

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
AUGUST 2, 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 Jail Checkbook balance is \$46,525.66.

The County Checkbook balance is \$12,902.41.

Tax Anticipation Note:

- \$2,000,000.00 has been borrowed on the Jail side.
- \$2,200,000.00 has been borrowed on the County side.
- The total borrowed as of July 19, 2017 is \$4,200,000.00.
- \$300,000.00 remains to be borrowed.

County Appropriations:

57% of the budget has been expended and it could be 58% at this time of year.

County Revenue:

60.46% of the 2017 County revenue has been received.

Corrections Appropriations:

64% of the Corrections budget has been expended.

Corrections Revenue:

4.35% of the Corrections revenue has been received.

SHERIFF'S VEHICLE:

K. Trussell reported that only three trucks were budgeted in the Sheriff's 2017 budget but a fourth was purchased. She could find no reference to the fourth vehicle in the minutes. K. Trussell recommended that the Commissioners use funds from the Vehicle Emergency Reserve for the fourth truck.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler to use \$31,349.25 from the Vehicle Emergency Reserve (0264) to provide for the fourth Sheriff's Vehicle that was ordered. Unanimous.**

****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 July 28, 2017 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and July 27, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$338,083.74. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 28, 2017 Capital Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$48,858.64. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 28, 2017 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and July 27, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$58,145.76. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 28, 2017 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$13,115.93. Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 9:07 a.m. for consideration of employment 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 9:57 a.m. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to hire Lynn A. Patten as Assistant Clerk at the 2-year pay level of \$17.80 per hour, commensurate with experience and after successful completion of the six-month probationary period, the pay will increase to the 5-year level. Unanimous.**

(Commissioner Amy Fowler had to leave early due to extenuating circumstances.)

BELFAST CREATIVE COALITION:

Present with the Commissioners was Belfast Economic B.C.C. Board of Directors Member Martha Piscuskas, who reported the following about the study report that was recently published:

Waldo was one of five counties that participated. The County supported B.C.C. with an annual allocation of \$1,200.00, the City of Belfast contributed \$1,500.00 and in addition to support from other sources.

B.C.C. and other non-profits in the cultural realm provided info and B.C.C. collected audience surveys per event. The participation rate of cultural non-profits was 48.8%. B.C.C. did as well as any of the other areas and responses were good for the first time out. More non-profits will want to be involved.

M. Piscuskas noted that the figures that come out of the AEP-5 are hard numbers – conservative but good. She reported them as follows:

1. \$7.8 million from arts. 155 full-time employees supported by arts and culture economy. This is significant. Individual artists were not included.
2. Local governmental revenue is \$348,000.00 in taxes and licensing fees, etc., which is 148% greater than the median of other 341 groups.
3. Audience spending (not including the cost of the event) for local residents is about \$16.00 each per event. Non-residents is \$43.50. 63% are local, and 37% are non-resident. There was good participation level for these year-round activities.

Final note: The Conference of Mayors met in June and stated that they support this study and wish to support the coalitions. Belfast and Waldo County in general are doing things right culturally.

More information will be coming out. She encouraged the County Commissioners to look at the entire report and answer any questions.

Thomas Kittredge, Vice-chair of B.C.C. and Belfast Economic Director, spoke briefly about the 2018 funding request being made of the County in the amount of \$2,500.00. He explained that B.C.C. supports the economy of many other communities than Belfast. It supports artists in Belfast and surrounding communities. The goal is to increase the tourism activity and help those artists to be sustainable in the communities.

W. Shorey asked if the City of Belfast would match \$2,500.00. T. Kittredge explained that the City of Belfast actually provides \$23,000.00 and would love to see the County contribute more than it currently does.

W. Shorey said that Commissioner Johnson, who serves on the committee, and the other commissioners are very enthused about it and will support B.C.C. as long as final budget deciders vote to support it.

T. Kittredge wanted to underscore that this organization is not just arts and culture but an economic development organization and it encompasses the entire county, not just Belfast and he hoped it would not be misinterpreted simply because it has Belfast in the name.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

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

1. Part-time Deputy Jeffrey Rice has been chosen to fill a full-time Deputy position at the Waldo County Sheriff's Office. His date of hire full-time would be August 18, 2017 at the 8-year-level of \$22.61 per hour.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve hiring Jeffrey Rice to fill the full-time Deputy position at the 8-year-level of \$22.61 per hour effective August 18, 2017. Unanimous.**

2. Part-time Deputy Mariza Gionfriddo has been chosen to fill a full-time Deputy position at the Waldo County Sheriff's Office effective August 20, 2017 at the starting rate without certification of \$19.93 per hour.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve hiring Mariza Gionfriddo to fill a full-time Deputy position effective August 20, 2017 at the starting rate without certification of \$19.93 per hour. Unanimous.**

3. Part-time Corrections Officer Garth Coleman has been chosen to fill the temporary full-time position at the Waldo County Regional Reentry Center effective August 20, 2017 at the starting level with certification of \$17.78 per hour.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve hiring Garth Coleman to fill the temporary full-time position at the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center effective August 20, 2017 at the starting level with certification of \$17.78 per hour. Unanimous.**

4. Corrections Officer Walter Wagner has been selected to fill the Corporal position at the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center effective August 6, 2017 of \$20.88 per hour.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to hire Corrections Officer Walter Wagner as Corporal effective August 6, 2017 at \$20.88 per hour. Unanimous.**

5. Robert Keating submitted his resignation as Civil Service Officer effective Friday, August 4, 2017.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Robert Keating as Civil Service Officer effective Friday, August 4, 2017. Unanimous.**

5. J. Trafton informed the Commissioners that the Domestic Violence Detective Grant application has been submitted and the amount applied for was about \$53,000.00.

6. J. Trafton requested an executive session to discuss protected health information.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to go into executive session at 10:37 a.m. for discussion of protected health information as permitted by 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 10:44 a.m. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to continue an employee's health insurance at the current rate and status starting in October while the employee is out on medical leave of absence. Unanimous.**

FACILITIES REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley who reported the following:

1. There is no consistency with the cleaning in the buildings, but K. Nealley said he hopes it will get better. More training and more supervision of employees will be done by the company.

2. Solar Hot Water System at Jail: This project will start this Friday and then the solar panels will be put up.

3. Brownfields Project Work: Envirovantage is still working on the abatement of hazardous materials. They needed to tear out more things than anticipated because more hazardous material was found than initially anticipated.

HAZMAT AND GRANT DISCUSSION – EMA:

Present with the Commissioners was EMA Director Dale Rowley.

1. Tower Update: W. Shorey asked D. Rowley about the issues with the local tower. D. Rowley said they are still doing some testing for inconsistencies. Another test is planned. If the problem does

not resolve, they may need to find another location. He noted that back in 2003, a repeater was put on Aborn Hill and this resolved a lot of issues. It took about three years for all to really use it. He requested that a repeater be allowed in this situation, as well, if need be.

2. Change Order for Brownfield's Abatement Project: The abatement contractor found more asbestos in the wallboards and counters, etc. so a work change order was required.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey approving the Change Order Number 1 which increased the cost by \$8,839.00 for additional asbestos removal. Passed.**

3. Brownfield Match discussion: There was brief discussion on what qualified for soft match with the Brownfields EPA Cleanup Grant. More work being done will require more match funds. The \$200,000.00 grant includes a soft match of \$40,000.00. Expenditures of time spent on Brownfields-related work by employees is included in that match. So far, D. Rowley estimated that only two-thirds of the grant has had to be expended and only two-thirds of the match has to be met. There was discussion of what may qualify for grant use and what might not.

4. Homeland Security Grant: D. Rowley read off a list of things that he was applying for. He noted that there was about \$5,000.00 that could not be included in the grant application that would be for installing the equipment that was applied for in the grant. Someone would be approaching the Commissioners in the future for that additional funding. The total amount of the Homeland Security Grant being applied for is \$75,867.30.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the application for the Homeland Security Grant as presented in the amount of \$75,867.30. Unanimous.**

5. Proposed HazMat Assessment & Rescue Team Mission: D. Rowley explained that a recent meeting resulted in some ideas for rejuvenating and enhancing the HazMat Team and expanding to include rescue. He submitted a sheet listing the new mission title, tasks, training courses and skill evaluations, and equipment. He mentioned that it would be beneficial to obtain one of the former Sheriff's Trucks and use Homeland Security money to purchase a cab and put all the equipment in there rather than continuing to use a trailer. It would make the response time much faster. He noted that the money to get this team going was included in the afore-mentioned Homeland Security Grant.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded moved to approve the proposed HazMat Assessment & Rescue Team Mission and the changes to and down-sizing of the team. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. At the Commissioners' request, Technology Consultant James Arseneau submitted estimates and sizes of iPads for the Commissioners' consideration. The Commissioners decided they would like to upgrade from their current iPads to larger ones with 12.9" screens and 256G of storage.

2. B. Arseneau shared copies of An Act to Allow the Waldo County Budget Committee to Appoint Replacement Members that had recently been signed into law.

3. Lincolnville Town Administrator David Kinney sent an email to B. Arseneau notifying her that Lincolnville Selectman Arthur Durity had not sought re-election and would no longer be on the Waldo

County Budget Committee. The Lincolnville Board of Selectmen has chosen Selectman Joshua Gerritsen to serve the remainder of the term on the Waldo County Budget Committee.

4. A 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses will be conducted. B. Arseneau had watched a webinar on this and it would appear that this is more of a municipal census as it involves door-to-door checking of addresses. She suggested that the County opt out of this as it is not a mandatory census. The Commissioners agreed.

5. Sheriff Trafton submitted a recognition of outstanding performance in the line of duty regarding Deputy Casey McDonald's role and actions at a recent infant homicide and her superior handling of that situation. The Commissioners were very impressed with Deputy McDonald's caring and calm way of dealing with an exceptionally difficult situation, particularly since she is still new to the position.

6. Sergeant Nicholas Oettinger submitted a copy of a Commendation to Deputy Wight for going above and beyond to locate an ill citizen who had been in her home, on the floor, ill and injured for a long period of time. The citizen was now recovering well as a result.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

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

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

There was brief discussion of the 2018 Budget schedule. The Commissioners decided they would like to meet with the Department Heads and possibly some agencies on September 27, 2017, so the budget will need to be prepared for them by the first court session in September, which is September 6, 2017. Any final decisions on the 2018 budget could be made by the Commissioners on October 4, 2017.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session will be on August 16, 2017 in the Probate Courtroom, 39A Spring Street, Belfast.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:50 a.m. Unanimous.**

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