

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
APRIL 21, 2021**

PRESENT: Commissioners Amy R. Fowler (Chairman), William D. Shorey, and Betty I. Johnson. County Clerk Barbara Arseneau took the minutes. The court session was conducted via teleconference due to COVID-19 restrictions. Those on scheduled on the agenda were permitted to attend in person.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

The County Checkbook balance is \$34,770.01.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$20,401.35.

County Appropriations:

28% of the County 2021 budget has been expended and it could be 38% at this time.

County Revenue:

29.38% of the County revenue has been received at this time.

Corrections Appropriations:

25% of 2021 budget has been expended and could be 38% expended.

Corrections Revenue:

2.05% of the Corrections revenue has been received at this time.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

\$1,600,000.00 has been borrowed on the T.A.N.; \$750,000.00 by the County and \$850,000.00 by Corrections. This is a little less than last year at this time.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to file the Financial Report. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to take \$500,000.00 from the Communications Equipment Reserve and re-designate \$250,000.00 to Severance and \$250,000.00 to the Health Fund. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to designate \$750,000.00 to the Communications Equipment Reserve from the American Rescue Plan Acts fund. Unanimous.**

The Commissioners discussed the need to open a separate account related to American Rescue Plan Acts funds. K. Trussell and A. Fowler will go to the bank together to get this set up.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to move \$50,000.00 from Communications Equipment to Future Land and Buildings Reserve 0210. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to designate \$75,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Acts fund. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the April 8, 2021 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant and April 1, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$162,229.56. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the April 8, 2021 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$19,060.71. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the April 8, 2021 MCRRC (Corrections) Accounts Payable warrant and April 1, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$54,497.85. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the April 8, 2021 MCRRC (Corrections) Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$67.59. Unanimous.**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Present was Information Technology Manager J-sun Bailey, who reported the following:

1. J. Bailey provided a screen share of recent updates on the Commissioners page of the County web site. Court session agendas and minutes are now on the same page. The Commissioners approved the new formatting.
2. He has been working with the Re-entry Center on their new camera system, getting some broken cameras fixed and moved for now until the new cameras are in.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Present was Human Resources Director KelLee Gray who reported the following:

1. The open dispatcher position has not been particularly successful in applicants. There are many résumés but people are not willing to fill out an application.
2. The Administrative Assistant to the Sheriff's job posting will be announced next week.
3. Dispatcher Lori Mazzeo became eligible for her 12-year pay step on April 4th. It is not her 12-year D.O.H. anniversary but was hired at a higher rate based on experience. This is why it is 3-years ahead of her time of service. The pay increase will go from \$24.01 to \$25.40 per hour, under the new contracted pay scale. This was noted by the Commissioners.
4. Dispatcher Matthew Varney completed 8 years of employment on April 7, 2021 with a pay increase from \$23.00 to \$24.37 per hour. He also serves as the TAC. This was noted by the Commissioners.

CORRESPONDENCE

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reported the following:

1. A new Appeal of Decision of Board of Assessors on Application for Abatement of Property Taxes has been received from Tina Maccarone for her property in Thorndike, along with a copy of the letter of denial from the Town of Thorndike. The Commissioners instructed the County Clerk to schedule a hearing on June 2, 2021, directly after the Sheriff's Report so that Sheriff/Town of Thorndike Selectman Jeffrey Trafton could attend.
2. There has been an inquiry from Belfast Economic Director Thomas Kittredge regarding what future plans the Commissioners may have for the old Superior Courthouse. The Commissioners asked B. Arseneau to send an email to Mr. Kittredge saying that they would welcome him to meet with them for further discussion, if he would like.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the April 7, 2021 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session, but two had not read them so it was tabled to the next session.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Present was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton who gave the following report:

1. Secretary Diana Story has submitted her notice of retirement, effective June 4, 2021. J. Trafton noted that she has been an excellent worker and will be missed. He may try to hire a new secretary a few days before she leaves so that there can be some training.
****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept with regret Sheriff's Secretary Diana Story's notice of retirement, with June 4, 2021 being the last day. Unanimous.**
2. Corrections Corporal Timothy Parker's last day as a full-time employee will be May 8, 2021; however, he would like to stay on in the part-time status.
****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept with regret the resignation of full-time Corrections Officer Timothy Parker with the last work day being May 8, 2021, and to accept that he be placed in part-time status at that time. Unanimous.**
3. Corrections Officer Garth Coleman submitted his resignation on April 19, 2021, with his last day of work being May 1, 2021.
***B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Garth Coleman effective at the end of the day May 1, 2021. Unanimous.**
4. Elmer Sweetland, who has been hired as part-time Corrections Officer, will be eligible to work full-time May 1, 2021, and also eligible for the full-time Corporal position, if he is interested.
****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to change Elmer Sweetland from part-time to full-time status effective May 1, 2021.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REPORT & PREPAREDNESS EXPO

Present was EMA Director Dale Rowley. He stated that September is National Preparedness Month, and submitted a concept flyer for the Eastern Maine Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Cross Insurance Center Ballroom in Bangor. It is being

sponsored by the County Emergency Management Agencies of Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, and Waldo, and he has received several business sponsorships. He expects an excellent turnout.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Present were Freedom Selectman Elaine Higgins, and Palermo Selectmen Bob Kurek representing the Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition. The committee is made up of local resident volunteers and it is a non-profit group. The committee's goal is to bring broadband internet service to the towns of Freedom, Liberty, Montville, and Palermo. Volunteers have created a web site, and a flyer to mail to citizens explaining the goals of the committee and how residents can participate in a survey. The Commissioners expressed their interest and gratitude for this committee's efforts to address the ongoing internet service issues in the area. E. Higgins asked the Commissioners to write a letter of support for this committee, and the Commissioners agreed to do so.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER REPORT

Present was Communications Director Owen Smith, who reported the following:

1. O. Smith announced that after much consideration, he has decided to retire as Communications Director of the Waldo County Regional Communications Center. His last day of work will be June 18, 2021. The Commissioners thanked Director Smith for his good work for over 20 years, and expressed their hope that he would enjoy his retirement. O. Smith asked the Commissioners to consider him to work on special County projects and committees in the future. The Commissioners thanked him and said they would keep him in mind.

2. Tower Site Agreement in Northport: O. Smith shared with the Commissioners a copy of the lease agreement between Deep Creek Grazing Association (Lessor) at 67 Atlantic Highway, Northport, Maine and the County of Waldo (Lessee). Main points of the lease:

- Lease term is June 1, 2021 through July 1, 2050. Lessee may not sublease to a 3rd party.
- Lessee will pay \$500.00 per month (\$6,000.00 per year), and the amount will increase by \$250.00 on fifth anniversary, and every fifth year after that.
- Power will be obtained from existing power supply at the existing wellhead.
- Lessor will provide access by allow the Lessee a key or combination to the lock.
- Lessee will have the right to plow the road for access or the Lessee will allow other access.
- Either party may terminate agreement for any reason by giving the other party 2-year (24-month) notice of intent to "quit" in writing by U.S. mail.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to sign the lease as presented. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:40 a.m. Unanimous.**

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