \$1,000.00 annually.

When asked, J. Dittmeier responded that there are 16 people on the team. The nearest team other than this one is a team located in the Town of Orono.

A. Fowler suggested that the Chief submit invoices to the County. J. Dittmeier asked if that meant he could get the \$800.00 now, since the \$1,000.00 has not been spent. He noted that a few things have come up; the State funds minimally, the County has supported with \$1,000.00, they now have equipment, etc. He acknowledged that the State is cutting back on what it will support. He stated that he and EMA Director Dale Rowley had seen a portable pool that can hold 300 lbs. of chemicals. It runs about \$500.00, but the State would not pay for it. J. Dittmeier stated that D. Rowley had recommended that the County fund that, as well.

A. Fowler addressed J. Kenney as a supporter of his local fire department. J. Kenney said he felt that Unity would participate in assisting with funds to assist this team as needed. He suggested that eight towns might send a check for about \$100.00 each. J. Dittmeier thanked him, but noted that this would be more difficult than he might think, as each of the fire departments generally have their own budget issues.

(Now also present was 2011 Budget Committee Member Richard Desmarais.)

J. Dittmeier said he did not wish to speak ill of anyone, but if fire chiefs do not call for assistance with a confined space issue, the Team cannot just go out of its own accord.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded that the County adequately fund assistance for the Confined Spaces Team as needed and as invoiced to the County. Unanimous.**

Discussion: W. Shorey asked for notice around July of each year regarding the anticipated needs so that the reserve could be built up as needed.

J. Dittmeier clarified that he would be able to request funds up to \$1,000.00 each year and was told yes; he would just need to send invoices to the Treasurer's Office and to let the County know of anticipated needs annually in July.

J. Dittmeier said he would submit a report each year, including the current year.

(Now also present was EMA Director Dale Rowley.) The Commissioners apologized for starting the discussion early, as they were ahead of schedule, and for the benefit of D. Rowley, they reviewed the discussion that had just taken place.

D. Rowley said he would like to propose creating a line item for Emergency Services Support and combine Emergency and Hazmat funding in that line. Under the EMPG Grant funding, half of that would be reimbursed rather than funding it from the Hazmat Reserve. Another idea he wanted to present was to have an Emergency Services Agency on paper - a fire agency that supports other local departments. Funding is available to county fire departments. He noted that many local fire departments are overloaded with paperwork. With a county department, bulk funding requests and training could be handled for all these other agencies. The County could do this, if the Commissioners were in agreement. The County cannot currently go for a Fire Grant at this point. Rather than having an actual building with fire equipment, the County could serve as administration overseer for the programs and grants for the agencies collectively. He acknowledged that this does not really fall in the realm of the EMA Office, but it could be developed as a separate entity.

D. Rowley stated that he came to meet with the Commissioners to discuss setting up a line item for Emergency Services Support with oversight via a County Fire Association, or the like, that is affiliated with the Towns. The Towns could still do their own fundraising, but the County would also fund special projects for the County's Association. This would mean that firefighters who participate within the County Emergency Services (HazMat Team and Confined Spaces Team) would come under the County's liability insurance coverage. Applying for grants would have much more pull and stand a better chance if it will benefit a greater population.

There was some discussion between D. Rowley, R. Desmarais, J. Kenney and the Commissioners about the concept and the various ways this could be handled. J. Kenney asked if there were county groups out there that this could be modeled after, as this has raised some questions in his mind and it will likely require some thought and work.

A. Fowler asked if this could be presented to the Waldo County Firefighters' Association. Since the next meeting fell the same night as the EMA Director's meetings, D. Rowley suggested that the two meetings be held the same night, back-to-back. D. Rowley said he would research other counties that had fire associations. It was acknowledged that Towns don't have to have fire departments, but do need to have a fire chief.

D. Rowley stated that he could not volunteer to serve in this capacity and there would need to be some support for this role if the County were to consider it. There may be some capabilities that could be joined together to serve all the municipalities as a unit.

It was generally acknowledged that individual Towns cannot get funds that could be obtained in a unified effort.

The Commissioners said they would give this some thought.

FACILITIES REPORT:

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

1. He has spoken with Mr. Fletcher about the rototiller and it will require two belts. One has been installed today and the other will be tomorrow.
2. **FIRE ALARM SYSTEM:** The fire alarm system is fully installed in District Courthouse, but not wired outside yet. The system installation at the Superior Courthouse should be completed today.

There was a little issue – a change order for some file rooms downstairs in the amount of \$446.00. There was a basic walk-through done, but the County had not pay for architectural plans for this. It was a simple oversight in knowing that these other rooms required their own wiring/units. He believed this was reasonable, and requested that the County Commissioners permit payment for this out of the Courthouse Reserve.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize the change order to include the \$446.00 for wiring the file rooms as requested. Unanimous.**

K. Nealley informed the Commissioners that there will be annual costs related to the alarm system. He will budget for this in the 2012 budget. Monitoring is \$350.00 annually and annual testing/cleaning can be done for an additional cost. It would be \$1,100.00 annually per building and would be budgeted through the Facilities Budget.

A. Fowler asked if the State might be willing to contribute toward these annual expenses. K. Nealley said he would inquire. For now, he will try to integrate the system through the phone system until next year.

3. District Court carpeting in the Judges Chambers and Courtroom has been completed. The total project cost \$4,396.00. The State has reimbursed the County \$2,198.30. K. Nealley reported that the State has been quite generous in assisting the County in funding projects in the Courthouses. The State paid for about half of the recent carpeting project.

4. NEEDS ASSESSMENT: On June 20th, Winton Scott came through with a mechanical and electrical engineer to look at the building. They will talk with each department about space usage, needs, etc.

W. Shorey expressed his doubt that there will be much in the way of ideas to increase space, as the buildings are so crowded now. K. Nealley noted that Mark Wilcox had dug into the history of the buildings so as to have a better understanding of their structure and usage.

5. EXTENSION OFFICE ROOF: R. Kersbergen has sent a letter regarding the Extension Office assisting in funding the roofing project. Northeast submitted an estimate of \$9,600.00 and Paul Woodbury of Blue Ribbon Builders submitted an estimate of \$5,861.00. This roofing will last approximately 40 years. K. Nealley would obtain references before making a decision.

6. Work on the sewage issue at Superior Court is ongoing. K. Nealley said he will try to coordinate with the City's work on the sidewalk. The County is on the City's schedule but K. Nealley is not sure when it will occur.

W. Shorey said he started as Commissioner in 2009. At that time, there were issues with the State in terms of leasing, rent, etc. The Commissioners invited them for a meeting. Mr. Glessner and Mr. Henthorn came and K. Nealley and J. Henthorn have been working very well together. Soon thereafter, the State made offers to assist with ADA-related projects. At this point, \$50,000.00 of the \$100,000.00 spent in projects has been funded by the State. Also, Rick Kersbergen at the Extension Office offered to assist the County with the roofing costs by contributing about \$5,000.00 or half toward this. W. Shorey praised K. Nealley for the good working relationship with the State and commended the State for working so well with the County. In recent conversations with the State in joining together for a needs assessment in the courthouses that are shared by the State and the County,

the State had indicated that it might be more expedient if the County took on any project rather than the State.

K. Nealley asked if he could get his recommendation for the Extension Office roof to Commissioner Shorey as chairman before moving forward and was given authorization by the Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners thanked K. Nealley for his report.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

1. Tabled Corrections Request: NOT DISCUSSED.

2. B. Johnson reported that she has been meeting with various groups for economic development. There is a little bit of conflict with several organizations being in the same county. Waldo is currently divided in three different districts. Most of District 1 is in the Midcoast district. Knox County is all in one economic development district, KWRED, which is Knox and Waldo, but more for business development. These groups are trying to identify how these are all going to fit. B. Johnson stated that she is not sure how it is going to be developed. She is currently serving on the Midcoast Executive Committee. She said she was unsure if a commissioner would be asked to serve on the Eastern Maine Development District or not. She is trying to figure out how Waldo County will fit in with the three different districts and did not know whether this will be a good thing or not. Bylaws need to be developed, etc. It is a little confusing but hopefully in a month or more, things will start to get settled out. She stated that even the State doesn't have it straightened out at this point.

3. W. Shorey explained how the Commissioners divide up duties: He handles negotiations and other aspects of the "labor" side, is the Commissioner Representative for the new EMA/Sheriff's Building project and oversees the County Garden. Commissioner Fowler is President of the Maine County Commissioners Association and represents the Commissioners at various committees in Augusta. Commissioner Johnson works on EMA-related matters, media-related matters for schools, etc. as well as other public relations work. Each comes back and supports the Commissioners' decisions in this area.

2011 BUDGET UPDATE:

Present with the Commissioners were all those present at the call to order as listed at the beginning of the minutes, as well as Sheriff Scott Story.

W. Shorey handed out packets of information and directed people to look at the County Budget Comparison FY 1990-2011. He read through the figures, noting that they were very significant. W. Shorey quoted the Belfast City Manager as having said in an article this week that the City of Belfast has held its budget down. W. Shorey acknowledged that Searsport has, as well. He also quoted J. Slocum as having said, "You can only do this so long." W. Shorey agreed that it is very difficult to work with such a "close" budget. He informed those present that the fuel situation this year has been such that the Sheriff and Chief Deputy, back in March, were actively and creatively trying to reduce fuel costs as much as possible.

W. Shorey referenced the Budget Committee meetings during the previous fall and noted that the Commissioners had been asked how much union contracts would cost. Commissioner Berry had told them that he could not answer at that time, but there was no statement made that the Commissioners

could not come back and speak to the Budget committee for more funds. J. Kenney confirmed that there was no statement to that affect.

W. Shorey stated that the budget process for 2012 will be starting soon. He said he was not sure, but he believed the budget will be difficult to present with anything less than a 3% increase. Since 2009, the County has more than doubled in how far below the LD 1 CAP it has been.

W. Shorey commented that it was “not all bad news,” because in Augusta, they have “been trying to sweep the accounts and get as much as possible from the counties,” but Commissioner Fowler found Corrections money that rightly should stay with the County. This funding was transferred to the Future Land and Buildings Reserve. This account will be used to fund some of the new EOC/Sheriff’s building. In evaluating this, and with inquiries from the Treasurer, undesignated funds being used, etc., W. Shorey felt that this building can be built with \$500,000.00 left in undesignated funds. Also, \$50,000.00 needed to be placed somewhere, and this was put into the Technology Reserve. \$338,000.00 and \$50,000.00 added together make \$388,000.00. He further explained that Commissioner Fowler recommended moving undesignated Corrections Funds to the new Sheriff’s portion of the building, as appropriate, to fund portions that would also be used for Corrections-related work. So, in the past two-year period, about \$1,000,000.00 has been identified and used while the County budget was still kept way under the CAP, but he noted that this has “strapped” the County’s funds. He added that this along with considering the price of commodities, including gas, there “just isn’t much room to bargain with.”

After reviewing some more of the budget, Commissioner Shorey told the group that a tour of the site has been arranged.

W. Shorey informed those present that he believed that there will be a \$75 to \$80,000 deficit in the current operating budget. If the County could get back about \$66,000.00 of what was cut by the Budget Committee, it would be a huge help. Otherwise, some bills may have to be pushed off to 2012, or services may need to be reduced. He stated that for the taxpayers, it is good news, except the County is operating tighter than it should be. He listed the anticipated deficits as follows:

SHERIFF’S BUDGET:

1. Personnel line, due to signing union contract after the budget had already been set, and the fuel line, due to unexpected higher gas prices.

COMMUNICATIONS BUDGET:

1. An inordinate number of vacancies for medical leaves have had to be filled by the Overtime and Part-time lines.

COMMISSIONERS BUDGET:

1. Unknowns with unsettled contracts, and a few other deficits such as liability insurance.

COUNTY LAND:

The Commissioners voted last year to sell some or all of the County property. The Board has put some feelers out and there may be a good opportunity to sell to one or two parties – either the City of Belfast or the School District. They’ve shown interest, but they have been very busy with other things. Information will be shared back and forth and perhaps in the future, the County may be able to allow three years of payments dividedly evenly to permit one of the entities to purchase the buildings.

NEW BUILDING:

There were some change orders in the amount of \$56,000.00. W. Shorey reported that these were able to be alleviated without paying anything additional. As of today, two change orders have been authorized in the amount of \$600.00 that were deemed necessary.

W. Shorey reported that there have been a few “hiccups” with the architect, but those have been worked out. He stated that this should be a good building and that the County citizens, having a building this size, should be pleased with the progress and the building that will result. Occupancy should take place in December of this year.

He projected that there will still be about \$500,000.00 in undesignated funds, which is valuable as “starting cash” for the beginning of the year. During the April Commissioners Court Session, Waldo Selectman Kathy Littlefield acknowledged that the Town of Waldo does the same thing at the beginning of the year if they have not been able to get the tax bills out and/or received in the beginning of the year.

WALDO COUNTY GARDEN PROJECT:

W. Shorey reported that last year there was a lot of work and the County was not able to get as much assistance from Reentry Center to accomplish the workload. This year, the project has doubled, and the work and assistance from the clients at the Reentry has really picked up. He commented on the quality of the individuals being sent to the Reentry Center, and also commended the Deputies, who come out in work clothes and work like everybody else. The programs at the Reentry Center have shown in the work ethic of the residents – it is evident that this project and the ability to work in the garden is a very positive experience. W. Shorey said they try to reward the residents occasionally for their good work. He welcomed the Budget Committee to visit any time. Jokingly, he cautioned them that there are security cameras out there and to be aware of that, “if nature calls.”

W. Shorey asked if there were any questions.

J. Kenney asked how the estimated cost of the Sheriff’s Building from last year was turning out and was told by W. Shorey that it was very good. It is at \$1,700,000.00, and a good portion of it is grant funds. It is going very well and is on target. J. Kenney commended Commissioner Shorey for the change order “monitoring.”

W. Shorey also reported that he was pleased that Commissioner Johnson had brought to the Commissioners’ attention that neighbor Mrs. Bonneville had requested to meet with the Commissioners regarding the trees being planted. She had asked if it would be possible to plant a few more trees. With Dutton’s going out of business, the cost is so much less that the County felt it could support purchasing several more trees. These trees have been temporarily planted in the Waldo County Garden and will be moved later.

As for the color of the new building, the Commissioners established a color committee to pick the colors for the siding and roofing shingles that included neighbors Susan Burwell of Miller Street and Brenda Bonneville of Congress Street, Sheriff Scott Story, Commissioner Betty Johnson, EMA Deputy Director Olga Rumney and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

J. Kenney inquired about the health insurance funding that had been cut. W. Shorey explained that it has been a struggle, and likely it would be sitting at about half a million dollars. The underwriter has highly recommended that it be \$1,000,000.00 in that account. He hoped that cuts like that would not occur again, as this is a hard account to maintain.

Sheriff was introduced to speak a little to his budget issues.

S. Story said he has always brought in his budgets at what was requested, adding that he won't be able to this year. He stated that he has gone to a fleet management card, which saves on the budget, but now tax rebates don't come in as tax revenue, so it was pretty much "a wash." He reported that calls for service are up 7% this year and that fuel consumption has gone up even more. He noted that the cars are not "being abused." He said he finally realized that this is the first year that his office has been at full staffing, not having anyone at the academy, no job vacancies, etc. He explained that he had budgeted fuel at \$3.20 per gallon, and it will be about a \$35,000.00 shortfall. He stated that he will either need more money or will have to shut down some of the patrol services. He added that the "other place in trouble" is Personnel Services. The decision was made on salaries *after* the 2011 budget was submitted and approved. He noted that he was instructed to flat-line his budget for 2011. He further noted that with the collective bargaining, which he believed was a fair agreement, this will make that personnel line overdrawn as well. This also means that when the 2012 budget is submitted, the lines will be encompassing two years of increases, not one, since the 2011 budget was flat-lined. The rest of the budget lines are reasonably on track. He noted that the Sheriff's Office just purchased three new cruisers and got good prices on Dodge Chargers at \$500.00 discount for each. He explained that he did have to buy some new equipment for the Chargers.

S. Story reported that the officers are all working hard. He recently received a call that an officer was involved in a shooting; which was a huge concern. Three agencies had to be involved, including Waldo County Sheriff's Office. He was grateful that it was not a Deputy who was involved in the shooting. He stated that he is very, very proud of all the agencies and especially the Sheriff's Office for how this all was handled.

He explained that the dangers are out there, are real and are very different from a sterile environment. "We're not out there just burning gas driving around. Calls for service are increasing and becoming more and more dangerous in nature," he stated.

R. Desmarais asked regarding the contracts, if there was any thought to try and get these finalized before the next budget. W. Shorey said that the Commissioners bring that up each time, recognizing that it is a no-win situation if this isn't budgeted in time.

J. Bennett asked if there was any account that money could be transferred from another line to pay for the shortfalls in the Sheriff's budget. D. Parkman responded that money from another department could not be taken and used for the Sheriff's budget.

A. Fowler explained that some funds could be used from the contingency provision and D. Parkman clarified that shortfalls in the budget shouldn't be funded by contingency, according to statute. It should be more of an emergent nature.

D. Parkman said that the Commissioners were asking that the Budget Committee permit the budget to be increased in those lines mentioned by using undesignated funds. It was generally understood that additional taxes cannot be placed on the taxpayers.

J. Kenney noted that there was not a quorum from the Budget Committee to make this kind of decision and it sounded like they would need the Budget Committee to meet to make a decision in September. The Commissioners stated that this is what they were looking for. S. Story agreed that he would be out of money in September for fuel.

D. Parkman said, speaking on behalf of Communications Center Director Owen Smith, that the Part-time line, which was O.K. the last two years was, as of today, that line is 94% expended. Some of the money being requested would need to go to the Communications Center.

J. Kenney asked if it could be explained. The Commissioners directed the Committee to a sheet submitted by the Communications Director regarding expenditures at this point. J. Kenney asked if the situation was being addressed and was told that it has been as much as possible.

J. Kenney asked if there would be more information forthcoming later and was told yes. W. Shorey confirmed that the Commissioners would need to call the Budget Committee back in early September to request these additional funds be permitted to be added to the 2011 budget via undesignated funds. He hoped that with the Budget Committee's help, it would assist the County in getting through this difficult time.

J. Bennett said that the question he had asked had not been answered. He said he wondered if any other department that didn't need as much money could send that money over to the Sheriff's Office to cover his expenditures.

W. Shorey responded that the budgets were "so close" he couldn't see any department having that kind of money to share.

J. Bennett stated that Thorndike stays under its CAP and within its budget without overdrawing any account every year. He said he believed that the County could find money in some other account to cover this.

W. Shorey said that he could not imagine that, in any way, any of the departments had money to cover another department's shortfall.

D. Parkman said it really didn't need to be a problem; the Budget Committee only had to authorize the Commissioners to transfer undesignated funds to cover the current budget shortfall, and it wouldn't cost the taxpayer's any additional money.

R. Desmarais commented on how tight the Searsport budget was and that there was only a few dollars left to pay the firefighters.

S. Story explained that the Waldo Sheriff's Office filled in for the City of Belfast during that evening when they were busy at another call, and added that this mutual aid is performed frequently among the agencies.

R. Desmarais agreed, stating that mutual aid agreements in the fire departments also assist each other.

J. Kenney asked when the budget rounds would be starting. W. Shorey said that the Committee would be called when the 2012 budget request was prepared.

B. Johnson introduced David Barrows, Lincolnville Selectman, and welcomed him to the Budget committee. The others on the 2011 Budget Committee introduced themselves.

W. Shorey said that the documents reviewed today would be sent to all those on the Committee who could not be in attendance today and the Commissioners would schedule a meeting in early September.

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session is a regular session scheduled on August 2, 2011 rather than the second Tuesday of the month.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the Court Session at 11:50 a.m. Unanimous.**

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