

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
MAY 17, 2017**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Also present was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau to take minutes. Also present was George Robison, Town of Burnham Selectman.

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 9:00 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Treasurer David Parkman Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, who reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$22,798.06.
Jail Checkbook balance is \$32,770.71.

Tax Anticipation Note:
\$1,050,000.00 has been borrowed on the County side.
\$1,300,000.00 has been borrowed on the Jail side.
Total borrowed is \$2,350,000.00.

County Appropriations:
The budget is 36% expended and could be 38%.

County Revenue for:
The County revenue received is 38.78%.

Corrections Appropriations:
The Corrections budget is 41% expended at this time of year. The Commissioners wondered why there was an over-expenditure in the Emergency Management Agency line. After K. Trussell checked with O. Rumney at EMA, she reported that EMA Director Dale Rowley had found a great deal on shelving for the EMA garage and was going to cover the overage by not expending another line in the EMA budget.

Corrections Revenue:
The Corrections revenue received is 2.71%.

****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 11, 2017 General Fund Accounts Payable Warrant and May 4, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$220,054.22. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 11, 2017 Capital Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$26,048.91. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 11, 2017 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and May 4, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$38,091.30. Unanimous.**

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 11, 2017 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$26,297.89. Unanimous.**

D. Parkman expressed concern about the lack of members represented on the Budget Committee. The Commissioners reviewed the current list and noted that there was only one unfilled vacancy in District 3, so there were 8 members for the 2017 budget.

FACILITIES REPORT:

Facilities Manager Keith Nealley was in the middle of repositioning paver stones after the recent torrential rainstorms so he asked B. Arseneau to relay that he is waiting for some other projects to start so there is nothing new to report.

WELLNESS PROGRAM:

Present with the Commissioners was Human Resources Director Michelle Wadsworth to speak about the annual allocations for the following:

1. Employee Appreciation Day – the date chosen by the Wellness Committee is August 5, 2017 starting at 11:00 a.m. at Lake St. George State Park in Liberty. M. Wadsworth submitted a spreadsheet that estimated total costs for the event at \$2,263.79.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve expenditures for Employee Appreciation Day up to \$2,300.00, to be funded from the Health Insurance Line. Discussion – B. Johnson felt that the amount should be increased to \$2,500.00.**

****B. Johnson rescinded her motion and changed the amount to up to \$2,500.00. A. Fowler seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Shorey expressed his pleasure that this event was occurring again this year.

2. M. Wadsworth asked the Commissioners if they wished to continue with the annual \$50.00 fitness reimbursement started by the Wellness Committee:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to allow a fitness reimbursement to participating, eligible employees up to \$50.00 each to be funded through the Health Insurance budget. Unanimous.**

A. Fowler explained to those present the County's self-funded health insurance plan and the Wellness Committee the County started a few years ago.

Town of Burnham Selectman George Robison asked how many employees the County had. M. Wadsworth estimated the number at 92 full and part time

PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Robison, Town of Burnham Selectmen, was present to discuss the Town's desire to see an interchange built at the crossing of I-95. He noted that a former Unity selectman who is now a resident is helping to review the process.

The goal is for an interchange to be built at the crossing of I-95. Is actually in the Town of Pittsfield, so G. Robison said he was not sure how willing Pittsfield is in joining in due to a very low tax base. This interchange would be at the junction of three counties – Waldo, Somerset and Kennebec. G. Robison stated that he felt it would benefit many. He said he has heard a number of positive statements made but has also heard some negative responses. Those in favor of the interchange are looking for letters of support from the towns, etc. They will be talking with KVCOG, and he also wanted to reach out to the Commissioners in Waldo County because he believes that Burnham struggles, either voluntarily or involuntarily, with the economy. He believed this connector could potentially help Burnham's economy.

B. Johnson asked if the Town of Unity would benefit from this interchange.

G. Robison explained that Johnson Flat Road is halfway. The space between exits is about 12 miles. An interchange would reduce the response time for incidents. It would be nice if people could get to the interstate easier, and it would cut back on traffic from Route 100. Now that he has started the process of talking, he noted that the State of Maine owns the fee of egress and has already taken the title for that property. On-ramps and off-ramps are designed and these are not obstacles that could be overcome. The Town feels they will need to do some work on Johnson Flat Road before the State would even likely consider it.

W. Shorey asked if Burnham had made any moves politically on this. G. Robison they had been thinking and brainstorming but have not started moves yet. He thought that any political wave, regardless of how small, might help. He explained that this was why he was starting here, first, with the counties. He felt that if there was an organized coalition with some good ideas, the dissenting towns might join in. He noted that the folks living on that road are not in favor. He also cited an example that building a new interchange near Oakland was very expensive. He hoped that 20 years from now, this interchange on Johnson Flat Road would make things economically better. He noted that the school budget is going up again this year and people are struggling with the taxes.

W. Shorey asked if G. Robison is looking for letters of support for this project and G. Robison responded that he is and that he recognizes that was going to be a long process. The Commissioners asked if he was looking for a letter of support from them specifically and he said he was. B. Johnson commented that that she felt that the Commissioners could support this. The other commissioners agreed.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to write and send to Mr. Robison a letter of support for the interchange/interstate access near Burnham/Pittsfield. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present for this report was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton, with the following:

1. There is a candidate for part time officer; Mariza Gionfriddo. The Sheriff explained that the Sheriff's Office needs people on the roster for P/T. There is a financial benefit, at \$16.38 an hour and it gives time to see the person work if a full-time position later became open.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire Mariza Gionfriddo as Part-time Deputy effective May 17, 2017 at \$16.35 per hour. Unanimous.**

2. Civil Process Changes: Civil process requires some change in the way it is done. The Sheriff said he would like to pay them as Part-time Deputies at the P/T Deputy rate. He felt this arrangement would be fairer to County citizens.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adopt the new job description for civil process servers as part-time deputies. Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. for a personnel issue as permitted by 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out at 9:54 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. NIMS Coordinator: EMA Director Dale Rowley sent a copy of an email message to the Commissioners notifying them that as part of the requirement to be "NIMS Compliant" for Homeland Security grant purposes, the County needs to designate a NIMS Coordinator. D. Rowley could not meet with the Commissioners today to discuss it because he is at a MEMA meeting, so he submitted a document for them to sign which designates the Waldo County Emergency Management Agency Director as NIMS Coordinator. The Commissioners signed the document and dated it May 17, 2017.

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

- Full-time Corrections Officer Walter Wagner will complete five-years of employment on May 27, 2017 and will also receive additional vacation leave. His pay will increase from \$18.25 to \$19.31 per hour.
- Part-time Corrections officer Garth Coleman has completed field training requirements at the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center as of April 28, 2017 and should receive a pay increase from \$14.24 per hour to \$17.39 per hour effective April 29, 2017.
- Dispatcher Elena Donovan completed eight years of employment on May 17, 2017 and will receive an increase in pay from \$21.68 per hour to \$22.63.

3. Communications Director Owen Smith sent a memo notifying the Commissioners that three of Waldo County's Dispatchers received recognition and awards at the Annual National Emergency Number Association ("NENA") Conference on May 4, 2017.

Dispatcher Kathy Foley was recognized as Waldo County Regional Communications Center's "Silent Hero and received a certificate and back pack with a "Silent Hero" emblem.

Dispatcher Elena Donovan received a certificate, cup and stork pin for assisting a caller in delivering her granddaughter.

Dispatch Supervisor Linda Wry-Remillard was nominated by O. Smith as Supervisor of the Year. She received recognition and a certificate for being a nominee.

The Commissioners expressed their pleasure and congratulations for the achievements and awards by these three Waldo County Regional Communications Center employees.

4. VOYA changes: B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that VOYA has sent notice that one of the investment choices at the guaranteed minimum of 4% will no longer be available to new enrollees. Only those already enrolled in that will be grandfathered. New enrollees will have 1% guaranteed. The County needs complete and submit a "Consent Letter" to VOYA so the County Commissioners instructed the County Clerk to do so.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the April 19, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session as presented.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into Executive Session at 10:35 a.m. for discussion of use of real property as permitted by 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C). Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. B. Johnson attended the Board of Assessment Review training at Maine Municipal Association. She will have the office make copies.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

Because Commissioner Johnson will be attending a seminar on June 7 and 8, the Commissioners moved their first June court session to **TUESDAY**, June 6, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:32 a.m. Unanimous.**

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