

WALDO COUNTY FY 2005 BUDGET COMMITTEE
1st MEETING
NOVEMBER 03, 2005

PRESENT: Budget Committee Members Bill Sneed, Samuel Butler, James Bennett, Richard Desmarais, Rachel McDonald, Vicki Conover and Bradford Payne; County Commissioners John Hyk, Charles G. Boetsch and Amy Fowler; Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Ward, Sheriff Scott Story, Chief Deputy Robert Keating, Jail Administrator Robert Tiner, Communications Director Owen Smith, Deputy County Clerk Veronica LaBreck and County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau. Also present were Technology Consultant James Arseneau, Town of Freedom Selectman Timothy Biggs, Belfast City Manager Terry St. Peter, Winterport Town Manager Leo LaChance and members of the press.

B. Arseneau opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m., upon request from FY 2005 Chairman Samuel Butler and Commissioner John M. Hyk. The first order of business was to elect a Chairman for FY 2006. S. Butler announced that, since this was most likely his last year serving on the Budget Committee, he would like to step aside from being Chairman again for another year. He, therefore, made the following nomination:

****S. Butler moved, J. Bennett seconded nominating Bill Sneed as FY 2006 Waldo County Budget Committee Chairman. Passed with one abstention (B. Sneed.)**

The second order of business was to fill the vacancies left after the recent resignations of both Wilson Hess of Freedom and Thomas Pilsbury of Palermo.

Timothy Biggs of Freedom volunteered to serve as the replacement for the Town of Freedom.

****B. Sneed moved, R. McDonald seconded nominating Timothy Biggs of Freedom to fill the vacancy left by Wilson Hess, also of Freedom. Unanimous.**

The Budget Committee thanked Mr. Biggs for volunteering and invited him to sit with the Committee.

B. Sneed referred to the September 13, 2005 County Commissioners Court Session Minutes and inquired about the discussion regarding the Commissioners seeking a legal opinion regarding the Budget Committee's and Commissioners respective authorities involving the setting of personnel wages and salaries. G. Boetsch explained that, in view of past years' confusion regarding this matter, he felt that a legal opinion was a wise idea. J. Hyk confirmed this, adding that he, personally had not been in favor of obtaining this opinion, but that Commissioners Boetsch and Fowler had voted to do so. R. McDonald asked how much that cost the County. B. Arseneau did not know because an invoice had not been sent yet and she declined to hazard a guess. The Committee asked if the opinion had been received and B. Arseneau informed them that it had arrived that very afternoon. The Commissioners had not even had the opportunity to read it yet. The Committee asked for the document to be read. B. Arseneau located it and handed it to Commissioner Hyk, who read the entire two-page document received from Attorney Linda McGill of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A. of

Portland Maine to the Budget Committee. After it was read aloud, S. Butler commented that it was “no different than how municipal rules.” When the Committee inquired about the meaning of the Commissioners “setting certain salaries,” S. Story briefly related the history of Waldo County’s budget process and how it had changed from being decided by the Legislature to being reviewed and voted on by a Waldo County Budget Committee. He expressed that since that time, more positions had been added to most county governments and that it was inferred that the Commissioners would set the salaries for these positions along with the others specifically referred to in the statutes. B. Arseneau confirmed this and said she had asked this of the attorney in anticipation of this very question arising. The statutes regarding the authority of the Budget Committee would not usurp those statutes pertaining to the duties of the Commissioners, including the setting of salaries for the positions detailed in the statutes. There was a period of somewhat heated discussion regarding whether or not the Budget Committee should hire its own attorney to obtain an opinion on this matter. B. Sneed acknowledged that the Budget Committee could hire its own lawyer to look into this, too, but that he personally was not inclined to do so.

J. Hyk prefaced the review of the 2006 budget by informing the Committee that the Commissioners usually present a concise budget to the Budget Committee but this year they could not. He drew attention to the two most controversial budgets - Records Preservation and Technology, and stated that the Commissioners needed the Budget Committee to address these issues. He explained that the Commissioners felt the need to present two versions of this budget, one continuing to use the current temporary Law Library space, and one with an alternate space considered.

In reference to the attorney’s document, B. Payne asked what “a balanced budget” was. J. Hyk and B. Sneed gave their opinions, which included enough money to cover proposed expenditures, that each year the County be audited, and found to be correct, etc.

JAIL (1050) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for this discussion were Sheriff Scott Story, Chief Deputy Robert Keating and Jail Administrator Robert Tiner.

S. Butler asked why the budget looked different than last year and S. Story explained that it was the decision of the County Commissioners to form a facilities maintenance budget that encompassed all the building maintenance appropriations and expenditures that were previously handled by the individual departments. He also explained that, at the Budget Committee’s request at the end of the budget review last year, he was showing the clothing allowances and his vehicle lease differently this year.

R. McDonald asked if the expenditure on Volunteers of America (V.O.A.) was worthwhile. S. Story replied that there were “tangible savings” as a result and declared that this was “the best investment this County has ever made.” R. Tiner added that the V.O.A. has saved nearly \$250,000.00.

B. Sneed inquired about video monitoring and why this was put in the Technology Budget. S. Story explained that this has become computerized and requires the assistance of the

Technology people. He extolled this equipment and informed the Committee that thanks to the Budget Committee and Commissioners for putting cameras in the vehicles, the amount of lawsuits have been reduced to “nearly nothing.” Right now there are very few parts of the jail that are monitored and there should be both audio and video surveillance.

S. Story listed the items that had been removed from the Jail budget and placed in the Facilities Management budget. He commented that, if those items had remained, the Jail budget still would have only increased about 1.4%. He described the Jail budget he was presenting as an “anorexic budget,” but felt the Jail could “get by” on it.

R. Desmarais said he had read in the September 13, 2005 County Commissioners Court Session minutes that there was a comment made by John Hyk that since the State closed the mental institutions, many mentally ill are winding up in the County Jails. He wondered if anyone was protesting this. J. Hyk replied that he commented every chance he got, and that the Maine County Commissioners Association was equally vocal on this issue. S. Story added that the Corrections Alternative Advisory Committee (C.A.A.C.) is addressing the issues of reimbursement from the State. Currently, it is “frozen at the 1997-1998 level” instead of keeping up with current expenditures. Adding insult to injury was the fact that the Jail population has almost doubled since 1985. He invited those present to monitor the C.A.A.C. on the Internet.

The Budget Committee did not alter any lines on the Jail Budget.

SHERIFF (1075) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for this discussion was Sheriff Scott Story, Chief Deputy Robert Keating and Jail Administrator Robert Tiner. S. Story claimed that the largest portion of the increase in this budget was fuel costs for the cruisers. B. Sneed inquired about how the fuel for the vehicles was calculated. S. Story stated that he submitted the budget based on what the price for gasoline was the day he submitted the budget request, which was \$3.50 per gallon. Without the fuel, the budget would have only increased 3%.

S. Story explained that he was not asking for any new personnel, and was asking for three new vehicles, just as in previous years.

R. McDonald asked if the Sheriff had considered using a vehicle that was less expensive than a Crown Victoria. S. Story responded that smaller vehicles have been tried but don’t last as well. He described how the vehicles have to be able to withstand a lot of “idling time” at accident scenes and require a heavy-duty alternator. He further noted that these vehicles carry a lot of equipment, particularly in the trunk area. Other types of vehicles had been researched were found to be more expensive in the end. Others simply didn’t hold up well due to weaker design. S. Story reminded the Committee that part of the cost of the vehicles includes the lettering.

****R. McDonald moved, J. Bennett seconded for discussion, reducing the request from three vehicles to two.** Discussion: S. Story maintained that this approach of less than three new cruisers per year had been done before and did not work. It resulted in high mileage and

made the cruisers a more dangerous piece of equipment for the Deputies to use. He contended that three new cruisers per year worked out very well and made it so that vehicles could be turned out at between 100,000 and 135,000 miles on the odometers. R. Keating explained that one cruiser already has 126,000 miles on it and two are at over 80,000 miles. By the time the new vehicles are ordered and lettered, they aren't available until April or May and by then, those cruisers with 80,000-plus miles will have wracked up well over 100,000 miles on them. Right now the department has three (3) spare cruisers. R. Keating reiterated that safety is the prime concern and vehicles approaching 200,000 miles were not considered safe.

S. Butler quipped, "Back in 1992, John Ford was Sheriff. They only got one new car a year. There were more cruisers in the junkyard than on the road! Eventually, they went to two new ones a year, then two and one-half vehicles [with money set aside for half one year and the actual purchase the following year meaning two vehicles were purchased one year and three the following], and now they've been getting three."

R. Desmarais inquired about the request for an S.U.V. being cut prior to the Budget Committee receiving copies of the budget. S. Story explained that he had thought it might be useful to have one of the patrol vehicles be an S.U.V. for those times when they are "snowbound" and a particularly hard-to-reach call for service has occurred. The Commissioners had decided it was an expense they did not want for 2006, so they had asked S. Story to stay with three cruisers, rather than two cruisers and an S.U.V. R. Desmarais commented that it was his opinion that an S.U.V. would be a good idea for "those bad nights." There was some discussion of which items on vehicles are transferred from one vehicle to another when cruisers are "turned over." S. Story informed the group that he has been gradually replacing the older Motorola radios as well. R. Desmarais asked if there were repeaters in the cars. S. Story replied that there were. B. Sneed asked if the detectives also drive a heavy-duty Crown Victoria. S. Story responded that they do, but without lettering, lights, push-bumper, cage, etc.

When asked, S. Story said he based his fuel budget on 2004 consumption, which was 27,000 gallons.

J. Bennett observed, "I don't mean to sound petty, but it seems like there are so many officers that show up to these calls." He wondered why. S. Story explained that once an arrest is made, the real work begins. Other officers are needed to secure the scene, interview witnesses, etc. J. Bennett then asked why the Sheriff was requesting three new radios. S. Story explained that it was actually only one radio.

B. Payne inquired about how the gasoline is purchased. S. Story replied that it was purchased at local pumps in the County. He mentioned that the County received discounts from Exxon and Mobil. When asked why the Sheriff's Department didn't have its own gas tank, J. Hyk piped up, "Because the last one cost us over \$70,000 to remove."

S. Story read a very detailed list of items that are transferred from one vehicle to another in terms of radios, and costs. The Budget Committee jokingly stopped him partway through the list and told him they'd heard enough. **Motion failed six (6) opposed to one (1) in favor.**

B. Payne asked the County Commissioners if they had set a limit or cap to the budget increase prior to the Departments submitting their individual budget requests. J. Hyk explained that the Commissioners had not set a cap, but work carefully with the each Department Head. He made known that the Commissioners have tried not to incur new expenses other than dealing with what is expected in relation to growth, calls for service, inmate population, etc. The Commissioners had instructed the Department Heads to request what was actually needed to properly run their departments. He added, "L.D. #1 allegedly applies to County Government and the only way around it is for the Commissioners and Budget Committee to vote to exceed whatever the County's cap is."

B. Payne lamented that it seemed the cap was disregarded and wondered what the point of having a cap was.

D. Parkman informed the Committee that the County did not yet know what its cap would be because a number of the towns had not responded with their property growth factor yet. He added that he believed that the State mandated the CAD system. (S. Story later clarified that the State does not mandate this.) B. Payne felt that it was discouraging that there wasn't a set limit, but the budget process is "driven by 'nickel and diming.'"

V. Conover asked S. Story to restate how much per gallon he had budgeted gasoline at. S. Story stated that it was at \$3.50 per gallon. He added that he had "mandated that his officers not come back into the office" the way they had been before prices went so high, in an effort to expend less fuel.

R. Keating read a list of 2005 year-to-date statistics. So far this year, he cited, the County Sheriff's Office has responded to 8,244 calls for service, made 1,991 traffic stops and made 287 arrests.

S. Story stated that he had changed his maintenance line to reflect where they were year-to-date with the vehicles.

R. Desmarais asked if it were possible to cut the fuel request by 50 cents per gallon.
****R. Desmarais moved, R. McDonald seconded reducing the request to \$120,000.00. R. Desmarais amended his motion to be based upon \$3.00 per gallon, which would reduce line 1075-4200 from \$134,500.00 to \$121,000.00. R. McDonald seconded. Unanimous.**

R. Desmarais asked if uniforms were put out to bid. S. Story said they were not, but he "shopped around carefully." Part of the issue, he explained, is trying to find a vendor that carries brown uniforms, which is the traditional color the Waldo County Sheriff's Office has decided to stay with.

R. Desmarais referred to the September 13, 2005 County Commissioners Court Session Minutes and noted that S. Story had suggested looking at modular units for the Sheriff's Office. He agreed with this notion. S. Story predicted that he might be back before the Budget Committee next year on that subject. R. Desmarais suggested that S. Story look into some of the second-hand units that can be purchased. J. Bennett renounced those types of units as "not

worth looking at. They don't match, you can't heat them, plumb them and no two halves match."

The new bottom line for the 1075 budget was \$156,600.00 for Contractual and a grand total of \$982,059.00.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (1076) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for this discussion was Communications Director Owen Smith.

S. Butler asked why the shift supervisors would be receiving such a big raise. O. Smith explained that one shift supervisor would be reaching a five-year pay step and the other reason was that an independent study performed by the shift supervisors revealed that they were way underpaid compared with other counties. He referenced Winters Associates study as "painting an even more dismal picture." He explained that the Commissioners had agreed to support the 3% increase, plus an additional 7% to bring the pay for this position into parity with other counties. "We're way behind now," he explained.

R. Desmarais had questions regarding the night shifts. He asked O. Smith if he, as the Director, ever worked "on the board," as a dispatcher would. O. Smith replied that it was seldom. R. Desmarais felt that four dispatchers on the day shift "were too many." O. Smith explained that during the day, the Center received many "business" calls that get transferred to Belfast, etc. He described the Administrative duties he needs to perform each day, along with numerous other miscellaneous things including "running to the store to buy supplies and soap." "I have no full-time secretary," he explained. "I have eight hours worth of work that I would not be able to perform if I was 'sitting on the board.' It's a busy place and I cannot reduce the number of people on the shifts." He explained that as it stands, there are times when a shift is barely covered.

R. Desmarais pointedly argued that O. Smith should work on the board and then get paid overtime to do his administrative duties, or block out a few hours a week to do the administrative work. He asked if it was "time to review the services being provided."

O. Smith replied that maybe it was time to review the non-emergency calls that the Center was expected to handle. He reminded R. Desmarais that, however, there was a long-standing signed agreement with the City of Belfast that the County would "assume all their dispatching responsibilities." "It's not my place – I work for the Board of Directors," he clarified.

R. Desmarais asked what the City of Belfast gave in exchange for these services. O. Smith recounted that Belfast had provided approximately \$38,000.00 to "soften the blow for absorbing their dispatchers." He added, "911 drove a lot of this. Neither Belfast nor the County could take on 911 without adding people and space. It was not economical to keep both. It made sense to consolidate."

B. Sneed asked if the Town of Prospect decided to start its own police department whether the County Dispatch would answer calls for them. O. Smith replied that he would have to say yes. S. Story confirmed this and informed the Committee that Waldo County Regional Dispatch

already answers calls or Searsport, Stockton Springs, Lincolnville, Belfast and Bayside in the summer.

R. Desmarais asked if the Commissioners would be willing to discuss reducing manpower in the Communications Center. J. Hyk responded that the Commissioners would be willing to discuss it, but it was not their place to be involved with the function of the Center, only the funding of it.

O. Smith further explained that Emergency Medical Dispatching is now expected. When one dispatcher is involved in that kind of a call, he/she can easily be tied up for fifteen or twenty minutes or longer. If manpower were reduced, the Center would have to go with an automated system. O. Smith stated that the Maine State Police is understaffed and therefore, has had to go with an automated system. "You can go to the Board [to request a reduction in manpower], but I'll argue against it."

O. Smith went on to further describe his duties as the Director. "I train the part-time people we hire, and oversee all twenty or so people we have working at the Center. I pull out tapes for court dates. The demands of this type of work we do in the Center most of you could not do," he contended.

R. Desmarais asked if the over-time budget could be reduced. O. Smith cautioned the Committee against this. "For the last two years, we have not had a full staff." He listed the number of people who had been out on military leave, family medical leave, other extended leave of absence and mentioned that one dispatcher had passed away. He reminded the Committee that if those people had sick or vacation leave to cover their absences, they had to be paid even though they weren't there working and someone else had to be paid to cover their shift. Reducing the over-time funding would not leave enough funding to cover these expenditures. Treasurer D. Parkman confirmed this, stating that the over-time budget for the current year was already over-expended by \$4,000.00.

B. Sneed took exception to O. Smith's comment that most of them could not perform that job. "Many people have stressful jobs. I know an emergency room nurse who has a very stressful job, but these people are not getting 15% increases. I have a stressful job, too," he retorted. In frustration, he fumed, "This process is becoming more and more of a sham. We can't even touch the personnel lines."

O. Smith reminded the Committee that part of the employees belong to a Bargaining Unit. "The union governs pay. These employees want people to speak for them." He added that the reason for the Union was that it "came on as a spill-over from Belfast."

R. Desmarais suggested closing the gap between the top two positions in the Center.

J. Bennett claimed that an attorney had told him that the Budget Committee could cut the bottom line for wages and the Commissioners would just have to figure out how they were going to live within the budget. A. Fowler asked who the attorney was, and J. Bennett had a

copy of that opinion. J. Bennett replied that he had nothing in writing at that time, but could get it if need be.

****J. Bennett moved, B. Sneed seconded to authorize a 3% increase for all the wages based on 2004's figure of \$513,666.37 in the 1076 Communications Center Budget.**

Discussion: S. Story cautioned that this would not work because step increases needed to be considered. S. Butler reminded the Committee that they could only alter the bottom line of each budget, not the personnel lines themselves. V. Conover pointed out that there was a mathematical error in the 2004 personnel figures. O. Smith reviewed the figures and discovered that one dispatcher's pay had been inadvertently left out. The correct total for 2004 should have been \$549,941.57. V. Conover pointed out that this was not a 15% increase after all and that the difference between that and the 3% increase was so small it wasn't worth debating. **J. Bennett withdrew his motion and B. Sneed withdrew his second.**

B. Payne asked why the Town of Lincolnville was paying both Knox and Waldo County to dispatch for them. O. Smith explained that Waldo County still handles all the calls and sends them to Knox County to dispatch. Lincolnville was paying partial service from Knox County for dispatching Fire calls. B. Payne said he had been hearing for the past couple of years that Waldo County was trying to finish building out its system and wondered why it was taking so long to complete it. O. Smith thought that it would be completed by the end of 2005 or beginning of 2006. \$40,000.00 is available via a Homeland Security Grant.

B. Sneed inquired about the travel line (4100). O. Smith expounded on the training that his staff must take and the mileage that must be reimbursed, that this also covered expenditures to attend the N.E.N.A. (National Emergency Numbering Association) Conference as well as attending other association meetings that he serves on including the Maine Association of Counties, the Association of Communications Directors, etc. He commented that, as a rule, he does not travel overnight with the exception of attending the Maine County Commissioners Association Convention each fall, and the other attendees generally stay overnight, as well. He revealed that he "doesn't do half the training that other agencies do" because of lack of manpower. O. Smith also mentioned that there would be some training necessary for the proposed new C.A.D. system. B. Sneed thought that the vendor would provide that onsite. Technology Consultant J. Arseneau disclosed that it depended upon which vendor the County chose to go with. Of the two finalists, one trains onsite and the other expects the staff to go to their facility for training instead.

R. McDonald inquired about the Supplies/Maintenance line (5325.) O. Smith related that most of it had been moved to the Facilities Management budget, but this was for "little projects" such as salt, fertilizing, light bulbs and the like. These items had not been sent over to the Facilities Management budget.

****R. McDonald moved, B. Sneed seconded reducing 1076-5325 to \$2,500.00.** Discussion: B. Payne asked how this reduction would impact the Communications Center. O. Smith said that he would have to report back at the end of next year which items had not been able to be accomplished. O. Smith listed the items that he felt had not been done properly while the Communications Center was being built. There was no Clerk of the Works other than the

architect, Robert Fenney, who had designed the Center. O. Smith explained that the architect did not feel gutters were needed, nor a retaining wall out near the back exit. Eventually these things had to be addressed, and other items as well. O. Smith stated, "We went toe-to-toe daily." **The vote passed 7 to 1; V. Conover opposed.**

TECHNOLOGY (1020-7000) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for this discussion was Technology Consultant James Arseneau of J&B Diversified Associates, Inc. along with Dave Barter of CBE Valcom.

B. Arseneau handed out revised Technology budgets to the Budget Committee, Commissioners, Treasurer, etc. J. Arseneau explained that during the day, he had been able to speak further with the two companies that have been gathering pricing information on C.A.D. (Computer Assisted Dispatch) systems. As a result of these recent conversations, he learned that the cost of leasing could be reduced from \$116,000.00 annually to \$95,000.00. G. Boetsch expressed his consternation with receiving this revision only now. J. Arseneau apologized for the lateness, but reiterated that he had only learned of it himself that afternoon. G. Boetsch further commented that he had been "anguished over the C.A.D. system issue" and asked for a few minutes to speak later on in the evening."

The Budget Committee reviewed both the Technology budget summary page and also the projects descriptions that had been supplied. J. Arseneau was asked to speak about the C.A.D. system first. He started by explaining why there was a need to look at replacing the current C.A.D. system. The company that provided the software is C.S.H. and this came to the County when it absorbed the City of Belfast's dispatching. J. Arseneau related that "issues with this system don't get resolved easily and at the present time, there are only three or four other customers in the State who use C.S.H. There is concern over support. Any issues with this system would greatly affect the City of Belfast, the Waldo County Sheriff's Office, and Waldo County Dispatch. Communications Director Owen Smith, Sheriff Scott Story, Belfast Police Chief Jeffrey Trafton and J. Arseneau had visited other sites to see what is being used. Three companies that are most commonly used for C.A.D. systems are IMC, Spillman and Keystone. IMC is based in Massachusetts and is a "newcomer," and does not have the customer base or years of experience that Spillman has. Spillman is based in Utah. IMC provides training for a group, but the group would have to travel to Massachusetts to be trained. Furthermore, the training would only be offered to some employees, who would then have to turn around and train the remaining employees themselves. This was not an idea way to train. Spillman offers more hours of training and provides in on site to all the employees using the system. The lease for Spillman is the more expensive one. Using Spillman, however, would allow Lincolnville, Searsport and Belfast to tie in with the County and would reduce their trips to Belfast. It would also allow, eventually, for Waldo County to tie in with surrounding counties who also use Spillman, including but not limited to Penobscot and Knox Counties. Looking at this in a long-term sense, it could assist with regionalization efforts between the counties and would allow for some collaborative efforts. J. Arseneau said that the research has revealed that Spillman provides a long-term "path", which was a ten to twenty year commitment, to provide "top-class services" to County citizens and other agencies that may choose to tie in. The lease amount includes maintenance and upgrades that make the software better. J. Arseneau noted that Penobscot County had not been keeping up with the recommended upgrades and had hired

a consultant to research and recommend a different C.A.D. system for them. The consultant concluded that Spillman was the best system and the only reason they were having difficulties was because they had not kept up with the upgrades.

S. Butler asked what would happen in seven years. J. Arseneau replied that the County might add a module, such as C.A.D. mapping. He added that the \$405,000.00 price tag includes maintenance for the first and second year.

V. Conover inquired about the hardware. J. Arseneau explained that it was Unix-based platform. The W.A.N. (Wide Area Network) would benefit other departments within the County, as well.

V. Conover asked about G.P.S. and tracking. J. Arseneau explained that this would be about \$35,000.00 to \$45,000.00 per component and about \$4,000.00 per patrol vehicle. He commented that one county, Kennebec, uses this and has found it very helpful. V. Conover asked for more detail about transferring the data from the current C.A.D. system to a new one. J. Arseneau responded that it would take a minimum of six months to cutover and that this would be done in phases. C.S.H. is proprietary and J. Arseneau did not know how much data could be transferred. He had been told that this could best be accomplished by having a dispatcher enter it in the evenings when calls were slower.

O. Smith spoke up and stated that when the County went with C.S.H., they had the data transferred and commented that it “wasn’t worth much.” He said that it would need to be determined as to which data was necessary and in what format. It had been thought that it might be best to leave the C.S.H. icon on the computer desktop.

J. Arseneau explained how the system would be integrated with the current one so that information could be transferred. After a determination was made regarding which information needed to be transferred and which did not, once the information was transferred, the current C.S.H. system would be phased out. J. Arseneau said that there was a cost on both sides for the transfer at approximately \$5,000.00 for both sides. He explained that he had also budgeted for C.S.H. for the next year.

B. Sneed asked, “You mean we would still have to pay for this dinosaur for about how long?” J. Arseneau replied that if a diligent effort was made to transfer the data, it could be done in approximately 1.5 years.

V. Conover stated that the County would need to be compatible for other mapping and asked if this was based on “arcview.” J. Arseneau said that the way this works is if a person’s name were entered into the computer, it would flag and alert if the person had a “history.” Currently they query this via the State.

S. Story verified that nothing comes up now on the computer that tells if the person was in the Jail last year, etc. J. Arseneau added, “Or was a suicide risk.” He further commented that Technology-wise, the County had not been looking at where it needed to be until the past few years. This meant that the steps to get where it needs to be are larger.

S. Story offered his viewpoint that from a law enforcement standpoint, the less expensive IMC would serve fine, but he acknowledged that he was not a dispatcher and he had heard that Spillman works best for Dispatch.

V. Conover asked if IMC was “arcview.” J. Arseneau turned to Dave Barter, who stated that it was not. It is proprietary.

B. Sneed asked if the W.A.N. was an integral part of the C.A.D. system. J. Arseneau confirmed that is a component. Right now, three servers are needed to run virus protection and C.S.H. had to be called in order to enter a new employee, remove an old one, etc.

J. Hyk commented, “As bad as it seems, it is actually good. Five years ago, nobody was planning for Technology and everyone was suffering with whatever they got. At least we didn’t waste money on the wrong stuff. The stuff we have now is working. It’s just that the equipment that came up with Belfast is not working well now.

J. Arseneau explained that there is a real concern that if there is a change in the companies’ (C.S.H.) status, everyone needs to remember that it will take six months at the very least to set up a new system. It simply cannot be done in any less time. J. Hyk also noted that the County is only allowed to expend \$100,000.00 in Contingency money per year if something goes wrong, as well.

R. Desmarais said he had heard that the State is reducing the number of PSAP’s (Public Safety Answering Points) throughout the state and asked if Waldo County was “solid.” S. Story replied that Waldo County Regional Communications is the only one in the County of Waldo and is not slated for reduction.

O. Smith explained that the C.A.D. system has nothing to do with 911. “We’ll still need it even if we were no longer a PSAP.”

B. Sneed asked for clarification of the \$405,000.00. J. Arseneau explained that this would cover the more expensive system (Spillman) and two years of maintenance and upgrades.

G. Boetsch asked if he could propose a funding mechanism that he had thought of. B. Sneed allowed G. Boetsch the floor.

G. Boetsch proposed, rather than funding from the Technology Budget solely, using \$90,000.00 collected from the following: \$40,000.00 from the Communications Center build-out funds, \$25,000.00 from the Jail Study money allocated in the County Planning Reserve (0268) and \$25,000.00 from the Future Facilities, Land and Buildings Reserve (0210.)

O. Smith cautioned G. Boetsch that when G. Boetsch had asked him about using that money, O. Smith had told him he would have to run that by the Board of Directors before he would know if that could be used for the C.A.D. system instead. He was concerned because this would affect the build-out for Fire South.

B. Sneed commented that if the Budget Committee didn't authorize the funding, nothing would be done with it regardless of the Board's decision.

J. Arseneau stated that there was a 29.8% difference between the 7-year lease for Spillman and the lease for IMC. He reiterated that IMC only trains some of the employees for 26 days, at their own site, whereas Spillman trains all employees on the County's site for 45 days. R. McDonald asked if it would really take 45 days to learn the system. J. Arseneau explained that there were different modules in the system so it would take that many days to run dispatchers, law enforcement, etc. employees through their particular module.

S. Story addressed a comment made earlier in the evening by Treasurer David Parkman that the requirement for a C.A.D. system was "mandated by the State." S. Story clarified that this was not mandated by the State. He did acknowledge that the Board of Directors recognize the need for a new C.A.D. system and expressed his confidence in the Budget Committee for making the right decision regarding a new system.

The next meeting will be November 10, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Probate Courtroom.

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Unanimous.**

(After the meeting adjourned, B. Arseneau asked B. Sneed which departments should be scheduled for the next meeting. He told her to see if she could have Probate, Deeds and the Emergency Management Agency Departments come in.)

Respectfully submitted by Barbara L. Arseneau
Waldo County Clerk