

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION**  
**AUGUST 27, 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 9:45 A.M.

**JOB DESCRIPTION UPDATE:**

Present with the Commissioners was EMA Director Dale Rowley to discuss updates to the EMA Director Job Description. He presented the description with changes that permit engineering projects, as appropriate within the scope of his engineering license, for county projects as directed and delegated by the Commissioners.

D. Rowley is meeting with the Fire Marshall to review plans for an elevator in the Superior Courthouse to replace the nonfunctioning chair lift. He is hoping that they will accept updated plans and an aerial view. If it isn't too labor intensive from the Fire Marshall, they will move forward but will still need a permit from City Hall through Code Enforcement. If new plans are needed, this will extend the timeline on things.

D. Rowley told the Commissioners that he is looking to get his programmer promoted and found out that any position that is elected and appointed is supposed to go through an oath of office. Apparently this needs to be done at the county level. He presented an oath of office that he drafted by using the one from Hancock County's EMA Director.

Dale Rowley took the oath of office before the Commissioners and then would follow up with a Dedimus Justice, if necessary.

**SPIRIT OF AMERICA FOUNDATION:**

Present with the Commissioners was Spirit of America Foundation Tribute President Bruce Flaherty to explain his ideas for changes in the upcoming Spirit of America Foundation ceremony.

B. Flaherty explained that the thought was to invite counties to have the opportunity to pick citizens for awards for towns that had not chosen any awardees. He has been focusing on six counties on this matter. So far 89 towns have picked recipients, including many in Waldo County. There is a new website that allows the recipient information to be entered and is password secured. He demonstrated the web site for the County Commissioners.

B. Flaherty suggested that the MCCA Convention be the format in the future for the awards ceremony to be held, starting in 2016. He thought that Angus King or Susan Collins or the governor and the media would cover it well. A. Fowler wondered if there might be too many people being brought together in that forum. B. Flaherty said he believed this year they would outgrow the State House. Perhaps people could just stand up and sit down. He asked about the T.V. coverage at the MCCA events and was told that there historically hasn't been any. A. Fowler suggested that this be brought up next year when the MCCA Annual Convention is hosted in Penobscot County.

W. Shorey said that his worry was that people would not attend because the County convention moves all over the state as many would not be able to afford to travel. B. Johnson felt that people really like it on the local level within each county. She commented that the people all socialized together and many knew each other.

B. Flaherty thought the Commissioners in the counties that participate would be the only ones recognized. There was discussion of whether or not the Planning Committee had decided to allow this for 2015. It was thought that the decision was going to be made by the MCCA Executive Committee.

To date, six counties in Maine have been asked to participate and all six have. The Commissioners suggested that more counties be invited. The Commissioners that participate might bring it up at the MCCA Convention and encourage other counties to participate.

B. Flaherty reiterated that the State event has always been held in the Hall of Flags but the event is becoming too large to hold it there now. This is why it is being proposed on the county level and includes a few from each county, although that would be a difficult choice to make. B. Flaherty really felt that it should be held in conjunction with an MCCA Convention. Once the date is known, send an email to each town and ask which recipient the Town would want to honor at that ceremony. W. Shorey thought perhaps the Commissioners of each county could choose one recipient to be honored.

All agreed this could not be decided today and the logistics could not be figured out, including whether or not people would be bringing their family members, etc. Seating, food – all would need to be considered. How large this would be allowed to be and whether or not the majority would come from the county that is hosting also would need to be considered.

W. Shorey said historically, the recipients have been selected by the selectmen. If the Commissioners had the ability to choose people, some might well be chosen that the selectmen may not be aware of.

B. Flaherty said that his focus at this time at the MCCA Convention would be on the Counties rather than the recipients and the Counties would speak.

There was more discussion on the upcoming Waldo County ceremony on October 17, 2015 and B. Flaherty listed which towns had not chosen recipients at this point. The deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>. After that point, the Commissioners can chose recipients from their district.

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

1. Commissioner Shorey reported an update on the County float that will participate in the parade during the 52nd Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention on September 12, 2015. The float will feature the Waldo County Garden.

2. It is official that the Jails have been returned to the counties and are no longer under the control of the Board of Corrections. The Commissioners expressed that Waldo County's Reentry and Jail are in a good position with the contract that was established with Two Bridges Jail to house Waldo County's inmates.

**NEXT COMMISSIONERS SESSION:**

The next Commissioners court session is a regular session scheduled for TUESDAY, September 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Waldo County Commissioners Conference Room. The Commissioners are holding this session earlier in the month due to the Maine County Commissioners Convention being held September 9-11, 2015.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **UPDATED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN DOCUMENT:** On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman Shorey signed the updated health insurance plan document with Meritain Health.

2. The Commissioners have been invited to the Waldo County Extension Association annual meeting September 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 36 Stevens Road, Unity Maine. Host Farm is Windgate Farm. Commissioner Shorey will attend to represent the Board of Waldo County Commissioners.

3. The Sheriff sent a memo notifying the Commissioners that the hourly rate needed to be changed for Lt. Matthew Curtis from the previous memo that was sent down for their August 13, 2015 court session.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to rescind the motion made on August 13, 2015 to pay Lt. Matthew Curtis \$26.42 per hour effective August 20, 2015. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to pay Lt. Matthew Curtis \$29.88 pre hour effective August 20, 2015. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:20 a.m. Unanimous.**

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