

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler, and Betty I. Johnson. Also present was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take minutes.

Call to Order: Commissioner Shorey called the court session to order at 1:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Present were Treasurer Peter Sheff and Finance Director Karen Trussell. K. Trussell reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$74,320.98.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$82,291.92.

County Appropriations:

67% of the 2019 budget has been expended and it should be 73% at this time.

County Revenue:

86.52% of the 2019 County revenue has been received.

Corrections Appropriations:

68% of 2019 budget has been expended and should be 73% expended.

Corrections Revenue:

111.84% of the 2019 Corrections revenue has been received.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

\$4,650,000.00 has been borrowed from the TAN; \$2,800,000.00 by the County and \$1,850,000.00 by Corrections. There is still \$650,000.00 left. Towns will start paying the taxes soon. The Jail hasn't borrowed money since the Community Corrections Fund came in.

W. Shorey asked about the balance of the Technology reserve amounts and K. Trussell explained that it reflects the recent funding moved from undesignated funds to those reserves, as voted on by the Commissioners. W. Shorey asked if any more would be coming out of the Technology reserve this year and was told that it would not be coming out of the future technology reserve, but possible the regular Technology Reserve.

A. Fowler inquired about one of the Facilities cleaning lines being overdrawn. K. Trussell said that it would be better ask K. Nealley, but she believed that this was the first full year with a new custodian, so there may have been some unknowns that now would be budgeted more accurately.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept and file the Financial Report. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 12, 2019 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant including the September 5, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$144,139.30. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 12, 2019 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$21,658.10. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 12, 2019 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant including September 5, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$42,050.59. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 12, 2019 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$50,578.99. Unanimous.**

TREASURER'S BUDGET 1025:

K. Trussell stated that the only increase was for the 2% COLA and she kept everything else flat-lined.

AUDIT BUDGET 1090:

Same as 2019 budget.

INTEREST BUDGET 2000:

This budget increased \$5,000.00.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BUDGET 2025:

K. Trussell explained that the Commissioners had increased the health insurance line. The MePERS retirement, group life, and FICA taxes are all based on wages.

B. Arseneau reported that the H.R. Director had spoken with Workers Comp and the budgeted figure was based on the past few years of injuries, so this line is increasing for 2020. She also explained that the Retirement/Annuity Match remained the same, and Special Medical Eye Care reimbursement were based on previous years, so it was reduced a little.

FACILITIES REPORT:

Present was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley, who reported the following:

1. There has been no further movement by the potentially interested party regarding the 39A rental space. They are still chatting about it and he has stopped by a few times to check in.
2. K. Nealley is moving forward on the Finance Director's new office space. The carpet is being delivered tomorrow. The Commissioners commented about how nice the space is.

FACILITIES BUDGET 1030:

Present was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley. A. Fowler asked why the Cleaning line in the former Superior Courthouse and Communications Center were overdrawn. K. Nealley explained that those lines are for cleaning supplies and it was an arbitrary number. The custodian is using a lot more

supplies that K. Nealley anticipated. A. Fowler also asked why the Comm. Center Snow removal was “in the red” and K. Nealley explained that it is because the center is open with employees coming and going 24/7. Also, there is water buildup and runoff near the entrance and there have been a few falls, so this must be kept up. When asked, the Sheriff’s deputies don’t have an issue because they have four-wheel drive and don’t generally come back to the office in the evenings when it’s inclement weather.

K. reviewed the remainder of the budget and the Commissioners noted that the overall budget was down from the year before.

At the Jail, solar hot water has been used since June, with no oil used at all.

The roof at the Comm Center will be \$32,000.00, based on an estimate. The roofer thought there was a least another 10 years left on the asphalt shingles.

Carpet will need to be changed in the District Attorney’s office, but this can be looked at after the beginning of the year.

There is still nothing definite with the possible rental office upstairs.

PROBATE BUDGET 1070:

Present with the Commissioners was Register of Probate Sharon Peavey and Judge Sean Ociepka. She mentioned that her budget changed a little because there were errors on the union employee’s pay scale so it actually went down a little. The Commissioners were pleased that the budget was lower than the previous year. S. Peavey said she did increase a few of the lines for training and mileage of the newly appointed Judge of Probate.

The Commissioners spoke briefly with the Judge and he remarked that it has been a smooth transition so far. The Commissioners complimented the Probate staff as being wonderful to work with.

The Commissioners briefly reviewed the budget process with Judge Ociepka.

SHERIFF’S AND JAIL BUDGETS 1075 AND 1050:

Present were Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton and Chief Deputy Jason Trundy.

SHERIFF’S BUDGET:

The Sheriff reported that the largest increases were due to Personnel wages.

The travel line is increased. The Sheriff noted that one trip to Islesboro is \$480.00 per trip at night. During the day it is \$80.00 per trip. It is extremely expensive.

The Fuel line has been increased in line with the trends and fluctuations of gasoline prices.

The body cameras have been obtained through grant funds obtained by the Chief Deputy, with the exceptions of the licenses. The Sheriff’s office will be moving to an updated body camera model.

The deputies have viewed it as positive and are willing to do the work to set them up and wear them because they are a protection for the officers having both audio and video.

The Dues line is now a more true representation, so it is increased a little from the previous year.

The Training line has gone up because the Academy's costs are increasing.

The Firearms line has increased because ammunition costs are rising.

Law books have gone up in price.

There is software now available that takes spoken word and types it. This helps the officers with writing reports, as it is much more efficient in transcribing hours of interviewing.

Capital Outlay includes a new style of ballistic vest. There is one on the market now that protects officers from high-powered rifles. The current vests only stop handgun fire, so he has budgeted to purchase 3 of these vests a year so that the officers can be protected.

Something to make note of is that the State call share with the Waldo Sheriff's Office is less than 50% of the calls. That won't change at this point, but the other counties who have been receiving 50% or more of coverage are going to soon have less coverage. It looks as though the State will be covering less in rural areas and likely focusing more on the highways. If that is the case, the Sheriff will be needing two more deputies in another year or so.

CORRECTIONS BUDGET:

The P/T employee line has already been used this year so \$10,000.00 of last year's budget was moved over to the O/T budget.

The clothing allowance has had to go up, because those costs keep rising.

Under Contractual, there is \$62,000.00 for the Maine Pretrial Case Worker. The Somerset County Inmate Board line has stayed the same. Training has increased because the corrections officers need to attend the Academy as well.

It was noted that the newest budget committee member took time to come recently meet with Commissioner Fowler to visit all the County departments.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BUDGET 2005:

Present was Vina Lindley and Eric Rector.

V. Lindley explained that the largest reason for the increase in their budget request is wages for the new secretary. There was a policy change and the County level is now more responsible for the salary. It had been grandfathered at one point. The previous secretary had been there a long time and left in May. Former Director Rick Kersbergen has figured out a grant, and so \$2,000.00 has been put toward the secretary position to soften the increase a little.

Vina noted that Rick is now part-time and working toward retirement, so Vina is now in that position.

The Commissioners had no other questions.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS BUDGET 1065:

Present was Register of Deeds Stacy Grant. She commented that the Registry uses IQS software, which works very well and is very efficient.

The Registry is currently indexing back to the 1970's and will continue to work back to the oldest records.

Eventually the transfer taxes will be filed electronically so there will be an extra step on the computer with each document filed.

FIREFIIGHTERS ASSOCIATION BUDGET 1080-4719:

Present was William Gillespie of the Firefighters Association. The budget was the same as before. The Commissioners briefly spoke with him about the recent tragedy in Farmington and possible training changes that may occur in the future.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUDGET 1015:

Present was District Attorney Natasha Irving. She reported to the Commissioners that she just learned that the Internet cost is going up \$6,000.00, which is just unfathomable. Joe of SJ Rollins has reached out to her to tell her that. The Commissioners said they will have a review of that increased charge before the next budget meeting, and to hold off doing anything with that at the moment.

Mileage for the D.A. is going to be requested. She has spoken with other D.A.'s who have multi-county districts and learned that they submit mileage expenses. The previous two Waldo County District Attorneys did not. She felt that about \$500.00, which is a portion of each County, is "on track." She initially traveled a fair amount the first part of this year, but this has been decreasing.

The D.A.'s Office is looking to achieve cost savings on laboratory tests, so she is requesting a little less for that this year. She noted that they don't always ask for substances to be tested. If there is a drug recognition expert on site, they submit that to the state and the state pays. The D.A.'s Office is also asking for restitution on the testing, where possible. She is not changing the budget on that yet, to see how that goes, but should know more next year.

As far as office supplies, the budget is being kept the same and hopefully if they can get "Share File" up and running, the paper costs may go down in another year.

Metro DA Central also requires Internet, as does Justware. Internet has to be a certain speed in order to work with that software.

N. Irving projects there will be a revenue of about \$9,000.00 in deferred dispositions, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nobody came to speak.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. Convention Final Details: B. Arseneau spoke with the Commissioners and A. Fowler volunteered to do any speaking necessary, and she and Hannah from Sagadahoc County volunteered to handle door prizes at meals. Centerpieces were briefly discussed and the County Garden Project will provide some colorful vegetables for those. Both Cari Emrich and Judy Nealley have created a very fun scavenger hunt that uses cell phones as part of the “collection” process. A. Fowler volunteered to draft the “Welcome” speech for the Waldo County Commissioners.
2. The Commissioners briefly discussed the upcoming State of Maine Bicentennial and grants for each County to build a float for the parade. B. Arseneau added that she has added to the central calendar a reminder that Waldo County’s Bicentennial will be in 2027, so she has flagged a reminder in 2026 to consider that during the budget prep.
3. A letter from the American Medical Association was sent to the Commissioners inviting them to submit nominations for the 2020 Dr. Nathan Davis Awards for Outstanding Government Service, as well as to submit nominations to recognize individuals or organizations outside of government service who significantly contribute to the public health and promote art and the science of medicine.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the September 5, 2019 and September 10, 2019 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions as read, and noted a few typos that had been found.

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the minutes from the September 5 and September 10, 2019 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions as read. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

None.

**** B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 3:25 p.m. Unanimous.**

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