

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
JANUARY 8, 2015**

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

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Shorey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners were Treasurer David A. Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

D. Parkman reported the amounts in the Bank accounts as follows:

- \$276,080.80 in the Jail bank account
- \$658,452.76 in the County bank account, as of Dec 31, 2014
- \$497,726.94 will be in the County bank account after today's warrant.

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that the County may have to start borrowing on the Tax Anticipation Notes in early February, which is a few weeks earlier than last year, but the County shouldn't be borrowing as much as some years.

2014 Year End Report:

Reserve Accounts: D. Parkman reported that all money approved through last year is \$1,080,800.00. K. Trussell explained that the only difference in that figure would be the interest for the month of December.

**REVENUE RECEIVED:**

D. Parkman reported revenue received for 2014 at 111.56%.

**PROPERTY TAXES:**

D. Parkman stated that all property taxes have been paid but he is still waiting on interest for late payment from Belmont and Frankfort.

**COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS:**

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that the only department that ended the year in the red due to high overtime was the Communications Center, but he noted that this department still did an excellent job.

The Grand total is \$177,103.54 left over from 2014. Unused funds are not carried over unless they are reserve accounts. The only one that might be is EMA, as that is due to part of the budget being funded via federal money.

W. Shorey stated that the Commissioners are particularly pleased with the excellent financial condition of the County of Waldo.

D. Parkman agreed that the County “lives within its means” but has also managed to keep its buildings maintained and even built a new public safety building without incurring debt.

There was brief discussion of the need to create additional space for permanent records. W. Shorey explained that the goal is to create appropriate storage space out of the Old Jail after it is remediated, which should be within the next two years.

#### CORRECTIONS:

D. Parkman reported that as soon as the County gets the Tax Anticipation Note approved on January 15, 2015 the next warrant should permit the total sum of \$800,000.00 to be sent to the Board of Corrections.

D. Parkman noted that the Governor mentioned in his speech that the county jails’ consolidated system is not working well. The Governor also mentioned that Waldo County sets an example in regionalization among the fire departments. D. Parkman said he felt that Waldo County should consider additional ways to help the towns.

W. Shorey agreed. For example the Waldo County Sheriff’s Office could expand to serve all the towns in the County instead of individual local law enforcement agencies.

#### JAIL AUDIT:

K. Trussell submitted the Jail Audit ending June 30, 2014 to the Commissioners.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to file the Treasurer’s Report. Unanimous.**

#### WARRANTS:

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 30, 2014 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and December 18, 2014 payroll in the amount of \$854,541.65. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 30, 2014 Capital & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$57,299.35. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 30, 2014 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and December 18, 2014 payroll in the amount of \$48,808.33. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the December 31, 2014 Final 2014 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$44,312.54. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the January 8, 2015 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and January 2, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$160,826.28. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the January 8, 2015 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and January 2, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$96,192.19. Unanimous.**

**FACILITIES REPORT:**

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

1. One of the safety awards was given to the Registry of Deeds for the suggestion to put up a counter arrangement that keeps the general public from using the employee's desks, phones etc. and would offer a protective barrier. The estimate is just under \$7,000.00. One of the rear work stations would be eliminated, but would be retained for future use. The recording system could also be moved to create more space. That would increase the cost to approximately \$7,000.00. These renovations would create a more secure and better functioning environment. K. Nealley requested that the funds come from the Courthouses Reserve.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to permit up to \$7,000.00 from the Courthouses Reserve to fund the renovations for the Registry of Deeds Clerks Office. Unanimous.**

2. K. Nealley will be meeting with Belfast In-Town Design Committee regarding the handicap-accessible door for the lower level of the Superior Courthouse.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton with the following to report:

1. Mutual Aid Agreement with Lincoln County. J. Trafton submitted this agreement for the Commissioners to sign. This is a continuation of developing mutual aid agreements with surrounding counties.

2. Vehicle Bid Proposals:

Proposals were received as follows for six vehicles:

- Newcastle Chrysler Dodge, Damariscotta: 2015 Ram crew cab truck - \$25,848.00. Dodge Charger - \$23,234.00. Trade in: \$3,000.00 for all four old Sheriff's cruisers. 100,000.00 warranty on all new vehicles.
- Bessey Motor Sales, South Paris: 2015 Ram Truck - \$26,291.00. Dodge Charger - \$26,124.00. Trade in: \$1,844.00 for all four old Sheriff's cruisers.
- Central Maine Motors, Waterville: 2015 Ram Truck - \$25,932.00, Dodge Charger - \$25,755.00. Trade in: \$4,100.00 on all four old Sheriff's cruisers.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to award the bid to Newcastle Chrysler Dodge for trucks and cruisers. Unanimous.**

W. Shorey asked that in the future one truck be kept for use at the County Garden and Sheriff Trafton agreed that would be a good idea. J. Trafton mentioned that the Sheriff's Office will also retain one of the older trucks for administrative purposes at the Sheriff's Office, as well.

J. Trafton noted that he has learned that if the Sheriff's Office trades in vehicles with less than 100,000 miles on them, they are traded in at a much higher value, so it is worth trading them in sooner.

J. Trafton informed the Commissioners that the staff is transitioning well at the office with the changes in Sheriff, Chief Deputy, etc.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:**

1. B. Johnson reported that she recently attended a meeting in Damariscotta for MCEDD. She noted that this organization is losing staff. The state economic development agency will be coming to evaluate MCEDD, which occurs every two years. B. Johnson has inquired about adding more Waldo County towns to MCEDD and was told this was a very lengthy process. She also learned that towns don't have to join any particular economic development group unless they choose to. It remains to see how it turns out.

2. A. Fowler reported that the legislature hasn't gone into session yet and some bills are being submitted. W. Shorey said, after listening to the Governor's inaugural speech, he believed there would be some news regarding county jails coming soon.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter executive session for discussion of protected information as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§405(6)(F) at 10:11 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of Executive Session at 10:36 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved to rescind the motion from January 6, 2015 to accept the 2015 COBRA rates until updated information on the rates is provided. B. Johnson seconded to rescind her second to that motion on January 6, 2015. Unanimous.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Reviewing correspondence with the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

1. As requested by the Commissioners, an updated Waldo County *Appeal of Decision of Board of Assessors On Application For Abatement of Property Taxes* form has been created. It now includes a request to attach a copy of the tax bill for the year abatement is requested.

2. B. Arseneau confirmed that the County was supplying three (3) \$50.00 gift cards to the Waldo County Firefighters Association for their convention September 11-13, 2015.

3. The Commissioners reviewed the list of committees each serves on and instructed the county clerk to make updates to the list.

4. B. Arseneau submitted the 2015 County of Waldo Certificate of Incumbency to the Board of Commissioners.

5. Pay step increases were noted by the County Commissioners for the following employees:

- Corporal Steven Cole will complete sixteen years of employment on January 10, 2015 with a pay increase from \$21.08 to \$21.45 per hour.
  - Sergeant Matthew Curtis will complete sixteen years of employment on January 10, 2015 with a pay increase from \$24.66 to \$25.01 per hour.
  - Legal Secretary Felicia Story completed her second year of employment on April 9, 2014 but the request was inadvertently overlooked by the District Attorney's Office at that time. District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau requested that the increase in pay to \$19.76 per hour be paid retroactive to that date.
6. EMA Deputy Director Olga Rumney submitted a recommendation to the County Commissioners that the Waldo County EMA invite the Governor to an EMA Directors' meeting, likely in February, to show him the new building, how funds were obtained for that, how the EMA Director obtained grant funds for a tower that aids the entire County's public safety departments, etc. The Commissioners expressed their approval of this idea.
  7. Ryan Thornell has resigned from the Board of Corrections effective January 31, 2015.
  8. The Commissioners briefly reviewed the proposed list of Maine County Commissioners Association 2015 Directors.
  9. The Commissioners decided not to submit anything for the February Maine County Commissioners Association monthly newsletter.
  10. Jennifer Brooks of Eastern Maine Development Corporation inquired about which Waldo County Commissioner serves on the EMDC Board. W. Shorey instructed B. Arseneau to inform Ms. Brooks that he serves as Corporator on this board.
  11. Sergeant Matthew Curtis submitted to the Commissioners a copy of a commendation for Deputy Darrin Moody for exceptional diplomacy in effecting an arrest that otherwise may have resulted in injury to the responding officers or the suspect during an agency assist. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude and commendation for Officer Moody's excellent handling of this matter.
  12. Sergeant Curtis submitted to the Commissioners a copy of a commendation for Deputy Kyle Wasiela for his careful, considerate and compassionate response to a domestic assault complaint. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude and commendation for Officer Wasiela for his thoughtful manner in responding to this incident.
  13. At the request of Commissioner Johnson, B. Arseneau will reserve the Abbott Room at the Belfast Free Library for a free showing of the recently released Waldo County video "How County Government Works". The date and time will be determined soon.

**NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:**

The next Commissioners court session is a special session scheduled for January 27, 2015 in the Probate Courtroom.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to adjourn the court session at 10:39 a.m. Unanimous.**

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