

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JUNE 2, 2021**

PRESENT: Commissioners Amy R. Fowler (Chairman), William D. Shorey, and Betty I. Johnson attended by teleconference. County Clerk Barbara Arseneau also attended by teleconference to take minutes.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Karen Trussell reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$72,977.13.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$63,780.12.

County Appropriations:

39% of the 2021 budget has been expended and it could be 42% at this time.

County Revenue:

50.83% of the 2021 County revenue has been received.

Corrections Appropriations:

34% of 2021 budget has been expended and could be 42% expended.

Corrections Revenue:

2.50% of the 2021 Corrections revenue has been received.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

\$2,600,000.00 has been borrowed from the TAN; \$1,400,000.00 by the County and \$1,200,000.00 by Correction, which is about \$300,000.00 below where we were last year.

****B. Johnson move, W. Shorey seconded to file the Financial Report as presented. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the May 28, 2021 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant including the May 27, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$245,073.46. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the May 28, 2021 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$27,342.62. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the May 28, 2021 MCRRC Accounts Payable warrant including May 27, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$70,101.18. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the May 28, 2021 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$13,567.17. Unanimous.**

American Rescue Plan Act Account Questions: K. Trussell said she would need instructions for handling invoices and checks related to the ARPA funds-related expenditures. The Commissioners said that they will all review and sign off on all ARPA-related invoices. A warrant system will need to be created so that K. Trussell will be able to write checks and have someone review them. Invoices can be scanned for Commissioner Johnson until she is able to come into the office. K. Trussell said that checks needed to be signed and sent for two of the Facilities projects to start.

INFORMATION IT REPORT

Present was IT Director J-sun Bailey who reported the following:

1. He has been working on Spillman issues that came up since the upgrade, setting up users in Spillman, and setting up email addresses.
2. He has spent a lot of time writing up requests for proposals for a new phone system, for the computers that the Commissioners approved purchasing, as he hadn't been aware of the bid process for projects above a certain dollar amount.
3. A. Fowler inquired about the annual Spillman/Motorola Conference. J. Bailey said he hadn't been sure it would be an in-person conference when he was preparing the current year budget, but it appears that it will be in Orlando in October. He will watch for the registration. The Commissioners highly recommended that he attend if possible.

The Commissioners commended J-sun Bailey for doing excellent work.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Human Resources Director KelLee Gray reported the following:

1. Deeds Clerk P/T position job description: This was sent to the Commissioners a few weeks ago for review.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the Deeds P/T clerk position. Unanimous.**

2. New hire for Communications Center:

Blaine Parsons has been recommended for hire as Dispatcher at the starting wage of \$18.12 effective June 20, 2021. He has already done his 8-hour review and did well on the test. He worked at WCRCC about 20 years ago.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson to approve hiring Blaine Parsons as Dispatcher at the starting wage of \$18.12 per hour effective June 20, 2021. Unanimous.**

3. Paige Morgridge has reached 6 months of employment so she will receive an increase to \$18.73 per hour and also can start using up to 40 hours of vacation leave. This was noted by the Commissioners.

4. K. Gray reported attending the Bernstein COVID Back-to-Work seminar yesterday. Waldo is well ahead of things, because business never really stopped. This all was handled correctly before she

was hired and the County has continued doing it correctly. Bernstein Sure is sending some paperwork that the County could institute, thought she doesn't believe it's necessary because everything is already in place.

NEW HIRE & REVIEW/SIGNING TOWER-RELATED CONTRACTS

Present was Communications Director Owen Smith.

1. Extended Contract with Tower Consultant Norm Boucher: O. Smith explained that extend the contract is another \$7,800.00 so that N. Boucher can do the scope of work, the RFP, vendor selection, etc.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the extended contract with Norman Boucher. Unanimous.**

2. W. Shorey nominated Herb Cronholm to fill the vacancy on the Communications Center Advisory Board.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to appoint Herb Cronholm as member of the Communications Center Advisory Board. Unanimous.**

3. Power Agreement with Searsport Water District: Searsport Water District will tap into the power supply on Fletcher Hill tower in Stockton Springs. They will pay \$800.00 per year, as their usual annual bill has been \$650.00 to \$670.00. The contract does not have an ending date, and the County's lease on the tower is for 50 years. O. Smith was asked to sign as witness.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to sign the power agreement. Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 9:20 a.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(f). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 9:27 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE

Present was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau who reported that there was no new correspondence. She mentioned that if Mr. Cronholm is filling the vacancy on the Communications Advisory Board of Directors left by the resignation of Penny Sampson last month, the Commissioners should make a formal vote to accept her resignation.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the resignation of Unity Selectperson Penny Sampson from the Communications Advisory Board of Directors. Unanimous.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the May 5, 2021 and May 12, 2021 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions as presented.

****W. Shorey move, and B. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from the May 5 and May 12, 2021 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions as presented. Unanimous.**

Since they were running ahead of schedule, the Commissioners recognized Register of Probate Sharon Peavey and asked how things were going in Probate. S. Peavey reported that the Registry of Probate

has been open to the public for some time now, and most people are coming in without masks, which is fine. They have held several in-person hearings. They are still doing some by Zoom teleconference, but eventually will be transitioning to all in-person meetings unless someone asks the court for permission to appear by teleconference. Generally it works well. It can be a bit confusing if people are attending in person, on the phone, and also by teleconference when it is a contested hearing.

Brief Garden Report: Commissioner Shorey reported that the recent rain had helped tremendously in the County Garden, particularly with the newly planted carrots, which usually have to be watered by hand when first planted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into executive session at 9:35 a.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(a) and (f). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to come out of executive session at 10:11 a.m. Unanimous.**

No action was taken.

NEW HIRE FOR VACANT POSITION

Present was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton, who presented the following:

1. Administrative Assistant to the Sheriff Diana Story's last day is June 4, 2021. Kelsey Hammond from Troy has been selected to fill the position. Her first day will be June 15, 2021. Because she has 14 years administrative work, as a pharmacist assistant and as a teacher, he would like to hire her at the 5-year pay step.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve hiring Kelsey Hammond effective June 15, 2021 at the five-year step. Unanimous.**

2. J. Trafton reported that he meets monthly with both the Corrections and Deputies unions. He met yesterday with the Deputies and they asked him to pass along to the Commissioners that they are ready to start negotiating for the next union contract anytime.

3. Quotes for cameras for cruisers: J. Trafton has been researching video camera systems for both body cameras and cruiser cameras. He has received two quotes, and noted that prices have increased. The Sheriff's Office would prefer to lease the equipment for 5-years because of deals that come with the lease. He has also been working with IT Director J-sun Bailey on this. There were presentations by two companies, one by WatchGuard Company, and the other by Axon, who makes tasers. The preference is to go with WatchGuard. They'd like to purchase 16 car cameras and 16 body cams, which integrate with each other. They are also looking to store in the Cloud now, which has unlimited storage. It has become so expensive to keep buying servers, which fill up fast. The total 5-year cost with WatchGuard for the 32 cameras is \$226,000.00. If there are problems with the equipment, they replace it as part of the lease. The first payment would be \$58,500.00, followed by four annual payments of \$41,000.00. The other company, Axon, was cheaper but doesn't offer as many services and wasn't as user friendly. With WatchGuard, as soon as the blue light is turned on, or the officer gets out of the car, all the cameras come on at the same time automatically. The

Commissioners agreed that these cameras were very important in this day and age. The camera will show both views of what is going on, as well.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the five-year camera system lease with WatchGuard. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. B. Johnson reported on Aging Well in Waldo County. She has been chairing the Transportation Committee, and they are looking at possibly starting to provide rides on July 15th. Yesterday, she was presented an award for leadership on this transportation option, which she really appreciated. This transportation arrangement will include all of Waldo County, not just a few towns as originally thought. Her goal is to try to find one driver in each municipality. They have a meeting Thursday to figure out how to adhere to the COVID mandates, make changes to their policy, and remain safe. The Committee will figure out how they want to handle it. They interview the rider, and the rider will sign forms saying they will comply with the policies. The Commissioners congratulated B. Johnson on the award, and for doing extraordinary things for the County with this organization.
2. B. Johnson noted that Waldo County was certified as a healthy aging community when they joined this network. She offered to write up a strategic report of what they plan to do in the future. The Commissioners thanked her for that.
3. Also present was Ann Frenning Kossuth who stated that she wanted to learn about the Commissioners' processes so she attended today. She introduced herself as the daughter of Mary Frenning, who was very active in the community for years. A. Frenning said she is trying to carry on the legacy and do good things for Northport. She expressed concern about broadband issues for the Town of Northport. There was discussion of Northport working with Connect Maine. There was also a large grant awarded May 27th and the committee voted to partner with Midcoast Internet Coalition. It includes Camden, Rockport, Rockland, Thomaston, So. Thomaston, and they decided last night to join with them.

The Commissioners adjourned to hold Tax Abatement Appeal Hearing Petition #377 T. Maccarone vs. Thorndike at approximately 9:55 a.m. (See separate minutes.)

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