

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
MARCH 24, 2014
(SPECIAL SESSION)**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey - Chairman, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Taking minutes was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

Call to order: W. Shorey called the court session to order at 9:35 a.m.

NEW HIRE – WALDO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE:

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Scott Story. S. Story requested confirmation to hire John McEwen as part-time Patrol Deputy with undetermined hours and asked that this be retroactive to March 21, 2014.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire John McEwen as part-time Patrol Deputy retroactive to March 21, 2014 at the part-time rate of \$15.25 per hour. Unanimous.**

There was brief discussion of issues related to the consolidated Corrections system and proposed legislation.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into Executive Session at 9:50 a.m. to discuss protected health insurance documents as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of Executive Session at 10:08 a.m. Unanimous.**

HEALTH INSURANCE 2014 COBRA RATES:

The Commissioners were pleased to report that the recommended 2014 COBRA rates are significantly lower than the 2013 rates.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the recommended 2014 COBRA rates for the County of Waldo Health Insurance Plan with Meritain Health as follows:**

Single:	\$ 748.00
Participant/Child	\$1,197.00
Participant/Spouse	\$1,347.00
Family:	\$1,870.00

Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

1. District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau notified Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth that the date of hire needs to be changed for Dean Jackson from March 31, 2014 to April 1, 2014.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to change the date of hire for Dean Jackson as Prosecutorial Assistant/Supervisor from March 31, 2014 to April 1, 2014 as requested. Unanimous.**

2. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that the office received an electronic scanned copy of the signed MOA between Waldo County and Maine Library of Geographic Information Regarding Collection of Orthoimagery from Executive Director Joseph Young.

3. Searsport Harbor Navigation Improvement Project: B. Arseneau asked if the Commissioners wished to discuss and take a position on this topic. B. Johnson said that this was also discussed in MCEDD and after she attends the public meeting she will be better able to report on the matter. MCEDD has not made a decision on its position at this point.

A. Fowler said she has been hearing from the Piscataquis County Commissioners and will forward the correspondence to the other two Commissioners. She has also heard that Penobscot County is in favor of the dredging project. Apparently the common point of interest and issue is the railroad. A. Fowler and B. Johnson agreed that they understand that with ports, dredging is needed occasionally, and they want to hear more from all involved so that they can have a better understanding of the project. There has been discussion on how deep the dredging would be. Commissioner Shorey felt that he was in strong support of this project and said he would like to take a vote today. Commissioner Johnson said she would prefer not to vote today until she has heard more information. Commissioner Fowler felt it would be wise to compromise, wait until after the upcoming public hearing and then vote during the Commissioners April 16, 2014 Court Session on their position as a Board. W. Shorey reported on recent discussion in a Searsport Selectman's meeting and some research they are considering doing regarding this project. The Commissioners agreed to revisit this topic on April 16, 2014.

4. The Commissioners received a letter this morning from Palermo citizen Edward J. Strout requesting that the tax abatement appeal hearing originally scheduled on February 24, 2014, which he had cancelled in writing, be rescheduled in April. The Commissioners instructed the County Clerk to send a letter to Mr. Strout and enclose the statutes related to tax abatement appeals as he will need to follow that process.

5. B. Johnson noted that the June Primary Elections are on June 10, 2014 and recommended changing the Commissioners Court Session to another day. The Commissioners agreed to schedule the June Court Session on June 17, 2014.

6. MCCA Risk Pool has sent funds to cover the damage to the Old Jailer's House as a result of frozen pipes, etc. in the amount of \$6,291.34 and will be placed in the Facilities All Other reserve for the time being.

7. Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth asked if it would be possible to purchase a new desk and chair for the new Victim/Witness Advocate as the other desk is very old and rather make-shift. The Commissioners discussed this briefly and agreed to take care of this, since a new employee was coming in and it really should be addressed.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize funding up to \$1,000.00 from Facilities All Other reserve to purchase a desk and chair for the P/T Victim/Witness Advocate. Unanimous.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2014 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:10 a.m. Unanimous.**

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