

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
MARCH 27, 2012**

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 court session to order at 9:00 a.m.

FACILITIES REPORT:

K. Nealley thanked the Commissioners for the payment he received for additional work he had done on the new EMA/Sheriff's building. He went on to report the following:

1. The stairs at the back of the building are slippery when it's cold and icy; particularly the metal treads on the edge of each stair. One employee recently fell from skidding on the metal edge. He reminded the Commissioners that he had submitted a capital plan for 2012 to work on those stairs but the budget had been reduced and that was no longer funded. He has researched a solution, which would be a tread that covers completely all four stairs. He could install it himself. The Commissioners agreed to do this.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve this tread work and to fund it from the Courthouses Reserve. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Scott Story who reported the following:

1.. State vs. George Hustus Raymond: Asset Forfeiture has been received in the amount of \$4,070.00 in U.S. Currency, pending a vote to accept by the County Commissioners.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept asset forfeiture from the State vs. George Hustus in the amount of \$4,070.00. Unanimous.**

2. S. Story recommended hiring Carlene Thornton as Head Cook. She would take a pay cut if she slid into this position as it stands now, but this position is being changed and the job description will need to be changed. He requested that she be paid at her current pay scale as a Corrections Officer Salary until he can come up with a new job description.

****B. Johnson, A. Fowler moved to hire Carlene Thornton as Head Cook at her current Corrections Officer hourly wage until a new job description and pay scale are developed. Unanimous.**

3. Shelving is needed for the storage room at the back side of the former EMA Office in order to get it off the floor. This will be for Corrections records. The Commissioners discussed this briefly, looked at available funds in the Facilities, All Other Reserve account and determined that there are funds there which had been previously placed there for this project. The Commissioners voted as follows:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize the Sheriff to purchase shelving for the room in the Reentry basement as requested with funding from the Facilities, All Other Reserve. Unanimous.**

4. Some of the firearms are getting so old they are breaking down. S. Story requested that some of the firearms be replaced using asset forfeiture. He would be coming back to the Commissioners with a proposal. When asked, S. Story estimated that the guns and holsters would roughly total about \$800.00 per

officer. He estimated the total cost to replace these at \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Currently, asset forfeiture has been used to keep the drug canine program going. He would recommend funding this from asset forfeiture as long as it does not impact the canine program, which is also funded through this.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the Corrections budget, how the Reentry budget falls under the parameters as the other Corrections facilities in the State and some of the details related to this.

The benefits of the County Garden Program were also briefly discussed.

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES IN COMMISSIONERS OFFICE:

Present with the Commissioners were County Clerk Barbara Arseneau, Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell. Prior to the recent resignation of the Deputy County Clerk, B. Arseneau and M. Wadsworth had reworked the Deputy County Clerk job description, adding the responsibility of payroll and detailing the job as it had evolved over the years. The Commissioners had already received a copy of this electronically. All reviewed the document together to see if there were any questions or concerns.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the updated Deputy County Clerk job description. Unanimous.**

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL 2012:

B. Arseneau had previously sent electronically the renewal documents for the Meritain Health care plan submitted by Malcolm Ulmer to the County Commissioners for their review. The Commissioners found the documents to be in order and voted as follows:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to sign renewal documents for the Meritain Health care plan for Waldo County for 2012. Unanimous.**

MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

1. Old Sheriff's/Jailor's House and Old Jail: Commissioner Shorey reported that he has started talking with Maine Preservation, the City of Belfast and legal counsel to research the proper potential uses for the Old Sheriff's Office (formerly called the Jailor's House) and Old Jail. It is only in the research stage at this point.

2. Deputy Emergency Management Agency Manager -Maine Certification Application: Deputy EMA Director Olga Rumney is applying for certification as Certified Emergency Manager-Maine. Many EMA Directors are not certified and EMA Director Dale Rowley supports her application for this certificate. O. Rumney requested a letter of recommendation from the County Commissioners.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to send a letter of recommendation for Deputy EMA Director Olga Rumney to submit with her application for Emergency Management Emergency Manager-Maine certification. Unanimous.** A letter was drafted and signed by the County Commissioners.

The EMA Director has also updated the Deputy EMA Director Job description with only a few minor changes.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the updated Deputy EMA Director job description. Unanimous.**

3. Coastal County Workforce Initiative Update: B. Johnson informed the Commissioners about recent developments with the Coastal County Workforce Initiative. The Governor wants to consolidate all the districts into one. Each County has a commissioner that sits on the Executive Board. She stated that the commissioners will need to stay united on the matter of keeping the districts, and she believed the MCCA may present something on this during the annual convention. Currently there is nobody from the county level that is serving as representation on the Jobs Council Board. Commissioners have been cautioned that they may be “wined and dined” individually to try and persuade them to a different viewpoint. The Governor does not really have a say – this is a Federal arrangement and the reporting goes to the Federal Government. Senator Olympia Snowe is strong with the Coastal County Workforce Initiative. She will be leaving, since she is not running again for the Senate.

A. Fowler asked what the goals were. B. Johnson said they want to remain as the four entities. Individual Towns were not getting any benefit – it stayed in a central area. It seemed that certain areas kept getting more of the benefit. Keeping it as districts is better, although she commented that perhaps the current districts are too large. For example the Coastal County Workforce Initiative includes both York and Waldo Counties, which is a large span. There was discussion of the costs for administration.

4. Maine Coast Economic Alliance Update: B. Johnson reported that since Knox County redid its budget, the Maine Coastal Economic Alliance is now in trouble because their funding was reduced. MCEA may have to disband or to merge with another group. The \$9,000.00 from Knox was supposed to have been paid earlier, but with the budget change, it won’t be received at all. The MCEA Board of Directors will be meeting next Friday and will likely make a decision then. It was noted that Waldo County Towns are divided up into several different economic development groups. There was brief discussion on Eastern Maine Development Corporation and what they are doing in Waldo County.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A contract for a Panasonic DVD Burner from Seacoast Security for the digital Recorder in the Interview Rooms at the new Sheriff’s Office needs to be signed.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to sign the contract to order a Panasonic DVD Burner from Seacoast Security for the digital Recorder at the Sheriff’s Interview Rooms in the amount of \$467.28 from the Reserve for the new building. Unanimous.**

3. Lt. Jason Trundy and Detective Jason Bosco both received commendations from the Sheriff and Chief Deputy for their bravery and excellent handling of a risky and potentially dangerous situation during a call for service in the Town of Prospect. The Commissioners echoed these commendations.

4. With the recent resignation of Deputy County Clerk Veronica Spear on March 15, 2012, a Temporary Office Assistant needs to be hired for a period of about six (6) weeks as needed. Linda Kinney has been recommended by Commissioner Shorey and is available to work full days Thursdays, Fridays and the Tuesdays of commissioners Court Sessions during this six (6) week period to allow time to post the Deputy County Clerk position, select candidates for interview and to hire the most qualified applicant. L. Kinney will be paid the part-time rate of \$12.83 per hour and will start March 22, 2012.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the resignation of Deputy County Clerk Veronica Spear and to hire Linda Kinney as Temporary Office Assistant for a period of six weeks, effective March 22, 2012 at \$12.83 per hour until a candidate is found to fill the vacant Deputy County Clerk position. Unanimous.**

5. A letter dated March 22, 2012 was received from Swanville Selectman Brian Thompson informing the Commissioners that the Swanville Selectmen had appointed Peter Petersen to serve on the 2013 Waldo County Budget Committee. B. Arseneau had forwarded a scanned copy of this letter to the Waldo County Commissioners for their review. After reviewing the statutes and requirements, the County Clerk had notified Mr. Thompson by letter that the formal process includes nomination at a caucus and, once the nomination is accepted by the County Commissioners, then putting that name on the ballots that are sent to the municipalities in that district. After ballots are tabulated, those with the most votes are accepted by the County Commissioners to serve on the Budget Committee. B. Arseneau directed Mr. Thompson to the appropriate statutes.

6. Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell has requested that departments/agencies submit their 2011 Annual Reports to her by May 4, 2012. B. Arseneau asked the Commissioners to let her know what they would like drafted for their letter and who they would like to dedicate the Annual Report to.

The State of Maine Department of Transportation sent notice to Commissioner Johnson that there is a public meeting to discuss the Mill Bridge in Islesboro on April 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Islesboro Town Hall, 150 Main Road.

NEW HIRES - D.A.'s OFFICE:

Present with the Commissioners was Deputy District Attorney Eric Walker.

1. E. Walker briefly reviewed the interview and hiring process for the Legal Secretary. The first two applicants declined the offer and the third applicant accepted. Her name is Felicia Story and he recommended hiring her effective April 9, 2012 at \$13.37 per hour.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the hire of Felicia Story as Legal Secretary effective April 9, 2012 at \$13.37 per hour. Unanimous.**

2. E. Walker asked if temporary employee Irene Blood could remain on for a few weeks after the new Legal Secretary has been hired on April 9, 2012, which would be through April 23, 2012 so that the Administrative Legal Secretary can train the Legal Secretary during those first two weeks.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to allow temporary employee Irene Blood to continue working at the District Attorney's Office through April 23, 2012 to help during this transition. Unanimous.**

3. E. Walker reminded the Commissioners that there is a pay discrepancy between the two Legal Secretary positions, noting that there is a three-grade level difference between the two. The Commissioners said they recognized this and it would need to be discussed in union negotiations.

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session is a regular session scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2012.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:03 a.m. Unanimous.**

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