

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JULY 21, 2022**

PRESENT: Commissioners Amy R. Fowler (Chairman), William D. Shorey (via teleconference, later in the morning), and Betty I. Johnson. 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 \$83,958.36, and the Jail Checkbook balance is \$22,437.04.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

The total Tax Anticipation Note is \$5,500,000.00. \$3,845,000.00 has been borrowed; \$2,250,000.00 by the County and \$1,595,000.00 by Corrections.

County Appropriations/Revenue:

As of June 30, 2022, 46% of the County 2022 budget was expended and could have been 50% expended. 64.38% of the County revenue was received at that time.

As of July 14, 2022, 50% of the County 2022 budget has been expended and could be 54%. 75.08% of the County revenue has been received at this time.

Corrections Appropriations/Revenue:

As of June 30, 2022, 46% of the Corrections 2022 budget was expended and could have been 50% expended. 16.89% of the Corrections revenue was received at that time.

As of July 14, 2022, 51% of Corrections 2022 budget has been expended and could be 54%. 18.62% of the Corrections revenue has been received at this time.

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

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 30, 2022 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and June 23, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$381,091.60. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 30, 2022 MCRRC (Corrections) Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and June 23, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$213,291.57. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, seconded to authorize payment of the July 14, 2022 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and July 7, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$322,028.84. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the July 14, 2022 MCRRC (Corrections) Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant and July 7, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$129, 634.95. Unanimous.**

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS & WINDY HILL TOWER

Present was EMA Director Dale Rowley, who reported the following:

1. Swanville Project: Ground has been broken, erosion control installed, some trees were removed that were in the way, and the old barn basement was removed along with concrete and trash. The drive entrance may need to be raised. Work will start on the storm water pump. Good Deeds will conduct a survey. S. W. Cole will do soil gradation. Maddock will start concrete footings 1.5 weeks from now. D. Rowley has been ordering things such as windows, garage doors, etc. as those have a long lead time now. Temporary power with CMP has been ordered. The well that's there will be capped and under the slab of the warehouse, since it doesn't give good quality and quantity of water. A new well will be dug, and spigots will be on the outside of some of the buildings for easy access.

2. D. Rowley submitted sole source forms for Guy Hanson & Sons (earth work). He also had a form for R.H. Lambeth to do the building construction and has asked him to renovate the existing EMA next spring. They have a draftsman on board.

3. D. Rowley has converted the Facilities storage on site as a temporary construction office. He thought a small flatbed trailer could be purchased to haul cardboard and trash. The transfer station is a mile away and he's already spoken with them. It would be paid from the funds that had been saved from the architectural and engineering funds. It would cost roughly around \$1,400.00.

****B. Johnson, A. Fowler to pay for trailer with ARPA funds. Unanimous.**

4. D. Rowley has been working with Communications Director Mike Larrivee. Right now there is a contract for Windy Hill, but the Comm. Center won't need it in the new buildout. D. Rowley asked that EMA be allowed to take over the lease for that site, as it is 5 miles away from the new building. The lease is \$3,200.00. He has \$500.00 in the radio line and has other savings, and he could absorb that cost in the current budget. The agreement is already with the County and will just come out of EMA budget instead. The Commissioners approved this.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Human Resources Director KelLee Gray and Prosecutorial Assistant E. Harvey asked for an executive session.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 10:09 a.m. for personnel-related discussion as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§405 (6.A). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of executive session at 10:15 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

H.R. Director KelLee Gray presented the following:

1. Dispatcher Blaine Parsons has completed 1-year of employment effective June 20, 2021 with a pay increase of \$21.58, and the vacation leave remains the same. Noted by the Commissioners.

2. Corrections Corporal Randy Fox has completed 20 years of employment effective July 1, 2022 with a pay increase to \$26.96, and an increase in leave time. Noted by the Commissioners.

3. Communications Director Michael Larrivee completed 1-year in the Director position, with the salary increasing to \$70,125.98 effective July 12, 2022. Noted by the Commissioners.
4. Belfast Area High School Learning Opportunities approached the Sheriff's Office and Human Resources about Seniors in high school internships for a few hours a week, which could be utilized by the Sheriff's Office and perhaps other departments, free of charge. The Commissioners agreed that it would be an excellent idea.
5. One pay scale for 1/2022 for Administrative Staff needs to be signed by the Commissioners. It was accidentally overlooked but has been paid correctly.
6. The Civil Deputy job description and Emergency Management Agency Intern Job description were presented for the Commissioners' signature.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

IT Manager J-sun Bailey was assisting Commissioner Shorey with the Zoom connection, so the IT report was postponed until the next regular court session on August 4, 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Communications Director Michael Larrivee delivered the following report:

1. Most of the radio equipment is being stored at the Sheriff's Office Garage at the Garden site. They anticipate that installation will start by end of summer.
2. Pt. Lookout Tower is complete, and keys will be turned over by July 15, 2022. A generator has been installed and tested. He is working with Facilities Manager Keith Nealley on getting propane tanks. M. Larrivee will provide installation dates to the radio company that will coincide with when the landowner is on vacation so it will be less intrusive during the build.
3. Yesterday they looked at Mt. View roof for possible placement of a full antenna array, and all are confident that this will work out very well.
4. The lease for Blueberry Broadcast will be about \$9,000.00 per month, which is better than the anticipated \$13,000.00.
5. Researched has been performed for the Liberty Tower. Norm is doing a project with another county with an SBA tower and with that agreement, a 1-for-1 replacement doesn't change the lease amount, so he will try to obtain the same thing for Waldo County, which would hopefully reduce the cost.
6. EMA Director D. Rowley already spoke about turning over the Windy Hill tower lease to EMA.
7. Comm. Center staffing is going well, and more dispatcher applications are coming in.
8. Another microwave is failing at Aborn. It is a redundant system and is now down to the last 4 microwaves, and these cannot be replaced. He hopes to get through the summer, and then it's a

question after of how to get rid of the old equipment. He thought about storing the old equipment temporarily at one of the County Garden buildings because a fair amount of space is needed. The Commissioners expressed concern about security, and he explained that it is just large things, not small technology equipment. W. Shorey said he believed it would be safe there, as security cameras are on site.

A. Fowler asked M. Larrivee to keep an eye on expenditures in lines 4200 and 4210 in the Comm. Center budget.

FACILITIES REPORT

Facilities Manager Keith Nealley presented the following:

1. University Extension Office Repairs: The staff have vacated and are working at the Hutchinson Center until October 1st. Work has been done to the back wall of the Extension office to alleviate and prevent drainage issues. The mold was removed, and a chemical treatment was performed. The air exchange wasn't working, so he took care of that. Sheet rocking and painting should be done well before October 1, 2022 and should be under budget.

2. A. Fowler asked about various over-expended budget lines in the Facilities budget related to the Sheriff's Office and Dispatch. She also inquired about the Superior Court fuel budget. K. Nealley noted that projects at Dispatch came out of the Facilities Budget. He will review the numbers and report back to the Commissioners. Regarding fuel in Superior Court being 78% expended, he noted that the tank had been topped off before the summer season and there should be enough until the 2023 budget.

WALDO/KNOX COUNTIES' WATER BOUNDARY UPDATE:

GIS Planner Robert Howey gave an update regarding the Waldo and Knox Counties' water boundary in Penobscot Bay. He directed them to three maps in the packets before them. The first map, dated May 27, 2022, is from the State. The second map dated May 31, 2022, is the one he produced that shows the history of where the line was, the green line boundary from 1910, the LUPC proposed boundary in gray, and the incorrect depiction is orange/yellow. He sent that to the State. The third map, dated June 9, 2022, shows a straight line to the coastline of Camden and Lincolnville, sent by the State. A. Fowler reported that Knox agrees with the latest map, which permits Knox County to have Robinson Rock. The Commissioners asked B. Arseneau to contact Knox County Administrator Andrew Hart to find out if the Knox Commissioners voted on this. Commissioner William Shorey was now present via teleconference, so A. Fowler shared the most recent information with him regarding Robinson Rock.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to vote for the June 9, 2022 map, which depicts Robinson Rock being in Knox County. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reported correspondence as follows:

1. Mathew Eddy of Midcoast COG sent a request to meet with the County Commissioners again, to update them on their technical assistance program now that it is formalized. W. Shorey said he read the report and had no interest. A. Fowler said she believed Mr. Eddy should be reaching out to the municipalities with this information. B. Johnson said she sits on that board and believes this is for information purposes only because they changed from an economic development organization to a

COG. She stated that she was in favor of the Commissioners listening to a presentation, and then towns could do what they want with that information. She was also in favor of putting the information on the County web site.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded not to grant a meeting with the Commissioners.**

Discussion: A. Fowler agreed that it was a great idea to put a link on the County web site, and passing information along to the municipalities, but felt that the Commissioners did not need to meet with M. Eddy. **Passed by 2 with B. Johnson opposed.**

B. Arseneau was asked to obtain information, forward it to the municipalities, and to talk with the IT Director about adding it to the web site.

2. On July 8 and July 18, 2022 B. Arseneau properly disposed Commissioners' records that have met their retention dates. She submitted a list to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Fowler signed.

3. Maine County Commissioners Association is holding a one day convention on September 14, 2022, location to be announced. They will need a headcount from each County. Commissioner Johnson said she would attend as much as she can.

4. B. Arseneau submitted a printed email sent to the Commissioners from Fernando Curiel expressing concern about over Smart Cities technology being implemented in various places in the U.S.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. Arseneau had emailed minutes from the June 16, 2022 Court Session to the Commissioners for review.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2022 County Commissioners Court Sessions. Unanimous.**

2023 COST OF LIVING INCREASE & COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. B. Johnson asked that the Commissioners continue to meet at 10:00 a.m. from now on, as it is the only way she can attend and fulfill her duties.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to continue to start meet at 10:00 a.m. Unanimous.**

2. The Commissioners signed a card wishing Rick Kersbergen a happy retirement from the Waldo County University of Maine Cooperative Extension Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session for discussion of nonpublic information as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title1§405 (6.A). at 11:07 a.m.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 11:29 a.m. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to consider increasing the premium on the health insurance 12%, and the County will be notifying every union that they will be opening**

discussions on increasing the health insurance premium 12% effective January 1, 2023. Unanimous.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to set the 2023 Cost of Living Increase at 3% for non-union employees. Unanimous.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Freedom Selectperson Elaine Higgins reported that the Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition is close to forming a broadband utility district. Each of the five towns in the coalition contributed \$9,000.00 from the \$20,000.00 awarded by the County to each town and used this for the feasibility study. Each town plans to vote to use the \$11,000.00 remaining from each town to set up the utility district. SWCBC met a few times with Unitel, which is “in the running” for setting up lines and servicing the project. The goal is to be formed and ready to go when the ARPA grant comes through in the fall. Once all the towns vote to form this broadband utility, the plan is to name it Waldo Broadband Corporation. No taxpayer dollars will have been spent on this. E. Higgins submitted to the Commissioners a mailing that will be going out to all the citizens. The Commissioners commended SWCBC for it’s hard work on this project.

CANINE CRUISER LEASE (Not on agenda)

Sheriff Trafton requested and was granted permission to speak. He reported that the Canine Patrol Officer’s vehicle was involved in a collision, and the body shop where it is being repaired is behind schedule. He spoke with the Belfast Police Department and since they have no canine unit and their canine cruiser is not being used presently, they agreed to lease it to the Waldo County Sheriff’s Office for 60 days. J. Trafton submitted a draft lease agreement to the Commissioners. He will propose a lease rate of \$500.00 and would go no higher than \$750.00, to be paid from the Sheriff’s budget.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to allow the Sheriff to sign the canine cruiser lease with Belfast Police Department. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn the court session at 11:35 a.m. Unanimous.**

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