

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
MARCH 12, 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:**

D. Parkman reported that after this week's payroll, there will be \$29,596.80 remaining in the Corrections account and \$28,228.24 in the County account. The loan amount owed to the Board of Corrections is \$1,000,000.00. D. Parkman stated that things might be "tight" in September with the County budget, depending on how property taxes come in.

**JAIL CONSOLIDATION DISCUSSION:**

There was brief discussion on the unknown future of the Jail budgets throughout the State of Maine. A. Fowler noted that nobody has received their supplemental budget. She added that L.D. 186 will be voted "ought not to pass". She noted that the L.D. "was a starting point" but she disagreed with a lot of it. The outcome of this legislation will be known March 23, 2015.

**COUNTY REVENUE:**

D. Parkman reported that 23% of anticipated revenue has been received. December's fees for both the Registry of Deeds and Registry of Probate are recorded in the following year. D. Parkman reported Probate's revenue as follows: January was \$7,500.00, February was \$6,500.00 and March was over \$10,000.00, which is excellent.

**COUNTY BUDGET:**

Expenditures at this time of year could be 21% and all of the departments are at about that point, except the Commissioner's budget is drained earlier in the year with liability insurance, etc. The Facilities budget is a little more expended than usual but this may have been due to more than usual repairs, maintenance, etc.

**CORRECTIONS:**

The Corrections budget is 76% expended and the large \$900,000.00 bill has been paid to the BOC.

**RESERVES:**

No discussion.

**\*\*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 February 27, 2015 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and February 26, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$288,280.38. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the February 27, 2015 Capital, Active and Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$35,892.22. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the February 27, 2015 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and February 26, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$159,767.03. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the March 12, 2015 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and March 12, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$201,583.89. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the March 12, 2015 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$49,880.99. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the March 12, 2015 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and March 12, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$58,755.42. Unanimous.**

(The Commissioners recessed to hold a tax abatement appeal hearing for Derek Davis vs. Town of Thorndike, Pet. 367. Please see separate minutes for that hearing.)

#### **FACILITIES REPORT:**

Present with the Commissioners was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley.

1. K. Nealley reported that this February was the coldest on record. Currently, the County is paying \$3.39 per gallon for fuel. He spoke to the Treasurer's concerns about his budget being more expended than usual. The budget is estimated as 60% expended at start of the year and 40% for end of year. Another factor is that there was court in Superior Courthouse in February, so that required more heat. K. Nealley submitted to the Commissioners a fuel use comparison from 2014 to 2015 for all county buildings.

2. The Guaraventa chair lift at the Superior Courthouse has issues. It has to be tested every five years. The machine recently failed the test. It was installed in 1986 and was not designed for the modern heavy duty wheel chairs developed in recent years, nor the increased weight of the average human being in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. K. Nealley is trying to get the parts to repair it. The vendor representative has informed him that they will not repair the machine because it is obsolete. K. Nealley also called Court Facilities Manager Jeff Henthorn about the matter, who said he could likely "squeak out" a few dollars from the current State budget now, or if it could wait until July, the State could fund half of a replacement unit. The replacement cost is estimated between \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00.

Chief Justice Leigh Saufley has issued a letter stating that the next courthouses due for updates/renovations, are in Oxford, Franklin, York and Waldo Counties. K. Nealley asked the Commissioners if the chair lift should be replaced if the building is going to be overhauled, etc. The Commissioners believed it would be worth the money spent to replace the unit, as it may 5 to 10 years

before any updates are made to the courthouse. Meanwhile, K. Nealley will try to get it repaired for now and will look to replace it in July.

**MAINE SHERIFF'S AWARD:**

Present with the Commissioners for this award was Deputy Sheriff Nicholas Oettinger, Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton and Lieutenant Jason Trundy.

The Commissioners presented a Sentiment of Appreciation to Deputy Oettinger for receiving the 2015 Maine Sheriff's Association award as "Deputy of the Year" and for serving as an excellent role model for young people as Resource Officer as well as to all citizens of Waldo County.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:**

Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton reported the following to the County Commissioners:

1. Recent new hire: J. Trafton reported to the Commissioners that John McEwan, recently hired part-time at the Waldo County Sheriff's Office, went through State Police Training. He comes with a \$30,000.00 price tag the first year if hired full-time but he is working only part-time and the Sheriff plans to retain him at this level for at least one year.
2. Deputy Merl Reed is in canine school with the new canine, Frankie. Sheriff Trafton explained that the new canine is a bit more energetic and a canine cage is needed. The cage is \$2,479.00. Sheriff Trafton requested that he be allowed to make this purchase using funds from the Drug Forfeiture account. The Commissioners authorized the funds for this purchase.
3. Deputy Wiley McVety is now training at the academy.
4. Jail budget: J. Trafton reported a recent inspection of Jail. About \$6,000.00 worth of items need to be worked on. This expenditure has reduced the maintenance line; however J. Trafton was pleased to report that the part-time, over-time, food and other budget lines are in good shape.
5. J. Trafton will be at the Maine Sheriff's Association Conference next Wednesday and Thursday.
6. J. Trafton will be posting the Lieutenant's position in a month. The current Chief Deputy, Scott Story, will be retiring in July, which opens the Chief Deputy position, and also the Lieutenant position, etc. on down the line. He will be reporting back his hiring recommendations in the near future.

The Commissioners expressed their tremendous pleasure with all the excellent work in the Sheriff's Office, stating their intention to support the new Sheriff in whatever way they can.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (CANCELLED):**

The Commissioners stated that they did not need to go into Executive Session for further review of the Waldo County Communications Association collective bargaining contract, as they had already read it.

**SIGNING 2015-2017 AGREEMENT BETWEEN WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND WALDO COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION:**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to ratify the 2015-2017 Agreement Between the Waldo County Commissioners and the Waldo County Communications Association. Unanimous.**

Present for signing the association collective bargaining agreement with the Waldo County Commissioners were WCCA Representative James Beaulieu, Association Steward Matthew Varney, Association President Paul Haskell, Association Vice-President Michael Larrivee witnessed by County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. The Commissioners noted the following pay step increases:

- Dispatch Supervisor Michael Larrivee completed fifteen (15) years of employment on January 30, 2015 and is now eligible, retroactively according to the new union contract, to receive an additional 40 hours of vacation each year. This increases his annual vacation to 200 hours per year.
- Dispatcher Kathy Foley has completed one (1) year of employment and has successfully completed the one year probationary period on February 11, 2015. Her rate of pay will increase retroactively to that date, according to the new union contract, from \$17.56 to \$18.53 per hour.
- Dispatcher Jennifer White completed eight (8) years of employment on January 1, 2015 and will receive a pay increase from \$20.42 to \$21.32 per hour retroactively to that date, according to the new union contract.

2. Dispatcher Jennifer White submitted her resignation to Communications Director Owen Smith on February 24, 2015. As mutually agreed, her last date of employment was March 6, 2015.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the resignation of Dispatcher Jennifer White effective March 6, 2015, as recommended by Communications Director Owen Smith. Unanimous.**

3. Waldo County Firefighters Association President Bill Gillespie has requested, as soon as is practical, the three gift cards that the County Commissioners agreed to donate so that purchases can be made to host the upcoming firefighters annual convention in September. The Commissioners agreed to issue those as soon as possible to Mr. Gillespie.

4. A letter was received from Diana McSorley of the University of Maine Division of Lifelong Learning Conference Services along with an enclosure of their latest brochure presenting the University of Maine Hutchinson Center Conference Services in Belfast, Maine and offering their space, location and supportive staff for any meeting, conference or testing needs.

5. The Commissioners spoke briefly about Maine County Day 2015 that is being held April 22, 2015 in the Hall of Flags in the Maine State House and decided that Waldo County would not participate this year.

6. There will be no workshop for the Commissioners in the month of March.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the January 8, January 26, February 12 and February 26 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions. Unanimous.**

**COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. A. Fowler would like to attend the NENA Conference for two of the four days. The Commissioners agreed, stating that this would be paid from the Professional Services line in the Commissioners budget.

2. There was brief discussion regarding offering to match up 50% of the applicable premium for non-union employees enrolled in the County's dental insurance program. This has already been offered and accepted in the new Communications Association union contract.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to match up 50% of the applicable premium for employees enrolled in the County's dental insurance program. Unanimous.**

3. W. Shorey commended Facilities Manager Keith Nealley for all the additional hours spent on weekends, evenings and early mornings dealing with snow removal during this exceptionally snowy season. He recommended issuing a \$500.00 stipend to K. Nealley in recognition of all this additional work.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to pay a \$500.00 to Facilities Manager Keith Nealley for putting in many additional hours of work dealing with snow removal issues this year. Unanimous.**

4. W. Shorey will reserve the Searsport Lion's Club for the Spirit of America awards celebration for volunteers in Waldo County during October 2015.

5. There was brief discussion about the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant process and setting up the selection committee for reviewing proposals that have been requested for a Qualified Environmental Professional. The proposals will be opened April 13, 2015 followed by dates to interview firms who submitted proposals and a date to award the bid.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:59 a.m. Unanimous.**

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