

WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JUNE 26, 2015
(SPECIAL SESSION)

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 2:10 p.m.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton, who reported the following.

1. There is a need for a domestic violence detective in Waldo County. J. Trafton is working on a grant application for this purpose. The Sheriff's Office also works closely with New Hope for Women. He explained to the Commissioners that nobody uses the Sheriff's Office gym. New Hope for Women does not have an office and he asked the Commissioners to consider allowing New Hope for Women to temporarily use the Sheriff's Office gym space. If this were allowed, it would be understood that New Hope for Women would pay for anything they needed, such as running computer lines and any other expenses incurred to use that space as an office. After asking a number of questions, including how to handle security in the Sheriff's Office space, the Commissioners authorized using the current gym space at the Public Safety Building as a temporary office for New Hope, which could be terminated at any time if the Sheriff needs that office space.

2. J. Trafton explained that the State Police has been given limited access to the Waldo County Sheriff's Office so this would explain why there are often State Police Cruisers coming and going from there.

3. The Maine Pretrial Services Contract expires soon. When these services were last sent out for bids, their proposal came in the lowest. The other three Sheriffs have worked out a six-month extension, including Waldo. For Waldo, it will cost \$29,446.00 so it remains a good deal for the County. Lincoln Sheriff Todd Brackett is in agreement, Joel Merry is in agreement, Donna in Knox is happy so the coalition is in agreement. Next time it will be put out to bid. J. Trafton said he is also considering the possibility of running this in-house, as Ray Porter had written a program in the past. Not all the other Sheriffs agree. The Commissioners authorized Sheriff Trafton to sign the extension. ****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to extend for an additional six months the contract with Maine Pretrial Services. Unanimous.**

A. Fowler asked why the VOA contract line in the Jail budget was overdrawn. J. Trafton said he had asked the same question and recalled that there were some bills that were inadvertently paid out of that line that were supposed to be paid from a different line.

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:

Present with the Commissioners was Communications Director Owen Smith. The "MUX", which is the multiplexer (controller) for the microwave system, is failing. A rebuilt one with a one-year warranty can be purchased for about \$4,000.00 from the Communications Equipment Improvements. The Commissioners noted that this account was depleted at this point. The Deputy Treasurer

recommended replenishing that account with undesignated funds. O. Smith noted that the target amount for this reserve account is \$50,000.00.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to move \$15,000.00 from undesignated funds to the Communications Equipment Improvement reserve. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to report correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau as follows:

1. B. Arseneau and Commissioner Johnson reported on behalf of Wellness Committee Chairman Michelle Wadsworth that the Committee is requesting changes in the criteria for the annual \$50.00 Fitness Reimbursement as follows:

- Extend the reimbursement for four-five months rather than just one month
- Include sport registration fees (such as for a 5K run)
- Include weight loss plan fees (such as Weight Watchers)
- Canning equipment/supplies (promoting healthy eating)
- Community supported Agriculture (CSA) farm shares
- Food purchased at a Farmer's Market

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler moved to accept the annual Fitness Reimbursement changes as presented. Unanimous.**

2. The Commissioners noted pay step increases for the following employees:

- Sheriff's Administrative Assistant Kathy Cunningham will complete 20 years of employment on July 31, 2015 with a pay increase from \$21.77 to \$22.19 per hour. She will also receive an increase in vacation accrual from 200 to 240 hours each year. The Commissioners expressed their commendation for K. Cunningham for serving the County for twenty years.
- Detective Jason Bosco received an increase in pay according to the contract with the Maine State Police Computer Task Force to \$25.40 per hour effective March 27, 2015 but this was not submitted to the Commissioners Office until June 22, 2015. This will need to be paid retroactive to that date.
- Deputy Nicholas Oettinger will complete five years of employment July 14, 2015 and will be eligible to receive an increase in vacation leave from 96 to 120 hours per year.
- Corrections Officer Chad Corbin will complete eight years of employment July 22, 2015 and will receive a pay increase from \$18.93 to \$19.47 per hour.

3. Register of Deeds Stacy Grant sent a memo notifying the Commissioners that she will be scheduling part-time Deeds Clerk Anne M. Sears to work 35 hours per week for 10 weeks starting July 6, 2015.

4. The Commissioners noted with regret the passing of Thorndike Selectman and Waldo County Budget Committee Member James Bennett.

5. The Commissioners directed the County Clerk to contact the Thorndike Town Office and other Town Offices with expired and/or vacant terms on the Waldo County Budget Committee.

6. The County Clerk briefly discussed the tentative 2016 Budget Planning schedule with the Commissioners.

7. The Commissioners authorized the Technology Consultant to sell on behalf of the County the unusable County technology equipment to interested buyers as is.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2015 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session with amendments including as presented. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Waldo County Soil & Water District Request to consider providing health insurance and retirement benefits in the future:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to notify the Waldo County Soil & Water District regarding their inquiry about the County providing health insurance and retirement benefits for a future hire that, after much consideration, the Commissioners feel that it is out of the scope of the County's governing authority, and that this would not be possible. Unanimous.**

2. Inmate Housing Proposal between County of Waldo and Two Bridges Regional Jail:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the final proposal from Two Bridges Regional Jail to house Waldo County's inmates for a cost of \$1,200,000.00 including all medical and pharmaceutical expenses for a one-year contract starting July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Unanimous.**

Sheriff Trafton had earlier expressed his appreciation for Commissioner Shorey's work in negotiating this contract with Two Bridges Regional Jail.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session is a regular session scheduled for July 9, 2015 in the Waldo County Probate Courtroom.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 3:20 p.m. Unanimous.**

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