

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
OCTOBER 18, 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 9:08 a.m.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve a leave of absence for Corrections Officer Matthew Hall effective September 25, 2017. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton with the following:

1. The Sheriff would like to fill the Temporary Full-time Corrections Officer position for Matthew Hall that has been vacated by Garth Coleman by hiring Holly Castle.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire Holly Castle as Temporary Full-time Corrections Officer effective November 12, 2017 at the two year rate with certification at \$18.25 per hour for previous experience. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into Executive Session for discussion of protected information as permitted by M.R.S.A Title 1§405-A(6)(F) 9:10 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded come out of Executive Session at 9:27 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

NEW HIRE – DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

Present with the Commissioners was Prosecutorial Assistant Dean Jackson to discuss a potential new hire for the vacant Part-time Victim/Witness Advocate position. He stated that they had a lot of applicants and thanked Michelle Wadsworth for finding that many good applicants. He recommended hiring Rebecca Loveland as Part-time Victim/Witness Advocate at \$19.66 per hour for up to 20 hours per week effective October 30, 2017. Unanimous.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the hire of Rebecca Loveland as Part-time Victim/Witness Advocate at \$19.66 per hour up to 20 hours per week effective October 30, 2017. Unanimous.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

1. Two more municipalities have paid property taxes, totaling 13 municipalities that have paid all or part of their property taxes for 2017.

2. The Communications Center budget is only 79% expended even though the overtime line is over-budget.

The County Checkbook balance is \$1,211,215.38.
The Jail Checkbook balance is \$686,722.31.

Tax Anticipation Note:

Since property taxes have started coming in, the T.A.N. will start being paid off in the next accounts payable warrant.

County Appropriations:

The budget is 78% expended and could be at 81%.

County Revenue:

The County revenue received is 91.51%.

Corrections Appropriations:

The Corrections budget is 87% expended at this time of year.

Corrections Revenue:

The Corrections revenue received is 115.86%.

****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 October 12, 2017 General Fund Accounts Payable Warrant and October 5, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$204,222.03. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 12, 2017 Capital Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$34,358.22. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 12, 2017 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant and October 5, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$110,208.51. Unanimous.**

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 12, 2017 MCRRC Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$3,640.10. Unanimous.**

FACILITIES REPORT:

The Facilities report was cancelled because there was no need to report anything.

BID OPENING FOR OLD JAIL REMEDIATION PROJECT:

EMA Deputy Director Olga Rumney telephoned to say that she would not need to meet with the Commissioners because no bid proposals were received.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau with correspondence as follows:

1. The Commissioners noted pay step increases for the following employees:
 - Dispatcher Stephen Waterman for reaching the six-month pay step on September 5, 2017 with a pay increase from \$16.82 to \$17.39 per hour. This was overlooked so it will be made up on the next pay check. On October 8, 2017, S. Waterman completed his CTO training and is now eligible for a pay increase from \$17.39 per hour to \$18.64.
 - Dispatcher Melissa Bisson reached the 10-year step which entitles her to an additional 40 hours of vacation per year, bringing the total up to 160 hours per year.
2. The 12th Annual Emergency Management Agency Awards Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 4 Public Safety Way at 6:00 p.m. All three Commissioners will attend.
3. Aging Well in Waldo County is holding an Annual Gathering and Celebration at the Waldo County Technical Center October 24, 2017 in Belfast with a discussion of survey results from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and a thank you dinner to honor their volunteers and celebrate their accomplishments from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. B. Johnson will be attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the October 5, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session as presented.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2017 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. B. Johnson mentioned that the Governor refuses to disburse funds to a number of workforce agencies. There has been discussion of trying to force the Governor to disburse the funds and each county has been asked to contribute \$2,500.00 for legal fees since the whole state is affected by this. The western part of the state has started laying people off, the northeast has also started, and the mid-coast is using other grant funds to keep from laying people off. It has been a good-faith request for the counties to contribute. Cumberland has already signed off that they will contribute. Commissioner Shorey has said that he has heard that some counties won't be contributing. She said this is all she knows at this point; the last email she had seen was inquiring if the commissioners had been spoken to, as answers from each Board of Commissioners need to be received by Friday.

A. Fowler commented that she was listening to a radio program the day before that had both Republican and Democrat representation. She said she was not in favor of contributing to the lawsuit. She has spoken with commissioners from Penobscot, Franklin, Oxford, Washington, etc. because they felt that money spent for just a retainer could be better used and she also wanted to see numbers. She felt that the workforce organizations have helped with communities whose major businesses have gone under. She has heard that there is a lot of administrative paid staff. She wondered if all that staff was needed or if this was taking away money that could be used for the public. She said she would not support coming up with \$2,500.00 to sue the governor.

W. Shorey said he spoke with several people and he is familiar with federal lawsuits. They can take quite a while. It could easily go until the end of the current governor's term and still not be decided. The healthcare bill the federal government is working on will continue to be argued for a few years. W. Shorey said he has heard that if someone asked the President to call the Governor to release the funds, that might well happen. He felt that this issue might resolve itself. He felt the time element factor needed to be considered.

B. Johnson said she couldn't disagree with the commissioners however she was responsible to carry back the message and bring the Waldo County Commissioners' decision back by Friday. A. Fowler asked if the workforce board had tried to reach out to Angus King, etc. B. Johnson said that until the Federal department released the letter, Angus King couldn't even get it and was very upset about it. Even the Attorney General could not get the Governor to follow the Freedom of Information Act. B. Johnson wrote a strongly worded letter, to which she received a very negative response. The Governor wants one unit instead of three even though the Federal Government is against it. Mishandling of funds by a few workforce organizations in the past has created a negative impact and that is part of the problem. It is federal money and a good percentage of the funding goes toward the administration of it. The Governor wants to cut out the State's funding that trains people and puts them back to work. The Commissioners commented that things are the most dysfunctional they have ever seen. W. Shorey said he felt that the Governor might release the funds if some of those organizations reduced their budgets. A. Fowler said she could understand if he was looking for compromise with some budget cuts. B. Johnson said that they had discouraged too many people from attending so has not to be too "top heavy." They felt the ED should be there and not a bunch of people who didn't have all the facts and figures. As it was, all who attended said it was a waste of time. She felt there wasn't much more to discuss at this point.

****B. Johnson moved to approve \$2,500.00 be paid by Waldo County for this lawsuit, and A. Fowler seconded it for the sake of discussion.** W. Shorey said that he was not in favor of it but that it is not because he thinks little of it. He feels that it will likely resolve itself. A. Fowler also said she took this seriously and appreciated what Commissioner Johnson does with the workforce, but did not feel a lawsuit would help. W. Shorey said he has spoken with several counties himself. He really felt that this matter would resolve itself.

The vote failed with two opposed and B. Johnson in favor.

2. W. Shorey mentioned that he rented a table at an event on Monday at the Cross Center. Five people that he had invited attended, including Dick Desmarais, Peter Curley and James Gillway, the new Stockton Springs Manager and they had an excellent seat up front. He explained that it was his contribution to help EMDC out and he hoped that it would. They broke out into groups to discuss things. B. Johnson said that she had attended something similar several years ago and wondered if any productive discussion came out of it, as it hadn't back then. W. Shorey said that they had a break-out session, regrouped, had some presentations, entertained questions, and there was a particularly interesting futurist who spoke about upcoming technology. W. Shorey said he also spent time speaking with his table members about the County budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no members of the public present.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION:

The next Waldo County Commissioners Court Session will be Thursday, November 2, 2017 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Probate Court Room at 39A Spring Street.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 10:30 a.m. Unanimous.**

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