

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JUNE 16, 2022**

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Finance Karen Trussell reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$115,032.75, and the Jail Checkbook balance is \$70,079.65.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

The total Tax Anticipation Note is \$5,500,000.00. \$2,945,000.00 has been borrowed; \$1,650,000.00 by the County and \$1,295,000.00 by Corrections.

County Appropriations/Revenue:

42% of the County 2022 budget has been expended and it could be 46% expended. 63.14% of the County revenue has been received at this time.

Corrections Appropriations/Revenue:

41% of Corrections 2022 budget has been expended and could be 46%. 16.86% of the Corrections revenue has been received at this time.

Mileage Rate Increase: The Federal Standard Mileage Rate is increasing July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 from .585 to .625 per mile. The Commissioners acknowledged that this will be the County's new rate effective July 1, 2022.

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

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the June 9, 2022 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and June 9, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$275,160.88. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the June 9, 2022 MCRRC (Corrections) Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and June 9, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$123,890.56 Unanimous.**

SWANVILLE PROJECT:

Present was EMA Director Dale Rowley, who decided he did not need an executive session.

1. Swanville Project: Contractor Wade Brown will perform earthwork. D. Rowley has received one quote from Maddock Concrete, as a sole source for this project, in the amount of \$70,000.00 for the labor, not including the concrete itself. D. Rowley is using the architect's numbers as a quote, and then his own figures as a second quote. The Architect estimated \$3.7 million for this project and the

County estimates \$2.4 million, and he briefly explained the savings. Well drilling is supposed to start in July. Mechanical, plumbing, and electrical are lined up. R.H. Lambeth will be doing the building construction and should be able to start in October. The two buildings will be two separate projects, and there will be separate contracts for framing, building, and roofing, three contracts for earthwork, and there may be separate contracts for the well and storm drain.

The Commissioners signed the sole source approval paperwork with Maddock Concrete.

2. District Attorney New Office Space Update: There was a brief review of the process, which will need to go through the City of Belfast.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

1. Linda Wry-Remillard has resigned from the position of Dispatch Supervisor effective June 17, 2022.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept the resignation of Linda Wry-Remillard as Dispatch Supervisor effective June 17, 2022. Unanimous.**

2. Staffing is down to 10 dispatchers. The schedule has been reconfigured, he and the QA Dispatcher are working as regular dispatchers, and it should improve in July and August once dispatchers Jim Porter and Noah Davis have completed training. He hopes to hire a few more employees to get closer to being fully staffed. Changing from 10-hour shifts to 12-hours was briefly discussed. They have been looking through schedules, but most of the dispatchers feel that vacant 10-hour shifts would be easier to staff than 12-hour shifts.

3. He received an email from David Hirschfeld, owner of the Point Lookout Tower site. It was not directed at the County, but the traffic in and out of the property is beginning to wear on him so he requested that all work on the tower site be completed by July 15th. He has been excellent to the County and M. Larrivee assured him that they would have all of it completed by that date except for the equipment. M. Larrivee spoke with RCM and asked that they arrange for no more than one week in the fall to install the equipment, and Mr. Hirschfeld liked that idea.

4. He submitted tower lease projections for 2023 to the Commissioners. The new radio system is moving slowly and waiting for delivery of equipment. After the lease is finalized with Blueberry Broadcasting and signed, he will notify Mr. Skillings that the County will be leaving that property. He is meeting with RSU 3 next week to try putting an antenna on the roof. The consultant will negotiate to getting the increase reduced. He's been able to do that before, so M. Larrivee is hopeful it can be done again. Blueberry Broadcast site includes power and a generator, so the County only needs supply the equipment. W. Shorey inquired about the Water District Tower. M. Larrivee explained that the County will need to buy what is called a "sled." The only cost would be the Water District – five or six dishes up there, and conduit. A trench will be dug. K. Nealley will have Gary and some reentry folks lay the pipe.

5. His grant request has made it through the first stage. Senator Collins reduced the amount because she believed it could not include renovations, but Senator King included the whole request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 10:21 a.m. for discussion of a non-public personnel matter as permitted by MRSA Title 1§401(6)(A). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 10:35 a.m. Unanimous. No action was taken.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to into executive session at 10:36 a.m. for discussion of a personnel matter as permitted by MRSA Title 1§401(6)(A). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 10:50 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, B. Shorey seconded for A. Fowler will reach out to Malcolm Ulmer with some of their questions. Unanimous.**

NEW HIRE

Present was Register of Probate Sharon Peavey, who recommended that Linda Wry-Remillard fill the vacant Probate Administrative Assistant position, and requested to start her at 5 year level, after one year, move to the 8-year level, and then stay on the pay step schedule after that. She believed L. Wry-Remillard would start June 21, 2022. Commissioners stated that they wanted discussion on the 8-year level to wait until after the Probationary period ended.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve hiring Linda Wry-Remillard as Probate Administrative Assistant effective either June 20 or 21, 2022 at the 5-year level and within the year, with a good evaluation, consider moving to the 8-year level. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT – NEW HIRE

Present was Sheriff Trafton and Lt. Matthew Curtis, with the following report:

1. Two of the three new trucks should be in within the week. These are 2022 RAMS that were supposed to be 2021 trucks but were not delivered. Because the department was short-staffed, the existing fleet was able to support them. With the recent hires, the vehicles are necessary. Trade-ins normally would be spec'd and offered as part of the bid package. This time it will be what they can get at the time they go there. If the vehicle has worth, the department keeps it, but if it needs to go, they trade it in.

B. Johnson asked about the gas prices and the hybrid. M. Curtis said one had mechanical issues and sat about three months at two different garages. He estimated an average of around 22 mpg. Since the gas prices have been wonky, and the car just came back, he'll pull some reports and get back to the Commissioners.

2. Corrections Officer New Hire: They intended to present a new hire but need to work with the Academy on a hiring matter and will get back to the Commissioners later.

3. J. Trafton inquired about whether the Commissioners would continue with the hiring bonuses. The Commissioners stated they will keep it in place for now because it has been working to get good

people hired. It was noted that only Waldo County is offering hiring bonuses for Corrections Officers in the State of Maine.

4. The grant application was submitted yesterday. It took five days for the grant writer and Chief Deputy to get into the online system and figure out how to maneuver through it, it was so difficult to use. A. Fowler said she also had great difficulty doing her part on that system.

5. Discussion of Waldo Staff working for Knox County: W. Shorey said that the boarding costs have been kept down and saved thousands of dollars, so he is in favor of continuing to send Waldo Corrections Officers to Knox County to assist with the reduced staff there, since Waldo's inmates are housed there. A. Fowler agreed it was honorable and a good thing and thanked the Sheriff and Lieutenant for their great work with Knox County, but she felt it needed to have an end date. W. Shorey said he felt that the \$300,000.00 saved is a help to the taxpayers. B. Johnson said there is always a time to talk about an end date and didn't believe this is the time to discuss that. Sheriff Trafton noted that Knox has hired more Corrections Officers and it takes time to get them up to speed. If discussions with the Jail Consolidation group continues to move forward together, he would like to continue working with Knox County. Currently Waldo is over budget on the boarding contract but is still 4% under the budget. Once he talks with Knox, he'll know when that can start reducing the staff he's sending there. He said that Knox County is key and the pivot point with what is trying to be accomplished with consolidation. B. Johnson agreed that it made sense to share expenses and work closely with Knox because Waldo's mission is such that it needs that relationship with Knox. The Commissioners asked for updates each month so they would know how long Corrections Officers have been working at Knox County. B. Johnson stated that the Sheriff had been doing well with this arrangement.

6. Civil Process Fees: M. Curtis reported that many of the service fees are going up July 1st. The County Civil Process administrative fee is \$10.00 and the statute allows that to go up to \$25.00. It's been \$10.00 for decades. He stated that he believed raising that fee schedule is appropriate.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson moved that the Civil Service Administrative fees be increased from \$10.00 to \$25.00. Unanimous.**

J. Trafton requested an executive session for discussion of a personnel matter as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(A).

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 11:15 a.m. for discussion of a personnel matter as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(A). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 11:30 a.m. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to hire Walter Corey, Jr. as part-time Patrol Deputy at \$24.14 per hour effective June 16, 2022. Unanimous.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

IT Manager J-sun Bailey reported as follows

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1. He has deployed all the body cameras at the Sheriff's Office.
2. He is still waiting for WatchGuard to send in writing their intention to waive the camera installation fee in the Interview Room to make up for the cost of his hours installing cameras in the vehicles.
3. He spoke with Lt. Curtis about the five new vehicles will need cameras, and M. Curtis would like for Communications Director Mike Larrivee to do this. because it is his understanding that M. Larrivee completed the online training and is a certified installer. J. Bailey will double check on that qualification.
4. J. Bailey is upgrading servers and services. He was able to get Maine Crash Service off Windows 7 and onto the server. It took a long time to figure out who to contact, and it turned out to be Lexus Nexus.
5. He is working on the laptops for the new deputies, as well as the new GIS geo validation piece for the Communications Center.

CORRESPONDENCE

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reported correspondence as follows:

1. A reporter contacted her about the recent vote by Knox County regarding the water boundary between Knox and Waldo counties. During the last meeting between the counties, Knox County stated that they want Robinson Rock. The consensus that day was that all agreed because there is no impact either way, but she would not ask the Waldo County Commissioners to vote on it until they hear from Rob Hoey on that matter. She would recommend the Commissioners vote on this at their next court session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. Arseneau had emailed minutes from the June 2 and June 6, 2022 Court Session to the Commissioners for review.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from the June 2 and June 6, 2022 County Commissioners Court Sessions. Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. W. Shorey would like to have H.R. Director KelLee Gray meet with the Commissioners in executive session that should be discussed during the next Commissioners Court Session regarding one of the departments.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Unanimous.**

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