

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JUNE 6, 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.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

The County Checkbook balance is \$66,181.92.
The Jail Checkbook balance is \$12,259.00.

Tax Anticipation Note:

- \$1,400,000.00 has been borrowed on the Jail side.
- \$1,300,000.00 has been borrowed on the County side.
- The total borrowed as of May 30, 2017 is \$2,700,000.00.

County Appropriations:

41% of the budget has been expended and could be 42% at this time of year.

County Revenue:

40.28% of the 2017 County revenue has been received.

Corrections Appropriations:

45% of the Corrections budget is 45% has been expended.

Corrections Revenue:

2.72% of the Corrections revenue has been received.

****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 26, 2017 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and May 18, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$255,580.37. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 26, 2017 Capital Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$20,155.72. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 26, 2017 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and May 18, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$121,977.40. Unanimous.**

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 26, 2017 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$8,037.90. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT/NEW HIRE:

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

1. Sheriff Trafton recommended former Sheriff's Office employee David Mushrall to be hired as a part-time Patrol Deputy, effective June 6, 2017 at the Part-time with Certification rate of \$20.33 per hour. He used to work for the Sheriff's Office a few years ago, and then went on to be a full-time Searsport Police Officer.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire David Mushrall as part-time Patrol Deputy effective June 6, 2017 at \$20.33 per hour. Unanimous.**

2. Transport Officer David Lindahl has told Sheriff Trafton that he is retiring effective June 5, 2016.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept with regret the resignation of David Lindahl effective June 5, 2017. Unanimous.**

3. Garden Project Truck Proposal: J. Trafton explained that a stronger truck for the Waldo County Garden Project is needed. He explained that because of the length of time it takes to get a vehicle through the bid process, the summer season would already be over before a truck would be delivered. He asked permission to forego the bid process so that a truck could be purchased as soon as possible. There are a few used and new trucks locally. He would try to find a used one but if the prices were not favorable and it makes more sense to purchase a new one, he requested that option. After some discussion on the need to go through a bid process and instruction to contact several dealers, the Commissioners voted as follows:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to purchase a truck to be used at the Waldo County Garden, preferably a good used one; but if not, to inquire of several dealerships and obtain the best bid for a vehicle on a local lot. Unanimous.**

PERSONNEL CHANGE:

Present were Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton and Communications Director Owen Smith.

O. Smith explained that the 1/3 secretary position he shares with the Sheriff's Office has not worked for him. He noted that he has "never has received the Communications Center's money's worth" from that position. Currently his budget pays \$15,000+ for this 1/3 position and he would prefer to hire a part-time employee instead for that purpose. He explained that the work he needs this position for would get done and the cost would actually be less. He explained that it was not the fault of the employees who have held the position – it was a matter of lack of accessibility.

J. Trafton concurred that O. Smith has not been able to get 1/3 out of the secretaries because they are so busy keeping up with the Sheriff's Office, as work has increased there. Both J. Trafton and O. Smith stated that they would like to change this arrangement starting with the 2018 budget. The Sheriff acknowledged that he will have to increase his budget and is willing to do so. The Commissioners agreed that it was not an ideal arrangement and while it had nothing to do with the employees that have filled that role, the arrangement itself has been the problem.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded for Director Smith to create a part-time clerical position to replace the current 1/3 position in the 2018 Communications Center budget. Unanimous.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REPORT:

Present was EMA Director Dale Rowley, who reported the following:

1. Approval of the Emergency Management Advisory Committee:

D. Rowley submitted to the Commissioners the by-laws for approval of the proposed Waldo County Emergency Management Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide “coordinated input from Emergency Management Program (EMP) stakeholders in the preparation, implementation, evaluation, and revision of the County Emergency Management Program”. This is an advisory committee comprised of public, private and non-governmental agencies, departments, organizations and individuals with functional roles in the Emergency Management Program. D. Rowley has recommended that this committee meet quarterly. The object is to provide feedback on a regular basis. D. Rowley asked for the Commissioners’ approval for him, as EMA Director, to head this committee and for the by-laws to be passed. After reviewing the by-laws, the Commissioners voted as follows:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve formation of the Waldo County Emergency Management Advisory Committee and the By-laws as presented. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to appoint County Commissioner Betty Johnson to serve as Commissioner Representative on this committee. Unanimous.**

D. Rowley said he has reached out and spoken with key people in key local organizations and they agree that this is important. D. Rowley said that the purpose of this committee and its input is to avoid EMA having “tunnel vision”.

2. Emergency Medical Services Meeting - June 1, 2017:

D. Rowley provided a verbal summary regarding the most recent meeting of the EMS group. This meeting followed up on discussions about concerns and the future of emergency medical services held by this group during their monthly meeting on May 4, 2017, which the Waldo County Commissioners had attended. On June 1, 2017, the general consensus of the EMS group was that the big problems are training people and keeping people. The group decided to start with training. A director from Atlantic Partners attended that meeting. The idea is to come up with a detailed plan of how this annual training will work before coming to the Commissioners and asking for funding. D. Rowley reported that he was asked to head up the planning and he is involving key people who can assist with that.

W. Shorey asked if the EMS group felt that they could not do this on their own as a self-sustained entity. D. Rowley responded that EMS is talking with the Waldo County Technical Center to see if they can use that building as the EMS training facility. The Tech Center Director has been positive about this and in turn has asked if some of the EMS members are willing to train the children’s program. A few already do that. With 100 EMTs, it will not be hard to fill that need for instructors, plus the added benefit will be that children will be taught the value of local EMS services and hopefully this will motivate them to serve as adults.

The Commissioners expressed that they were very pleased that the communication with all the parties was going well and that there is planning involved.

D. Rowley said the EMS services have charging the students for the courses, which is about \$1,400.00. This is too much for many. When the EMS Services have utilized grants for students, it has been noticed that some who have received the grant funding don't put forth as much effort. The thought was to have a partial grant/partial payment from the student as long as they become affiliated with an EMS agency. They might need to commit to service for a few years.

D. Rowley said he believed there might be a need for an administrator, and the individual EMS units would eventually need to be grouped into regions or districts.

W. Shorey asked if the towns might be willing to contribute to some of the cost related to EMS. D. Rowley stated that many towns are already paying to retain the local ones in their area. Perhaps the County can help with the training costs while the towns/districts can cover the personnel costs.

A. Fowler asked how the fire departments do this. D. Rowley explained that the fire fighters don't go out as often, so they don't get "burned out" as quickly. EMT's go out so often, and to keep them, they are going to need to be paid. The days of the volunteer ambulance are gone. Requirements are stiff and the ambulances are also pricey to outfit. Today, the ambulances are like "mini-emergency rooms".

After some discussion of Commissioner Fowler's background in emergency responding, the Commissioners voted as follows:

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to change the Commissioner Representative of the Waldo County Emergency Management Advisory Committee from Commissioner Betty Johnson to Commissioner Amy Fowler. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. The County Commissioners received a thank you card from Midcoast School of Technology student Nicholas Johnson for the funding from the County to sponsor him representing the State of Maine in the Skills USA National Competition in Kentucky in June.

2. MOU Between the County of Waldo and The Administrative Office of the Courts:
B. Arseneau notified the Commissioners that the MOU for space leased from the County by the Administrative Office of the Courts will expire June 30, 2017. She asked how the Commissioners would like to handle the lease arrangement since the courts will be moving to the new consolidated courthouse sometime in the next two years. The Commissioners discussed this and proposed that the lease become monthly, with the same one-hundred-twenty (120) day notice by either party if they wish to terminate, to leave the monthly rent amount the same and to change the payment to be between the 1st and 15th of the current month to avoid too many or too few payments in the County's budget year. The Commissioners authorized B. Arseneau to draft an MOU with this arrangement for their review.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to continue with the lease at the same rental price, month-to-month, for the same one-hundred-twenty (120) day notice by either party to terminate,**

to leave the monthly rent amount the same and to change the payment to be between the 1st and 15th of the current month. Unanimous.

3. Employment terminated for part-time Patrol Deputy Darian Nadeau effective December 31, 2016.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept termination of employment for part-time Patrol Deputy Darian Nadeau effective December 31, 2016. Unanimous.**

4. Employment terminated for part-time Patrol Deputy Thomas Ballard effective May 23, 2017.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept termination of employment for part-time Patrol Deputy Thomas Ballard effective May 23, 2017. Unanimous.**

5. Full-time Patrol Deputy Cassandra McDonald completed the 18-week training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy May 19, 2017 and will receive a pay increase from the non-certified rate of \$20.36 per hour to the certified rate of \$20.88 per hour effective that date. The Commissioners noted this pay step increase.

6. Register of Deeds Stacy Grant sent a letter reminding the Commissioners that part-time Deeds Clerk Anne Marie Sears will be working summer hours of 35 hours per week for ten (10) weeks starting June 26, 2017. She will continue at the part-time rate of \$14.30 per hour.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve this increase in hours as presented. Unanimous.**

7. Register of Probate Sharon Peavey sent a letter seeking the Commissioners' approval to close the Registry of Probate from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 16, 2017 so that she and her staff can host and attend the summer meeting and luncheon of the Maine Association of Registers of Probate.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to permit the Registry of Probate to be closed Friday, June 16, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as requested. Unanimous.**

8. Wearing jeans in Commissioners' Office:

B. Arseneau asked if the County Commissioners would be willing to reconsider their motion made on February 11, 2016 to allow the Commissioner staff to have the option of wearing respectable jeans up to once per week, paying \$5.00 each time, and being sent to a charity every six months. It had proven to be problematic at times.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to cease the option for the Commissioners Staff to wear jeans, effective immediately, and for the remaining funds gathered from this to be given to the same local pet pantry. Unanimous.**

9. Commendations:

The following commendations were noted with pride and pleasure by the County Commissioners:

- Detective James Greeley and Deputy Andrew Mulligan were commended by Sergeant Cody Laite and recognized for working on a protection from abuse case and displaying the utmost dedication, professionalism and compassion for the injured victim, who also sent a note of thanks to both officers.

- Deputy James Porter was commended by Sergeant Cody Laite for not only handling a case of possibly stolen snow shovels when snow was at least two feet deep and the individual was snowed in, but also for purchasing a shovel for the person and delivering it. He was commended for service above and beyond the normal level of response.
- Deputy Kevin Littlefield received commendation from Sergeant Cody Laite for handling a complaint of a “Friendly Caller” who was snowed in and who had been without running water for a week. While responding, Deputy Littlefield purchased four gallons of water, shoveled the front porch and around the vehicle and made arrangements for the person’s plow man to plow after the car had been moved. Deputy Littlefield was commended for his high level of service and professionalism above and beyond the normal level of response.
- Deputy Merl Reed was commended by Sergeant Cody Laite for handling a domestic disturbance in a manner above and beyond what is typical by giving the male \$10.00 to purchase gasoline to leave. Deputy Reed was recognized for showing true dedication in doing the right thing and helping a Waldo County citizen, which prevented further issues and made it possible for the male to drive to his job.
- Deputy Darrin Moody was commended for his assistance above and beyond what is normal with a woman who had a flat tire and was stranded on the side of the road. After trying to use the jack that was there to change the flat tire and finding it would not work, Deputy Moody drove to his house, got his own floor jack from his garage, returned, changed the tire and the woman was on her way.
- Deputy Daniel Thompson was commended by Sgt. Nicholas Oettinger for stopping to check on a vehicle stuck in the snow on the side of the road. The female driver had already called AAA and was uninjured, with no damage to the vehicle. Due to the poor weather conditions and the fact that she had been sitting there an hour and had not heard an ETA from AAA, Deputy Thompson returned to his personal residence, got his own pickup, drove back and towed her back out to the road. He was recognized for his outstanding dedication and for doing more than expected to help a Waldo County citizen.

The Commissioners expressed how grateful they were to have employees who show extra consideration and effort to help citizens above and beyond what is expected.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the May 17, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session as presented.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

AGING WELL IN WALDO COUNTY:

Present were Wendy Kasten, Patricia Oh, Cary Bradford and Jan Dodge of Aging Well in Waldo County.

W. Kasten submitted to the Commissioners a copy of the AARP Maine Application for Membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. She also submitted a chart entitled Eight Domains of Livability and an introduction page for AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

W. Kasten reported that the group had revised the survey and people were trained on how to conduct the survey. Because they knew there would be less computer access, Aging Well advertised for people to go and give the survey by hand in addition to the web site online. There were 1047 respondents.

There was an open-ended question added to the survey as part of the revision regarding what is working for respondents in their community and what was not working. It revealed a lot of things – both negative and positive. Many responders commented on how helpful and supportive neighbors are in Maine. Many felt that they love their towns and love living in Maine. One of the most common negatives was transportation. It shows that many people don't know about Waldo County's Transportation program.

Regional meetings have been held. From that there was some very good data retrieved and it is being analyzed.

W. Kasten reviewed the preliminary findings, the narrative findings and noted that some Islesboro residents worry about the ferry schedule not coinciding with events. They can't attend because they can't get home. Some feel that those holding the events don't take that into consideration.

J. Dodge stated that most in the group have been surprised at how quickly they have been able to accomplish things in such a short amount of time.

C. Bradford noted that Aging Well in Waldo County is one of the few in Maine that is a County-wide initiative. P. Oh confirmed this.

J. Dodge said she hoped that the County of Waldo would support Aging Well in Waldo County since this a county-wide initiative.

W. Kasten said that they realize there is a large hole in understanding of what is available out there for transportation. She stated that they have been glad that they decided to encompass the whole County rather than just a few of the towns. The group recognizes that the small towns do not have the resources and expressed that more representation is needed from the small towns. W. Kasten asked Patricia Oh to speak.

P. Oh explained that she was there representing AARP. Maine has 38 communities that have joined the network and Maine is the largest. But Aging Well in Waldo County is the only county-wide initiative. Waldo County has already done an assessment, so they are leaps and bounds ahead. The County of Waldo can apply to join the network and can use the assessment done by this group for data.

A letter of commitment would be needed. The purpose is to encourage aging people to remain active and social. The public health aspect at the County level is mostly encouraging and thinking about

ways to keep the elderly active the community. She noted the importance of having an “age-friendly” community and such things as wheelchair access to sites, etc.

If this group became active for fundraising, the County would not be liable. The only way the County would be liable is if they appointed them as a board. Fund-raising is not the function nor is providing services. What this group can do is report to the Commissioners.

A. Fowler asked what funds would be raised and how. P. Oh responded that they might want to raise funds for a Coordinator to answer phones, etc. They would need to handle the fiduciary part through a hospital and J. Dodge explained that Waldo County General Hospital is already acting as the fiduciary agent for grant funds.

P. Oh referenced the letter and application from the County in Florida so that there is a model to look at. She noted that most people want to keep working and contributing in some way to their community. Usually age friendly initiatives don’t spend money and if they do, they make it stretch. She cited an example of a school that had to cut out its arts programs. The principal requested a meeting with Aging Well and asked if there was something they could do. Aging Well started an initiative in which older people teach crochet, chess, etc. to interested students once a month.

P. Oh described Maine as “the oldest and the best state in the nation”.

W. Shorey reported that Waldo County is very active with the Waldo County Garden and the produce is distributed free to food cupboards, people in need, etc.

The Commissioners stated that they would like to talk together among themselves to see how they can help.

B. Johnson thanked those involved with Aging Well in Waldo County as they are a very hard working group.

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 10:35 a.m. for discussion of duties as permitted by 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A). Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize the County Clerk to advertise for an Assistant Clerk Position with the job description as presented and accepted. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 10:53 a.m. for discussion of real property as permitted by 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of executive session at 11:22 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session will be on June 21, 2017 in the Probate Courtroom, 39A Spring Street, Belfast.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:25 a.m. Unanimous.**

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