

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
MAY 12, 2016**

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 court session to order at 9:00 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell. D. Parkman reported that the total 2016 budget was 38% expended.

Corrections Checking Account Balance: \$21,651.80.

County Checking Account Balance: \$43,751.24.

Tax Anticipation Note:

Borrowed to Date: \$1,600,000.00.

Unused: \$2,900,000.00.

County Appropriations:

The County budget is 35% expended.

Corrections Appropriations:

The Jail budget is 42% expended.

There was brief discussion about the recent change in MainePERS regarding annual reporting of the County's exposure if MainePERS failed. The Commissioners will check with the auditor.

****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 May 12, 2016 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and May 5, 2016 payroll in the amount of \$273,753.63. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 12, 2016 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$27,901.06. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 12, 2016 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and May 5, 2016 payroll in the amount of \$88,201.63. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the May 12, 2016 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$6,595.31. Unanimous.**

B. Johnson reported that she had just finished reconciling the Treasurer's financials for 2015 and will be starting on 2016 soon. The Commissioners acknowledged the importance of a good checks-and-balances for the County finances.

Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell reported a recent scam attempt, which she had recognized and avoided. She explained that a recent caution sent out by Technology Consultant James Arseneau was helpful in identifying this as a scam. When she reported it to J. Arseneau, he confirmed that this was exactly the type of email message that has been going around.

DISCUSSION OF SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE:

Present with the Commissioner was Planner Wayne Marshall, who extended Manager Joseph Slocum's apology for not being able to be present.

W. Marshall opened the discussion regarding the potential new State-funded courthouse. The council has a say due to the zoning process. The City is not interested in seeing the former Crosby School demolished to create a site for new courthouse. They had been hopeful that the Superior Courthouse could be extended. If the Crosby School can remain and be reused, that is what the Council would like to see.

W. Marshall showed a rough overhead photo of how the Superior Courthouses could be extended on the Market Street side. The City would be willing to discontinue that portion of Market Street to accommodate this. Parking may be obtained through purchasing adjacent properties. It would be possible to get about 70 parking spaces in this configuration. He has spoken with Mark Wilcox of Winton Scott Architects about this concept and the cost estimate of the project in general is \$16.4 million. Mark Wilcox's goal is to start bidding this out in January 2017.

A. Fowler expressed that at this point, of the three courthouse just approved for building or renovation, Waldo is currently at the top of the list and she expressed concern that any lag in planning might move Waldo to second or third place.

There was discussion of preserving what the County has with the current Superior Courthouse, with its historical value, and the fact that this might be better to keep in its original function, particularly in view of the magnificence of the Superior Courtroom.

District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau had arrived in the middle of the discussion and was shown the conceptual of the potential space. G. Rushlau said he was in favor of preserving the existing building and adding to and renovating it. He noted that this had worked well in Knox County.

W. Marshall said he will continue to work with Mark Wilcox with this as an option to think about. The Commissioners thanked W. Marshall for meeting with them to share this information.

There was brief discussion about the Brownfields EPA Cleanup Grant Project on Congress Street and the public hearing regarding this project coming up on June 1, 2016.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Present was Facilities Manager Keith Nealey, who reported the following:

1. K. Nealley reported that J. Henthorn has explained that the State has to wait the 90-day period for the new courthouse construction bill to become law, so they have not searched for a site yet.
2. District Courthouse Roof: Horch Roofing will be replacing sections of the District Courthouse starting May 21st.
3. Superior Courthouse Vertical Lift: For the most part, this project is complete. K. Nealley presented final numbers. The estimate had been \$71,065.08, the total expenditure will be \$63,644.75 and the State will share 50% of the cost. The Commissioners expressed appreciation for K. Nealley's work on this project and the State also working along on this project. K. Nealley explained that he was creative with the door so that it was visually pleasing to the Judge.
4. Reentry Elevator: K. Nealley reported that he requested proposals to replace the elevator at the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center. He used the existing elevator shaft, requested that it fit there, meet codes and ADA specifications as sort of a "design/build" project. He has received two proposals and would like to sit with Commissioner Shorey to look closely at each proposal to compare "apples to apples." Then a recommendation would be brought to the County Commissioners for approval.
5. A. Fowler mentioned to K. Nealley that the mileage line in the Facilities budget is 111% expended. K. Nealley had not realized that and explained that if he has to go out of Town, he leaves the County truck for the Facilities Technician to use. He said he would be mindful of the mileage expenditure and thanked them for bringing it to his attention.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session for discussion of potential appointees for a committee as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405(6)(A) at 10:34 a.m.**

Unanimous.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of executive session at 11:00 a.m.** No action was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. The City of Belfast Cod and Planning Department sent a notice regarding proposed zoning amendments.
2. Acorn Recording Solutions President Kathleen Redlund submitted a letter to Commissioner Fowler expressing commendation to Communications Director Owen Smith, whom she has worked with many years, for his dedication to his job. She noted that, as a vendor in hundreds of 9-1-1 centers throughout Maine and New England, many of the Directors do not have the same degree of personal dedication Director Smith has and that he always cares about getting the job done and what the best product or person is to accomplish that. A. Fowler added that Director Smith was awarded "Communications Director of the Year" during the NENA Convention earlier this month. The Commissioners expressed their commendation for the Director's service and acknowledged this honor. A. Fowler requested that this honor be noted in the minutes and placed in the Director's personnel file.

3. B. Arseneau shared a recent exchange of email messages among the County Administrators and Managers regarding the lack of participation in the “County Days” at the State House in April. One Administrator felt it was disappointing that the counties did not use this opportunity to speak with legislators and officials and show how counties are important to people. Other Administrators and Managers commented that the lack of participation was largely a result of the timing of “County Days” because the legislature is out and very few officials are around. A. Fowler agreed that the timing was poor and until that changed, the participation would likely never increase.

4. It was noted that the Garden Luncheon date has changed to 10:00 a.m. to noon July 12, 2016.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the minutes for the April 14, 2016 Tax Abatement Appeal Petition #370 Debra Paul vs. Town of Liberty, April 28, 2016 minutes for the decision on the same petition, April 22, 2016 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session and April 28, 2016 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session as presented.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes for the April 11, 2016 Tax Abatement Appeal Petition #370 Debra Paul vs. Town of Liberty, April 28, 2016 for the same petition, April 22, 2016 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session and April 28, 2016 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session as presented. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. B. Johnson reported that she has been elected Treasurer of the Belfast Creative Coalition. She also reported with regret that Kimberly Callas will no longer be Executive Director as she has taken a job elsewhere.

3. The Commissioners discussed the recent visit to On-Process Technology and acknowledged that the criteria had been met for the company to receive the County’s appropriation of \$35,000.00.

****B. Johnson, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the agreed amount of \$35,000.00 to OnProcess Technology. Unanimous.**

4. B. Johnson reported that she would like to attend the upcoming brunch for Midcoast Economic Development District.

5. The Commissioners requested that their photos be included on the County web site, using the photos on file.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

The next regular Commissioners Court Session is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Waldo County Commissioners Conference Room.

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

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