

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
JANUARY 14, 2014**

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 9:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners were David Parkman and Karen Trussell. D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that there was \$803,031.85 in reserve accounts at the end of 2013. He stated that at the start of 2013, there was approximately \$368,560.82 in the reserve accounts. W. Shorey explained to D. Parkman that upcoming technology expenditures will reduce that figure by about \$220,000.00.

D. Parkman reported about \$128,000.00 remaining in the 2013 Sheriff's budget. He also reported that the Commissioners 2013 budget was in the black.

COUNTY REVENUE 2013:

D. Parkman reported the 2013 County revenue received as being 110.08% of what was anticipated.

CORRECTIONS REVENUE:

Corrections revenue received so far is 99.07% of what is anticipated for the fiscal year.

CORRECTIONS BUDGET:

Also now present was Sheriff Scott Story. S. Story recommended that the capital accounts be swept sooner to reflect actual expenditures to the technology and facility accounts (ask Karen).

D. Parkman reported that the payment to the BOC will go out next week. S. Story asked, after reading two news articles, whether the Waldo County Commissioners felt comfortable with this. There was brief discussion about how to deal with things if Two Bridges ever could not house Waldo's inmates. Half of the yearly amount due to the BOC had to be paid by November of 2013 and half by April of 2014. Payment of the November amount has been occurring in January because Waldo has not money to operate with until the Tax Anticipation Note for the Correctional budget.

A. Fowler reported on a recent meeting including a presentation to Criminal Justice and it was made to appear that Waldo County was linked with Somerset's actions (refusing to house some inmates while accepting others). She clarified it later with the speaker.

A. Fowler stated, for the record, that there were two votes in opposition to the flat funded budgets for Fiscal Year 2014 at the December 17, 2013 SBOC meeting; A. Fowler and Aroostook County Administrator Douglas Beaulieu.

S. Story said that in order to flat-fund the budget for Corrections for 2014-15, about \$80,000.00 needed to be cut from the budget request and this was done. He asked the Commissioners to approve this budget.

****B. Johnson, A. Fowler to flat fund Corrections budget as presented by the Sheriff. Unanimous.**

REPORT ON SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER:

S. Story said that by the time the numbers were done, it was about \$10,000.00 for the salary of the School Resource Officer for the summer months when he was not working in the school. It would actually be more, when benefits are included.

W. Shorey explained that the Sheriff's budget had returned significant funds to the County in recent years. He recommended that the funds come out of the Detail account. The Commissioners then voted as follows:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve moving up to \$20,000.00 from undesignated funds to the Detail Reserve to fund the summer months' work for the Resource Officer. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS:

W. Shorey read the warrants and the Commissioners voted as follows:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 30, 2013 General Fund Accounts Payable and December 19, 2013 Payroll warrant in the amount of \$381,486.64. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 30, 2013 Capital & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$9,605.03. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 30, 2013 Reentry A/P and December 19, 2013 Payroll warrant in the amount of \$86,865.29. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 30, 2013 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount \$309.94. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the January 14, 2014 General Fund A/P and January 3, 2014 Payroll warrant in the amount of \$185,854.33. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the January 14, 2014 Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$7,310.72. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the January 14, 2014 Reentry A/P and January 3, 2014 Payroll warrant in the amount of \$938,965.78. Unanimous**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the January 14, 2014 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$324.10. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 31, 2013 General Fund A/P Warrant FY 2013 in the amount of \$95,399.02. Unanimous.**

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Sheriff Story requested a brief Executive Session.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:32 a.m. for a personnel matter regarding disciplinary action of an employee as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405(A). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of Executive Session at 9:33 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

RESIGNATION:

Sheriff Story reported that Patrol Deputy Christopher West has resigned for personal reasons.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept resignation of Chris West. Unanimous.**

S. Story informed the Commissioners that he is looking at hiring another person to fill that position, there are some good candidates, and he will be back to make a recommendation in the future.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY LEPC AND EMA STORAGE FACILITY:

Present with the Commissioners was EMA Director Dale Rowley who reported the following:

1. LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee): D. Rowley informed the Commissioners that the LEPC is a requirement from the EPA to the State and the State to County EMA. One of the problems is it has been assumed that the EMAs are responsible for the planning. EPA has been slashing the budgets but still expects the counties to handle this. When Hope Bartlett stopped working for Waldo County, D. Rowley lost his assistant for this work. D. Rowley then submitted a Waldo County Emergency Management Agency Department Policy 2; Support to Waldo County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) document to the Commissioners and reviewed it with them. He related a problem in which there was a recent training and not enough students (?) and the State would not reimburse for the instruction. Counties were expected to look for places with propane tanks that met the threshold for hazardous materials.

D. Rowley explained that there is a big misconception that the LEPC is a free group of people who do a lot of work. They are actually volunteers.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to adopt the document as presented. Unanimous.**

2. EMA Outbuilding: Currently there is a green fabric building used as an outbuilding/shelter for the EMA near the new Public Safety Building. D. Rowley explained that he would like to build a pole barn that is basically the size of the current pad to provide a more stable structure in place of the fabric building. When asked where he would get the funds, he said that this would be via the

same EPG program that provides funding and he can use volunteers to construct the building. He estimates \$20,000.00 total as an “overestimation” and he thought there would be enough volunteer time and funding from the State to cover the cost. He explained that when the current fabric building was moved to the new Public Safety building, it “took a bit of a beating” and this pole building would replace that existing structure. He would check with the City of Belfast to see if there were any permitting requirements, etc. The posts will be put into the ground to secure it. D. Rowley said that the County has a site plan now anything that is done to the site requires going back to the City of Belfast Planning Board.

3. 2013 Ice storm report: D. Rowley reported that 80% of Waldo County was without power at the peak. Waldo, Kennebec and Hancock were the worst hit. He explained that the public funding is nearly a sure thing and that the state itself met the threshold. Waldo County has more than met its threshold. It is fairly certain that there will be a public assistance declaration. Once this has been declared, there will be a “kick-off meeting”. If a town attends that meeting, they can become an applicant. 18 towns in Waldo County provided damage reports with the current assessment at \$560,000.00.

D. Rowley went to report that Waldo County Action Partners (WCAP) provided transportation to the shelter that was set up at Troy Howard Middle School during the Ice Storm. They have submitted a bill to Waldo County. WCAP provided a driver and van for the entire week and only charged for driver’s time and gas, which totaled about \$450.00. This shelter was the most populated shelter in the state totaling 36 on Christmas night.

At the Troy Howard Middle School, there is rubber flooring that is used to put cots on so that they don’t scratch the floor. D. Rowley reported it missing. The school has no idea where it is and neither does the Red Cross. These are \$400.00 each and one is missing. He hoped to obtain reimbursement for this. He is also including the two generators that burned out at the Public Safety Building and Jail.

He commented that even though it was put on radio stations, T.V. etc., there were a number of people who said they wished they had known sooner that the shelter was open. D. Rowley said that they used “2-1-1” to get information out. There was discussion of the County sharing costs to get magnets with that information and have them made up for distribution.

It was noted that individual assistance criteria has become more stringent since the Ice Storm of 1998. Counties don’t have the resources to collect that kind of data. Likely the County won’t be able to derive any assistance from this.

Waldo County had the only pet shelter provision. At one point, there were one-third as many animals as people staying there. Fosters’ Pet Care donated a few hundred dollars in pet food D. Rowley has written a letter of thanks to them. The Commissioners were very pleased with this.

D. Rowley also submitted a document entitled “Issues, Ideas, Improvements and Lessons Learned.” He explained that the County Clerk, as part of the EOC, had offered to come help but they had not needed that support. He and the Deputy EMA Director were able to keep up with the phone calls and RACYS volunteers also came in and helped.

There was brief discussion of what happened that caused two generators to burn out. It was acknowledged that the temperatures were in the single digits for so long and so consistently that icing was an issue.

W. Shorey inquired about the GIS mapping. Waldo is in a waiting and “holding” pattern because nothing can be done until Washington County makes a decision about whether or not they are moving forward with this.

SIGNING OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE DOCUMENTS:

Present to sign the 2014 Tax Anticipation Note were Treasurer David A. Parkman and the Commissioners. The paperwork was signed by the Commissioners, Treasurer and County Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. The 2014 Certificate of Incumbency was submitted to and approved by the County Commissioners.
2. The 2014 MMA Workers Compensation Fund Renewal cost has been received. The total for the year is \$60,062.00, which is shared 50/50 between the County and Jail budgets.
3. B. Arseneau asked if the Commissioners had made a decision on the winning safety suggestion which is to convert the parking at the rear of the District Courthouse to employee parking only. The Commissioners are taking this under advisement and will make a decision in the future.
4. The Commissioners reviewed a letter sent to them regarding legal research for the District Attorney’s Office in which District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau informed them that he has concluded that in order to save money and to be more up-to-date, the District Attorney’s Office will move to an on-line research tool through Lexis/Nexis. The monthly fee will be \$100.00, totaling \$1,200.00 a year versus the cost of \$1,585.00 that it would have been to purchase pocket parts from Thompson West. The Commissioners agreed that this was a good idea.
5. Commissioner Shorey has reserved the Searsport Bay Area Lions Club to hold the 2014 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute Awards Ceremony hosted by the County on Saturday, October 18, 2014.
6. The Commissioners decided not to hold a workshop in January since they have already held two court sessions this month.
7. B. Arseneau shared that Communications Director Owen Smith had sent all the Commissioners/Treasurer’s staff an email message thanking them for their assistance during 2013, stating that they staff is always “kind, compassionate, helpful and professional.”

8. B. Arseneau asked the Commissioners to think about whether or not they wished to organize anything for National County Government Month in April this year.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS:

1. A. Fowler has a meeting coming up with Criminal Justice Committee and also a meeting with BOC Executive Director Ryan Thornton (Check email).

2. B. Johnson reported on the letter of support for the 2014 Brownfields EPA Grant Application had been received from Midcoast Economic Development District, stating that it was well written.

3. W. Shorey noted that, as requested, the Clerk had put together a Maine Law Enforcement Directory. A. Fowler said she is aware that there are a few discrepancies in that most recent version.

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session is a regular session scheduled on February 11, 2014.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the Commissioners Court Session at 10:44 a.m. Unanimous.**

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