

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
SPECIAL SESSION
DECEMBER 17, 2013**

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

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 9:05 a.m.

BRIEF CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to report brief correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau, as follows:

1. 2014-15 Cleaning Contract with Maureen Hall: The Commissioners briefly reviewed the contract submitted by Facilities Manager Keith Nealley and Commissioner Shorey signed the two originals.
2. Sheriff Story requested that a County credit card be issued to Chief Deputy Jeffrey Trafton, as Sheriff Story will not be attending as many meetings, events, etc. in the near future as he “transitions” out of the position as Sheriff during 2014. The Chief will be attending more meetings, events, etc. and will need a card in his name. The Commissioners authorized that a County credit card be issued to Chief Trafton.
3. The Maine County Commissioners Association Risk Pool has sent a check to cover repairs resulting from a recent patrol vehicle accident (minus the \$1,000.00 deductible) in the amount of \$1,677.96. The amount estimated by the body shop turned out to be a bit lower than the actual work cost, but MCCA had already sent the check to the County.

Also present for this discussion were Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell and Risk Pool Claims Adjuster Malcolm Ulmer. Both briefly discussed estimated and agreed amounts for patrol vehicle repairs being discounted after the check has already been cut from the Risk Pool and what to do with the overpayment. M. Ulmer recommended that the County ask the repair shop not to discount the amount after the estimate had been submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into Executive Session at 9:12 a.m. for discussion of protected information regarding the County of Waldo health insurance plan as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405 - 6(F). Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of Executive Session at 10:23 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to renew enrollment with Meritain Health and to authorize making the following changes to the Waldo County Health plan effective January 1, 2014: 1.) to modify emergency room coverage to provide a \$500.00 limit for claims involving**

non-emergent use of the emergency room and to eliminate the physician referral requirement, 2.) to add coverage for same-sex spouses, 3.) to add any additional changes required by Maine State mandates, 4.) to revise the eligibility requirement for coverage for full-time employees to 30 hours and, 5.) to revise dependent coverage to no longer require the dependent children's employers' health coverage to be primary. Unanimous.

A. Fowler stated that the Waldo County Budget Committee has been very impressed with how the County's self-funded health plan has operated and the resulting cost savings. She reported that several municipal officers had spoken with her and expressed interest in the plan. She had recommended to them that that municipalities considering pooling employees together through the Selectman's Association to set up a similar self-funded plan.

W. Shorey asked M. Ulmer to describe how the County's health insurance plan operates financially. M. Ulmer explained that he bills the County every month. If there was no money in the plan, the County wouldn't pay. It is actually paying the County. Even while reducing the budget amount on paper in 2013 and 2014, the County is still collecting money from participants if the actual claims don't use up all the contributions.

There was brief discussion on determining a bottom line of how low the health insurance operating budget should be so as not to make it necessary to increase the operating budget in future years. The goal is to reach a point of flat-funding for as many years as possible.

W. Shorey asked whether or not the law applied if an employee with a buyout wanted to come back on the County's health plan. M. Ulmer and Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth (also present) explained to the Commissioners that there must be one of three qualifying events to permit enrollment with the plan: loss of coverage, marriage, divorce or birth of a child, for example. Otherwise the employee must wait for the open enrollment period to come back on the County's health plan.

The Commissioners thanked M. Ulmer for presenting 2014 health insurance plan enrollment information to them.

(Commissioner Fowler had to leave the court session at this point to attend another meeting.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. for evaluation of employment & resignation as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405 - 6(A). Passed.**

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to come out of Executive Session at 11:36 a.m. Passed.**

WINTER WELLNESS BASKETS:

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize up to \$1,500.00 in funds from the health insurance account for the January Wellness Baskets. Passed.**

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next regularly scheduled Commissioners Court Session is January 14, 2014.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the court session at 12:04 p.m. Passed.**

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