

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners William D. Shorey (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson. Also present were Assistant Clerk Lynn Patten and 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 Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, who reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$363,033.56.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$405,601.57.

**Tax Anticipation Note:**

Property taxes have started coming in. Both the towns of Troy and Searsport have submitted theirs.

**County Appropriations:**

The budget is 70% expended and should be at 73%.

**County Revenue:**

The County revenue received is 82.09%.

**Corrections Appropriations:**

The Corrections budget is 73% expended at this time of year.

**Corrections Revenue:**

The Corrections revenue received is 115.79%.

The Community Corrections (CCA) funding has been received in the amount of \$593,837.14. It is broken out this way:

70% is Jail Revenue - \$415,686.00.

30% is CCA Reserve - \$178,151.14.

**\*\*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 September 13, 2017 General Fund Accounts Payable Warrant and September 7, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$142,477.63. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 13, 2017 Capital Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$350,825.01. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 13, 2017 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and September 7, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$89,899.94. Unanimous.**

**\*\* B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 13, 2017 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$8,940.97. Unanimous.**

### **JAIL PAY SCALE**

Present with the Commissioners was Human Resources Director Michelle Wadsworth, who explained that she had revised the Reentry Center/Jail pay scale to be similar to the structure of the Sheriff's Patrol, which is about \$2.00 between steps. It has been structured to be more even in the pay steps. Some of the personnel lines increased for 2018. For example, one person was promoted to a higher position at the 8-year level and that increased that budget line by a fair amount.

The Commissioners asked for the previous year's pay scale so that they could review the increases in pay. Commissioner Shorey had suggested before presenting these that the difference in steps be cut in half, so this was the scale being presented and the Jail budget reflects this pay scale.

### **1080-4719 WALDO COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION BUDGET:**

Present was Waldo County Firefighters Association President Kenneth Clements from Monroe. He presented a brief history of firefighters' concerns in the past regarding gaps in tower ranges and the issues resulting. He noted that the County had purchased IamResponding software. Pagers are notified and cell phones receive text messages. People can sign in by phone. All responses show up at Dispatch, each member's phone, and each agency. He explained that it has taken a few years for the agencies to get on board with it. It has been very helpful. The timing information is now readily available to the agencies and they don't have to call Dispatch for it. As fire departments have been using it, the benefits have become evident. 89% participation was noted in May 2017. Appreciation was expressed by the Firefighters Association for the Commissioners' support in choosing and working on this program.

K. Clements showed the Commissioners on his smart phone how it worked. He explained that there are many features that they are still learning, and noted, for example, that this program can even do scheduling.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to fund the W.C. Firefighters 2018 request at \$5,000.00. Unanimous.**

### **1025 TREASURER'S BUDGET:**

Present were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell. It was explained to the Commissioners that the Treasurer agreed to accept his pay increase for 2018, which he has not done for several years.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the 2018 Treasurer's Budget as presented at \$79,279. Unanimous.**

### **1090 AUDIT:**

Present were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the 2018 Audit Budget as presented at \$9,000.00. Unanimous.**

#### **1095 DEBT SERVICE:**

Present were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the 2018 Debt Service Budget as presented at \$0.00. Unanimous.**

#### **2000 INTEREST:**

Present were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the 2018 Debt Service Budget as presented at \$10,000.00. Unanimous.**

#### **2025 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BUDGET:**

Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, County Clerk Barbara Arseneau and Human Resources Director Michelle Wadsworth explained the various increases and decreases in the budget lines.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the 2018 Employee Benefits Budget as presented at \$1,227,800.00. Unanimous.**

#### **1070 PROBATE:**

Present was Probate Register Sharon Peavey.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the 2018 Registry of Probate Budget as presented at \$243,270.00. Unanimous.**

#### **2005 UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:**

Present was Richard Kersbergen of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Waldo County, who explained the slight increase in the budget.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the 2018 University of Maine Cooperative Extension budget as presented at \$42,740.00. Unanimous.**

#### **1030 FACILITIES:**

Present was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley. He explained the overall budget was an 8.5% increase over the previous year. K. Nealley noted that some of that was that he and the Facilities Technician had both reached the 10-year pay-step increase. He also used an average and put 2% on top of it as a request to bring his pay up to the average of other Counties in the State. The Commissioners explained that they would not be increasing the salary over the 2% cost of living increase because they have to hold the line of the budget down somewhere. W. Shorey stated that people should be happy with their jobs in Waldo County and if they like the work, they should stay. He said he wasn't interested in increasing the pay. A. Fowler agreed.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to reduce the Personnel line for the Facilities Manager to 2% above the 2017 wage. Unanimous.**

A. Fowler asked why some budget lines were in the red. K. Nealley explained some were lines that had been under budget this year.

There was brief discussion of the need to plan for upcoming changes in District Court Space, which will permit movement and more space for the Registry of Probate, Commissioners and Treasurer's Offices, so K. Nealley had plugged in \$5,000.00 for that planning. The Commissioners decided to use undesignated funds for this in the future, so they removed that from the budget. The Commissioners removed all the Capital Outlay items from the Facilities Budget.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to remove the funds budgeted from the Facilities Capital Outlay budget in the amount of \$13,800.00 and to fund these projects from undesignated funds. Unanimous.**

W. Shorey mentioned that there is now a goat at the County Garden and asked K. Nealley to obtain a sign that says "Do Not Shoot the Goat" during hunting season.

#### **1065 DEEDS:**

Present was Register of Deeds Stacy Grant. When asked, S. Grant said that there had been a slight increase in revenue this year.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the 2018 Registry of Deeds budget as presented at \$234,958.00. A.F. approved the budget as proposed. Unanimous.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Not scheduled due to budget review process.

#### **1080-4716 AND 1080-4720 – EMDC AND MCEDD:**

Commissioners Shorey and Johnson, who serve on the Boards of Directors for both Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) and MidCoast Economic Development District (MCEDD) respectively, noted the requests for both those organizations under the 1080 budget.

**\*\*B. J. Moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve \$2,000.00 for each for EMDC and MCEDD in the 2018 budget. Unanimous.**

#### **1080-4721 BELFAST CREATIVE COALITION:**

B. Johnson, who also serves as the Commissioner representative of this committee, presented the request written by that organization. She noted that she would like to see \$2,500.00 budgeted rather than the \$1,000.00. She briefly reviewed the success of the study that had been done with money previous allocated by the County. She added that the organization wants to keep the outreach to the towns going.

W. Shorey said he wanted to keep the budget under control and preferred for the amounts budgeted for all the organizations in the 1080 Advertising and promotion budget to remain the same for all the agencies. A. F. said she was glad B. Johnson was on this committee and agreed with Commissioner Shorey about the budgeted amounts.

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to keep the 1080-4721 budget the same as 2017, and to keep the total 1080 budget at \$14,250.00. Passed by two with B. Johnson opposing.**

#### **1010 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY BUDGET:**

Present was EMA Director Dale Rowley, who explained that the budget increased because both the Director and EMA Director are reaching 12-year pay steps.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the Emergency Management Agency 2018 budget as presented at \$129,410.00. Unanimous.**

**EMA VEHICLE BIDS:**

Bids were opened for a new jeep for EMA as follows:

1. Central Maine Chrysler: Bid was for new 2017 or 2018 Jeep Wrangler 2x4 hardtop. \$18,934.00 with credit for the other jeep. Will also need towing package at a later date and it will be cheaper later.

2. Darlings: Less trade-in and total was \$19,569.00. If same trade-in value had been given as CMC, it would have put them as the lowest. D. Rowley.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the bid from Central Maine Chrysler at \$18,934.00. Unanimous.**

D. Rowley explained that the jeep will need to be purchased up front with funds from a State grant and then have funds transferred from the EMA Equipment Reserve after it goes through the warrant.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to purchase the new jeep with State funds account, then transfer funds from the EMA Equipment Reserve after it goes through the warrant. Unanimous.**

**1076 COMMUNICATIONS BUDGET:**

Communications Director Owen Smith was present to review the 2018 budget. He noted that the Office Supply line went up a bit to purchase a new chair that is needed.

The Commissioners asked about the Overtime Line. W. Shorey asked if it could be \$65,000.00 rather than \$69,000.00. O. Smith felt that he would be able to make that work.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to reduce Overtime line 3001 from \$69,000.00 to \$65,000.00. Unanimous.**

O. Smith asked for discussion on IamResponding. There was a change mid-contract. O. Smith said he wasn't sure what that renewal would be for next year. He explained that there were some fire departments that didn't want it at all. He felt that it made no sense to renew the contract for agencies that don't want it. He further explained that this software does not help Dispatch at all, but does benefit the fire departments. He stated that IamResponding is causing "mass confusion" for the Dispatchers because they don't know which agencies are using it and which are not and to what extent. It helps with their mandatory reporting. He hoped to get information on which towns really use and want it and which ones don't so as to save some funding. The Commissioners expressed concern that some might decide to use it mid-year and perhaps it would be best to leave the funding as is.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved to accept the budget as presented. Motion died for lack of second because the Commissioners had already voted to remove \$4,000.00 from the 3001 line.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the 1076 Communications Center budget at \$1,011,441.00. Unanimous.**

## **2018 BUDGET BALLOTS:**

### **DISTRICT 1:**

Gabriel Pendleton of Islesboro received three (3) votes as a write-in. There were no other ballots submitted.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept Islesboro Selectman Gabriel Pendleton to serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee to fill the three-year term from 2017 through December 2019. Unanimous.**

### **DISTRICT 2:**

Assistant Clerk Lynn Patten informed the Commissioners that there was a tie between Prospect Selectman Bill Sneed and Winterport Selectman Peter Rioux. Each had received three votes from three towns in their districts. B. Arseneau provided a copy of M.R.S.A. Title 30-A, §853. Waldo County Budget Committee 1. Membership, b. which stated how to determine who won the seat. The Commissioners asked which towns had voted. Bill Sneed had received one vote each from Prospect, Searsport and Stockton Springs. Peter Rioux had received one vote each from the Frankfort, Jackson and Winterport. After reviewing the statute, the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded that for District 2, there being a tied vote between Peter Rioux of Winterport and Bill Sneed of Prospect, the Commissioners' interpretation of the Waldo County Budget Statute M.R.S.A. Title 30-A 853, 1, B which states, "Each vote shall be weighted according to that municipality's population as a proportion of the district's total population..." was they believed that, taking this into consideration, Bill Sneed won the seat. Unanimous.**

**After further investigation and tallying the population of each of the towns, the Commissioners voted as follows at the October 5, 2017 Court Session:**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to rescind their vote accepting Bill Sneed as winning the seat on the Budget Committee. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept Peter Rioux as the winner of the District 2 seat on the Waldo County Budget Committee due to the higher population total of the towns voting for him. Unanimous.**

### **DISTRICT 3:**

Palermo Selectman Cheryl York received eight (8) votes. There were no other votes for any write-in candidates.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept Palermo Selectman Cheryl York to serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee to fill the three-year term from 2017 through December 2019. Unanimous.**

## **1020 COMMISSIONERS BUDGET:**

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau presented preparation she had done for the Commissioners on this budget for their review. She explained the request for a pay increase to bring the Human Resources Director position at least to average like the other positions within the County. This would mean a

very small increase in the Clerks pay scale to keep a very small spread between the Clerk and H.R. wages. The budget did not reflect any increase in the Clerk's wage above the 20-year pay step increase I 2018 and the 2% COLA. The Commissioners stated that they were absolutely not entertaining any wage increases this year. The Commissioners Staff pay scale would be held at the 2% COLA increase.

B. Arseneau went on to review the contractual and commodities line item increases and decreases. The Commissioners asked for the personnel line to be reduced as directed and would vote on the total budget. After the numbers were changed, the Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the 1020 budget with personnel line 3000 reduced from \$198,832.00 to \$194,844.00 and the total budget being reduced from \$334,434.00 to \$330,446.00. Unanimous.**

The County Commissioners signed the revised pay scale for the 2018 Waldo County Commissioners' Office Administrative Staff as directed at the 2% cost of living increase only.

#### **2035 SOIL & WATER DISTRICT:**

Present with the Commissioners was Kym Sanderson who explained that she is semi-retired. Some of the funds from her salary are being used to fund other things.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the budget as requested at \$26,000.00. Unanimous.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

1. The Commissioners' noted the pay increase for Civil Service Deputy Mark Nickerson \$20.33 per hour, due to restructuring of the Civil Service job; effective September 1, 2017.
2. Workers Comp Audit Reimbursement: Maine Municipal Association has announced that it will provide a 4.59% dividend to members whose 2016 contributions are greater than \$25,000.00 annually, whose 2016 loss ratio is less than 40% and whose three-year loss ratio is less than 75%. Waldo County qualified for this dividend and received a check in the amount of \$3,449.00. The Commissioners were pleased to hear this. B. Arseneau will send a press release out as provided by MMA.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the September 6, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session as presented.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

#### **1015 DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:**

J. Liberman and F. Story. Due to consolidated court changes, will be making more copies initially. Eventually will be going paperless.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the District Attorney 2018 budget as presented. Unanimous.**

**TECHNOLOGY RESERVE:**

Present was Technology Consultant James Arseneau:

W. Shorey asked if the 2018 Technology amount could be less. J. Arseneau explained that there was no “fluff” and it actually should probably be more, but he was not going to request that. He provided the Commissioners with running totals going back to 2012. He explained that most of the upgrades were done in 2014 and explained what had been expended from the Technology Reserve in 2015.

J. Arseneau explained that the typical technology budget for the Jail was \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00. Adjustments have been made over the years by the Commissioners that he was not always aware of and some of the Jail technology work was paid for through the County reserve amount. W. Shorey asked if the Jail Technology budget should be separate or under the umbrella of the Technology Reserve. He expressed that the Jail budget was a little light. A. Fowler said that she felt that the Jail money should still be kept separate. J. Arseneau noted that this perhaps should be kept separate because if the State ever took the jails over again, these are real costs that won’t show up as coming from the Jail budget.

J. Arseneau and the Commissioners discussed cameras needed at the Jail. There was a recent PREA audit. There were some areas in which the jail was not compliant. There are some “blind spots” and this would require some cameras and another recorder. A. Fowler remarked that none of the jails are compliant, even the larger jails.

K. Trussell was now present and said that the Sheriff has put \$2,400.00 in the 2018 Jail budget for cameras. She read off a list of Jail accounts and explained that general about \$32,720.00 has been put in the Jail Technology budget each year.

J. Arseneau said that the amount being put in the Jail budget has been about \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 and expenses above that have been paid by the County side.

There was brief discussion about whether or not the inmate account could be used to fund cameras for the inmates’ benefit, as it was a safety issue for them. There was brief discussion about the inmate-paid items and the other account that has money in it for inmates but it was not known how that money was generated. There is \$22,560.00 in that account currently.

New iPads for the County Commissioners: J. Arseneau spoke briefly about the most recent update and recommended that the Commissioners hold off for a month so that any issues that arise can be avoided.

The Commissioners had no further questions.

**COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

A. Fowler mentioned that she would like to attend the upcoming APCO Annual Conference since she serves on the 9-1-1 Committee and would like to keep up on things related to the Communications Center.

**\*\*B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize that Commissioner Fowler register and attend the annual APCO conferences. Unanimous.**

**NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:**

The next Waldo County Commissioners Court Session will be Thursday, October 5, 2017 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Probate Court Room at 39A Spring Street.

**FIRST BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded for the County Clerk to schedule the first 2018 Waldo County Budget Committee Meeting for 6:00 p.m. Friday, October 27, 2017. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:40 a.m. Unanimous.**

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