

WALDO COUNTY FY 2008 BUDGET COMMITTEE
3rd MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2007

PRESENT: Budget Committee Members Bill Sneed, James Bennett, Richard McLaughlin, Tim Biggs, Roger Lee, N. Nelson, Harry Dean Potter and Richard Desmarais; County Commissioners John Hyk and Amy Fowler; Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau. Also present were members of the press and various employees.

B. Sneed opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Budget Committee introduced themselves to new comer Nakomis Nelson.

B. Sneed: Has anyone read the minutes from the last meeting?

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to accept the October 11, 2007 Budget Committee meeting minutes as read. Unanimous.**

B. Sneed: Thank you, Karen, for the LD 1 stuff. Two letters, Jim got one and I got one. I will read them both. Addressed to the Waldo County Commissioners from the Town of Unity:

“As elected representatives of the Town of Unity, it is our responsibility to be frugal stewards of our citizen’s tax dollars. Our role is to administer the expenditure of those tax dollars in a fiscally responsible manner.

It is our understanding that the 2008 Waldo County budget is expected to increase an exorbitant and unrealistic 25%. For us to accept this increase without protest would not be representative of our responsibilities. This letter is to register our protest.

The annual County assessment is approximately 10% of the total Unity must raise each year. An increase of 25% would shift the County portion towards 15%. Unity taxpayers cannot be expected to be asked to provide for increases of this magnitude.

With all due respect, the County Commissioners and the Budget Committee must reject this budget and return to a more reasonable budget to the citizens.

Respectfully,

Ronald Rudolph, First Selectman

Margret Wilcox, Second Selectman

James P. Kenney, Third Selectman”

B. Sneed: Here is a copy for Veronica. I got one in the mail today from Stockton Springs and here is a copy for Veronica. This letter is addressed to me.

“Dear Mr. Sneed,

We, the Selectmen of Stockton Springs, have been informed that the Budget Committee of Waldo County is working on the 2008 County Budget and that at this time it looks as if the overall increase is going to be approximately **25%!** As representatives of the taxpayers of Stockton Springs, we wish to express our dismay at this news. Over the past few years, our portion of the County tax has risen steadily. Last year we saw a 16% increase in our town’s share of the County budget, even though the County Commissioners had assured the public they had done everything they could to “hold the line” on expenses.

This year, we are faced with a school consolidation measure that will undoubtedly increase Stockton’s portion of the school tax paid. Regardless of the wishes of both SAD 34 and SAD 56 to hold the line on the school budget for 2008 (whether consolidation begins then or 2009) we can almost be assured our portion will not decrease. The Legislature has just decreased the state’s share for portions of any school budgets going forward after June, 2008, and we know, we the tax payers, will be asked to increase our share.

As a member of the Budget Committee of Waldo County, we ask you to encourage your fellow committee members, the departments of the County, and the County Commissioners to take a good, hard look at what actually needs to be spent – not what would be good to spend – and try to keep any increase at a modest level. The towns in Waldo County are facing some difficult times, tax wise, particularly those of us along the coast with increasing valuations and rising property rates. Any efforts you and the Commissioners can make at this time to recognize how burdensome extra taxes are to the local towns will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Sara H. Bradford,
First Selectperson

Peter Curley,
Second Selectperson

Tom Fraser,
Third Selectperson”

B. Sneed: Stockton Springs received, after a series of exchanges with the Treasurer, the Management Letter. [To D. Parkman] You didn’t make any friends.

D. Parkman: It is not my job.

B. Sneed: Reading Title 30-A, §952-A – “Audit report will contain the following: a management letter, a letter of transmittal, the independent audit report of the financial statement and all financial statements and all other information required by governmental accounting and financial reporting standards. Copies of the report and not portions thereof, of the report must be distributed to each municipality in the County.” The audit

including the management letter is a public document. You may not like it but that is the way it is.

J. Hyk: Who are you addressing?

B. Sneed: The Treasurer. He is the one that sent the letter.

D. Parkman: He got it, didn't he?

B. Sneed: Yes. Do you want me to read the letter that you sent him?

D. Parkman: I don't care.

B. Sneed: We've got to get moving on. Mr. Perry, Time and Tide.

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION (1080 – 4718) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Carl Perry from Time & Tide.

C. Perry: For those of you, who don't know me, my name is Carl Perry and I represent Time and Tide. I came here with a big sales pitch to try and sell you on adopting and funding our program. I read the information online on articles on the County budget. The only thing that I can say is that Time and Tide is willing to support Waldo County regardless if we are funded or not. I have some information here and you can pass it around. We are a program that if we receive funding or not, we pump money back into the economy. I realize that we are facing a difficult budget year. If there is anything that you could contribute, the council would be very appreciative and we would try to bring in projects and grant money to help out. On a more positive note, in 2007 we were notified that for the year 2006 we were the #1 RC&D for New England and we also received the National award. We competed against 370 other RC&D councils nationwide. We have a lot of good people doing a lot of good things and if there is anything that we can do to help out Waldo County. We encourage any of you to attend our meetings if you have ideas or projects. I know that Corrections is a big issue and we are willing to work with ideas and trying to find some solutions to help reduce the cost in some way.

R. Lee: What do you do?

C. Perry: We are a non-profit organization and it consists of all volunteers and what they do is individuals approach them with a project, whether it is for conservation or agricultural related, it is usually a small project that people cannot get help funding and they look for other avenues. So our council members sponsor projects and it gets voted on at council meetings. Then, if the projects are approved, then we try to help out the individuals by grant writing, benefits guidance, and in some cases if we have money available and the request is not too great, we will fund the project financially. The report that you have there is a sample of some of the projects that we have done in the past year.

B. Sneed: For historical perspective, these folks haven't been funded since 2001; I don't have budgets that go back to 2002 with me. They have asked within a hundred bucks basically for the same amount since 2002 and the Budget Committee for one reason or another has turned them down.

C. Perry: It is a hard thing to allocate money to an organization, especially when dollars are so tight. Especially when you receive letters such as what the gentleman on the end read tonight from various towns. The one thing that I can add is that the money that we do receive is pumped back into the communities. It is through projects, assistance departments, agricultural projects that are going on to the brief workshops that are set up for farmers and other individuals. It helps individuals do the state planning. We have received a few grant dollars from the Farm Services Agency and we take that little bit of money and we set up workshops throughout the different communities and people are welcome to attend and it doesn't cost them anything. They can get pre-assistance and a lot of expertise and networking goes on, so the individual can be better at what they do so they can be profitable and they can maintain the businesses and the farms.

R. Lee: It appears to me, I may be wrong, that there really isn't a budget for your organization. You are just showing me where the funds from the counties would go.

C. Perry: Yes.

R. Lee: So I see U.S. Department of Agriculture here. What I would really like to understand is, and maybe you could discuss it with me separately, is do you get lots of money coming from the federal government?

C. Perry: The U.S. Department of Agriculture supplies the facility which the council operates out of. We have an office area that is paid for by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The council has a desk in that office that is being charged to them. The expenses that you see on the budget sheet are all the expenses that are not covered by the US Department of Agriculture.

R. Lee: Is this your entire budget?

C. Perry: The council budget is on the spreadsheet. It is \$22,000.00. They can do everything they want to in a year with minimum costs, which is what it amounts to.

R. McLaughlin: I would like to thank Time and Tide for the work that is done by the group but due to the constraints of the budget this year I would like to move to "zero" fund Time and Tide.

****R. McLaughlin, J. Bennett seconded to have zero funding in Time and Tide (1080-4718) Budget.**

Discussion:

T. Biggs: I would like to say that it is a small amount of money compared to what we are dealing with this year. It looks like they do a lot of good things around, so I would support it.

J. Bennett: I would like to know if you go to other towns for money.

C. Perry: We only go to the counties.

B. Sneed: Any more discussion?

N. Nelson: Just briefly, my question, in Waldo County you contribute roughly \$3,600.00; how soon in number of years do you think we have benefited from that? Is it going to projects that will save tax payers in Waldo County? Or is this something that will benefit people down the road?

C. Perry: That would vary on the type of project that would come up. Last year we had a lady that was asking for grant assistance in helping to try and organize a local co-op on Route 3. The Co-op was a farm where she wanted to have a building where they could bring in their products and sell them. She asked for grant assistance and they spent quite a bit of time helping her to get organized and to understand the grant process. We ran out of time and the avenue that we were going down wasn't going to produce anything for her this past year but she has been working on things for 2008. It is hard to put a dollar value on things when the farmer is to sell products. There are tangible and intangible and it is really hard to put a dollar value on things.

N. Nelson: Thank you.

Motion passed with 5 in favor and 3 opposed. (B. Sneed, T. Biggs and R. Lee)

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION (1080 – 4716) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Chris Shrum from Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

C. Shrum: We, like Time and Tide, EMDC, regardless of the funding situation, we are dedicated to provide services throughout Waldo County. It is our 40th year and the counties have banded together. Six counties remain to establish EMDC. It is a long history of working with the counties. Last year the charge was given to EMDC to work with the County to help secure funding that will offset the County budget. I have been working closely with the department heads and Barbara within the last several months to identify projects and to work on proposals. One proposal we have been working on is an ADA proposal and unfortunately I don't have control of the deadlines that we work with. Many of these grants have one deadline a year. In this case a number of the deadlines have been pushed to January and February. The one grant that I am hopeful is an ADA grant that would complete the accessibility issues that were identified in the proposal. That is a project that we are working on closely with the county, department heads particularly. In addition to that EMDC is working closely with business attractions

efforts with the former MBNA facility. We have become a local entity on the ground here working with the governor's office. We expect that several hundred jobs will be created out of that work that we are doing. Similarly we work with incentive programs for businesses. We have helped three major businesses with Penobscot Frozen Foods, Bank of America and to secure Pine Tree Zone status and to provide some tax incentives for those businesses to help sure up their business and to make them more competitive in the global market. In the last year in a half Knox County and Waldo County have made an investment in EMDC. We placed a gentleman here in Waldo County, Alan Hinsey. He has increased the economic development activities in Waldo County in the mid coast region. He is working closely with the Hutchinson Center; he is the key contact with the transfer of the former MBNA facility. There has been a lot more activity that EMDC has put into the economic development in Waldo County. This year we have made five loans, totaling \$525,000.00, which created five new jobs. Over the course of time EMDC has put in over \$4 million into Waldo County businesses. We obtained 736 jobs. Our role is to make investments in the businesses in the communities in the County. We are actively engaged in Waldo County. I am hoping that in February we have a great announcement when we secure the \$100,000.00 for the ADA grant. Do you have any questions or comments?

B. Sneed: For historical perspective, this is a request that has been periodically funded and then not funded. At one point, four or five years ago, the Budget Committee asked the Commissioners if they thought we should fund them and the response was basically no. So we didn't for a couple of years and then we did a couple years after that. It has been on again, off again. The dollar amount requested has gone down dramatically.

C. Shrum: We use to request based on a per capita formula. We realized that did not make much sense. The other five counties support the organization at various amounts. Hancock County supports us about \$8,000.00 whereas Penobscot County supports us, with all totals, about \$75,000.00.

B. Sneed: Do the Commissioners feel like they are getting their money worth? Amy? John?

A. Fowler: What did you just say? I am sorry.

B. Sneed: Do you feel like you are getting your money worth this year?

J. Hyk: I believe the Commissioners did not recommend this line last year that the Budget Committee decided to spend this money over the Commissioners' wishes. That is ok. That is part of the process. We feel that we had very good success and record to prove that we did when we had money to hire our own grant writer. We brought in a bunch of money. Let the record speak for itself. This year we had no grant writing money so we didn't write any grants and didn't get any money. Eastern ME Development Corporation had \$5,000.00 and they may bring in money next year, but they didn't bring any money in this year so far. In all fairness, it has to do with the dates and so forth. In the greater scheme of things in the reciprocal maintenance of the

universe, I don't know if any \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for grant writing is going to make the difference in the survival of the county one way or another. So myself, and speaking only for myself, I would acquiesce the wisdom of the Budget Committee in this matter.

R. Lee: This was funded last year.

B. Sneed: It wasn't funded for the two preceding years but it was funded the two years before that. Again, I don't have anything that goes back to 2001 with me.

R. Lee: I am a little bit familiar with what Knox/Waldo Regional Economic Development has done for at least Belfast and the Waldo County area. It seems positive to me. I think that Belfast does give money to Knox/Waldo (KWRED). I think it is a worthwhile expenditure. I think they do work directly toward improving the economy of the County.

****R. Desmarais moved, H. Potter seconded to fund Eastern Maine Development Corporation at \$5,000.00.**

Discussion:

R. Desmarais: I supported it last year; I think it is important that we have this organization in here. I would be interested to see when the deadline on the ADA comes in goes if we will get our \$5,000.00 back and then some. I think we will.

J. Bennett: How about \$10,000.00? We spent \$5,000.00 last year.

R. Desmarais: That is five last year and five this year. I think that we should support them again and we need them.

T. Biggs: What is the ADA money dedicated to? For building ramps?

C. Shrum: There is the Alpha 1, which is an organization that assists the disabled community. They did a report about two or three years ago that outlines a whole number of issues related to County owned facilities. Most of them are ramp type access issues. Keith Overlock may be able to get a better sense of the full scope. There are alarm systems, doors, etc.

K. Overlock: We are working with Architect Robert Fenney on this. We have gotten a price of the doors that automatically open from Viking, Inc. for \$35,000.00 for materials to do these projects. The main goal was to get the University of Maine handicap ramp done and into compliance, also to get automatic doors into others and the lower entry down here is extremely difficult for handicapped people to come into. Other than that, automatic doors over at Superior Court. The doors need to be replaced as they are very leaky, very energy inefficient and this grant would address some of those issues.

J. Bennett: Is this grant money coming through the State or somewhere else?

C. Shrum: The State gets about \$13 million in a block grant from the federal government and it is money that is available through a series of grant programs that are competed for communities across the state and then they are awarded.

R. Lee: It sounds like it is pretty good money.

J. Bennett: At the town office we just got nailed for not being ADA compliant. We had to do this and do that and they have already given the grant money out. That money has already been given out.

C. Shrum: It may be a different program. I don't know what grant program that is.

J. Bennett: It came through the State. That is all I can tell you.

C. Shrum: This grant program last year, the deadline was December and this year the deadline is in February, so I don't know what other grant program and this is the primary grant program for accessibility issues in the state.

R. McLaughlin: I think that all of these programs are great but I think that we have a charge this year to cut this budget. A lot of things we have to fund and we don't have any choice over. Some of the things that we do have a choice over, I think we need to get on board and get rid of them, this year especially. It is nothing against the programs but we've got to cut it. These towns are saying we have to cut the budget. We have to do it somewhere and I know this is a real small part of it.

R. Desmarais: When it comes to ADA things, they are going to bite us sooner or they are going to bite us later and they are going to bite us. I think that this is a test to see if we are going to get a return on our investment. I would look at it like that. If that grant comes through I think we are on the plus side of things.

J. Bennett: What happens if we sit here next year and we still haven't gotten anything and then we are \$10,000.00 in the hole? Do we go \$15,000.00?

R. Desmarais: I would wait for someone else besides me to make the motion.

Motion passed with 5 in favor and 3 opposed. (R. McLaughlin, J. Bennett and B. Sneed)

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION (1080 – 4715) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Edward Murphy from Waldo Community Action Partners.

E. Murphy: Good evening. We have some bus schedules for people to look at if they choose to do so. The Waldo County Transportation program evolved partially through this County government's help. We were actually housed in the County's facility until the late 1980's. When we moved from the County facility, it was because of a need for more space at the County level. We were actually in the District Courthouse building for

a number of years and we were in the basement of the Waldo County Jail. The \$3,500.00 that we request from the County we use as matching funds to pay the rent at the Waldo County Transportation office. When we first started asking for the \$3,500.00, that is what our rent was and now it is \$11,000.00 a year. We provide services to 1454 Waldo County residents. We also provided at least an additional service to over 500 people that we could not identify like that; the Unity Common Ground Fair, the Belfast shuttle that we use two to three times a week to do shopping, the festival they had and those types of things. The people we serve, a lot of them are small children with special needs. We don't get grant money. We work on a fee for service basis. This past year was the first year the County didn't fund us. I wasn't able to attend your meeting last year; I was in the hospital in Portland and that was unfortunate because we didn't get funded. The services that we provide are vital for the elderly people in this County and to the general public because it is a public service. We go to every town in Waldo County at least weekly. We bring people into Belfast; we go to Waterville, Augusta, Bangor and Rockland. We also probably make weekly trips to Boston and almost daily trips to Portland for medical appointments. We take people for cancer treatment, kidney dialysis, treatments that actually keep them alive. Why is it important for the County to fund it? Because everyone that we serve, especially the elderly people pay taxes in this County since they were here and some of them at 70 and 80 years. They are now at a time in their life when they can no longer take care of themselves. Some of them simply don't have any family to help. I would be very happy to answer any questions. Our team now is 54 people and 17 of them are paid employees, the others are volunteer drivers who only get reimbursed mileage and they donate their hours of services. So everyone in this room can use the Waldo County Transportation program. It is not a welfare program. It is a public service program that has in the past been in partner with the County and that is how it was developed is with County help from the very beginning. I would ask you to reinstate the \$3,500.00. I have kept that consistent for a number of years and instead of asking you for money we do an annual auction and we just raised \$14,889.00 and we are going to be having a Christmas raffle. My staff and volunteers take their personal time to do that and don't get paid to do those things but that is to keep the County and the town commitments down. We are funded in every town in Waldo County as of this last year. It is all used for matching funds. Another thing that I would like to say is there is no funding source for senior citizen transportation in this whole State other than if they are eligible for Maine Care. The rest of it we have to find and dig up through our fund raising and stuff to provide the services to seniors. I would welcome any questions.

T. Biggs: I live in Freedom. Is that a reservation only type thing? Do you pick up at the house?

E. Murphy: Yes, we need a 48 hour notice. Freedom is on the bus schedule several times, I think. As a matter of fact we stop in Freedom 5 days a week because we do a special run for the mentally challenged in Troy down through the loop into Belfast.

R. Desmarais: You take cancer patients to appointments; you would pick them up at their home and drive them up there and bring them back. Would there be a charge for that?

E. Murphy: Sometimes there is and sometimes we would have to recoup the volunteer driver's mileage. It depends on how I can get it financed. Sometime we can get the cancer place to contribute a little bit. If they do, they put in 10-15¢ a mile. We have about 43 agencies that we provide service for with verbal agreement on a fee for service basis. Like I said, this last year we made 69,154 one way trips traveling 1.992 million miles for Waldo County people.

R. Desmarais: Are you in touch at all with the Road to Recovery program, American Cancer Society? I used to be a driver for them, as a matter of fact.

E. Murphy: They do a similar service than what we do. They have not partnered up with us at all. They have a set of volunteers separate from us. So what we do probably is in addition for them so they don't have to do it.

R. Lee: What mileage do you pay your volunteers?

E. Murphy: 44¢.

R. Lee: Is it the Federal number basically?

E. Murphy: No, the Federal number now is 48.5¢. We are dictated by the State what we can pay and charge. They control our fee mechanism and we don't have any options with that.

R. Desmarais: Do you fall under Waldo CAP?

E. Murphy: Yes we do. We have since I have worked there since 1968.

R. Desmarais: So you go to all of the towns and receive funding from them?

E. Murphy: Yes we do. It is all used for matching funds. Our budget this year is \$1.8 million overall. With a budget like that, this past year we came out \$12,000.00 in the deficit, so now I have to do some serious fund-raising to come up with the difference.

R. Lee: Is that the Transportation budget or Waldo County?

E. Murphy: Transportation budget only. \$3,500.00 doesn't sound like much but when it makes a difference of \$8,000.00 of matching funds it is quite a bit especially if you come out in the hole at the end of the year.

R. Desmarais: Does every town in the County give something to Waldo CAP?

E. Murphy: All 26 towns last year gave last spring, town meeting time, money to Waldo CAP.

B. Sneed: Our town, I think the feeling is it is the best money we spend a year in terms of return on the dollar.

J. Bennett: I guess that I would say those senior citizens that he was talking about that need the ride and they probably do. They are having a hard time paying their taxes too and they come to the town to get money and this is double dipping and I think that it should be turned down. If they want to get it through the County, then they should leave the towns alone, but they don't. They hit every town meeting there is. I make a motion that we "zero" fund it.

B. Sneed: Motion made, is there a second? Motion dies for lack of a second. Is there anyone else going to make a motion on this?

R. Desmarais: I make a motion that we fund it for a \$1,000.00.

B. Sneed: Motion dies for a lack of a second.

N. Nelson: I don't see how it helps the town of Islesboro but I also see how it helps the County of Waldo.

****N. Nelson moved, R. Lee seconded to fund Waldo County Community Action Partners at \$3,500.00. Motion passed with 5 in favor and 3 opposed. (B. Sneed, J. Bennett and R. Desmarais)**

B. Sneed: If I did my arithmetic right we are funding department 1080 for \$8,500.00 even? Does that sound right?

R. Desmarais: Yes, that is correct.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (1030) BUDGET REVIEW:
Present for the discussion was Facilities Manager Keith Overlock.

B. Sneed: All right, Keith. What do you have to say or do you just want to take questions? How do you want to do it?

K. Overlock: Let's just take questions. I am sure that you have a bunch of them.

R. Lee: I am a little confused by the numbers on the first page. There is a number under Contractual Services that says \$252,087.15. I am sorry, those were expended in 2006. I answered my own question.

T. Biggs: Part time facilities line 3100, do you want to make that full time?

K. Overlock: No, actually we wanted to increase the person that I have working for me a little bit by another 8 hours but we have been under some pressure to help do some cleaning at the Sheriff and Jail offices. They have a situation there that they don't like to

have the inmates to go in and do the cleaning and the same with the dispatch room and the communications center. As these rooms are not very tidy and not very clean and so we were hoping to hire another part time cleaning person for 12 hours a week. It came up to actually fund a full time position but it is would not be a full time position.

B. Sneed: So the number of employees should be two and not one?

K. Overlock: You are right.

R. McLaughlin: I would like an explanation on the capital outlay on 7003 and 7004 on the Superior Courthouse and the Jail and if it needs to get done this year completely or if it could be broken down into a couple of years.

K. Overlock: The courthouse; there was three different items that we wanted to get money for.

B. Sneed: Can I stop you for a second?

K. Overlock: Sure.

B. Sneed: Dick, do you have this last page with the descriptions?

R. McLaughlin: Yes, I see it now.

J. Hyk: I do believe, and correct me if I am wrong, Keith, that the \$60,000.00 for the drain is out of the budget. Do you have that Dick?

R. McLaughlin: No, I don't.

J. Hyk: Take that out of there.

K. Overlock: On the boiler at Superior Court we have had problems with the delivery of heat over there and I have a heating person contracted to come in and look at it and to come up with some ways to save energy. He discouraged me from doing this and he encouraged me into looking at changing the boiler and everything at the same time as that would be a more effective way of saving money. They made a statement that we would save 1/3 at a minimum, by changing boilers, on our oil bill. They would change the steam boiler to three hot water boilers and do some re-piping in the building and every room would have a digital computerized thermostat that would set the temperature every night and morning. They encouraged us to do this and not to mess with the system the way it is. Now, this old boiler does run fine and we had it serviced this year and they said it was in good shape. They are claiming, and I am not a heating expert, so I just have to take them at their word, changing water to steam you have to heat it more than 212 degrees and if you put hot water through it you are only heating the water to 180 degrees. The factor for that alone will save money. The boiler on the side of it has a heat exchanger and to get heat to the lower part of the Superior Court building and to Register

of Deeds you have to change the steam, much like a boiler mate in your house. When the hot water circulates through water and gets the water hot and then pumps the water down in that area because steam does not go down hill. So there is another savings by doing this.

B. Sneed: In line 7003 and I have added this three times and I have come up with \$72,750.00 not \$73,750.00.

K. Overlock: The lights in the Superior Courtroom; we have had complaints there. That is before I started work. There is not enough light in the courtroom. They wanted to add lights.

B. Sneed: My question Keith was about the arithmetic.

K. Overlock: I am not sure how we added it to be honest with you we put it in the computer and punched numbers.

R. Lee: You said on the boiler that you are basing this on whose advice, the advice of the person who would sell you the boiler?

K. Overlock: That is correct. The FW Web Company sent an engineer down to do a heat loss on it per request of the contractor from Searsport.

R. Lee: I happen to know that the City of Belfast had an energy audit done. It was done by an independent energy auditor. The recommendation on the HBC systems for City Hall and the Library was to hire an independent engineer to give advice. I think the last thing that would be advised is to talk with a company selling them. I don't know if in the other County buildings if there has been an audit done.

K. Overlock: No we haven't. We basically wanted to feel our way along with this to see if we had any support for it. I feel that it is a good project to be done. We did not have an independent heating engineer come in and do an audit. We had an independent person do the heating system in this building and it was rather expensive. In some ways we felt like we did not get our money's worth.

R. Lee: Does the Superior Court building have a modern HBAC system? Is it cooled in the summer?

K. Overlock: No, on the courtroom upstairs and then there are window shakers in every room downstairs.

J. Hyk: The Superior Court building is an energy nightmare. It is a very old building. Here is the problem – the boiler is a great little boiler there is no way to control it. Everybody has their window open; it's too hot, they leave and one office is too cold. There is no way to control it. There are these valves on the radiators; they don't work and to fix them doesn't help the problem, it just makes it worse. It's just a stupid system.

In this building we tore the boiler out and put in a modern system. What we are saying is we could probably, if we are going the way we are going, we are burning a hell of a lot of oil and nobody is happy. It doesn't make any sense. We can burn a lot less oil and kept the windows closed and probably pay for the thing in ten years and be doing the right thing. It is that simple.

R. Lee: What about the possibility of having the County do for its buildings what Belfast did? The rest of the Council agrees and the City Manager agrees, the energy audit that we had done was really well done, it was full of recommendations in addition to heating and cooling and a whole variety of other things. We actually got it done for free because the man who did it lives in Belfast. It was budgeted at \$20,000.00.

J. Hyk: The system that we put in this building was budgeted at \$40,000.00 and it wound up costing \$60,000.00.

R. Lee: I am real concerned that you are recommending something on the basis of a recommendation of a boiler manufacturer/salesman. I don't think that is the way to go about it.

J. Hyk: I don't think that is what we did at all.

R. Lee: That is what I heard.

A. Fowler: Would you be willing to talk with this person and find out if they might be interested or could you give us their name?

R. Lee: John Rochlapu. He currently still works for the same company and now that company is contracted through Efficiency Maine. So he is the "nuts and bolts" guy that does the day to day to work for a lot of Efficiency Maine's activities. I don't know if he would have the time. It took him a long time to get it done for Belfast, but it was done well.

B. Sneed: Let's get the bookkeeping straight. On the Capital Outlay page line 7003 should read \$69,375.00 and 7004 should be \$12,000.00 which means the bottom should be \$81,375.00.

J. Bennett: I just want to know if you don't have to raise the \$3,375.00 before you get it back.

K. Overlock: You are right on that; it is a rebate program.

R. Lee: This efficiency Maine program is called a prescriptive payment. It is an automatic deal. If you replace your inefficient light bulbs with efficient ones it is just a set schedule of money you get. It is like getting \$1.50 on your compact fluorescent bulbs. It is automatic. If your question is if there is a likelihood that you are going to have to apply for it and they could turn it down, I don't think so.

J. Bennett: That is not it. I think you are going to get it but I think you have to pay the \$5,750.00 up front and then you get the rebate back. Then that is not the correct figure. I think it has to be \$72,750.00 and not \$69,750.00.

K. Overlock: Well what happens is in the Facilities budget, if you get the rebate back it goes into Dave's general fund instead of in Facilities. So the money doesn't go into Facilities, it goes to the County.

B. Sneed: So what do we want to make that then?

J. Bennett: It is \$72,750.00 for line 7003 and \$12,000.00 for line 7004.

R. Lee: Is the \$12,000.00 for the hallway in the first figure 7003?

K. Overlock: \$12,000.00 is to paint the hallway in the Superior Court Building. It is for lead paint which is chipping and cracking. They have asked for this money for the last four or five years and we haven't gotten it. We feel that the courtroom should look presentable. The paint that is on there is a three step process which is painted on it looks like a wood grain. Maybe something else can be done. We have to seal the area off to do the sanding and clean up the area.

R. McLaughlin: [To J. Hyk] Commissioner Hyk, would you say the District Court building is an energy efficient building as far as fuel is concerned?

J. Hyk: Yes, it was difficult to control the heat in here before, but we have a two boiler system now and they trade off and they work together when they need to. I think that Keith could demonstrate to you, we have had a considerable savings in fuel oil, particularly part of last winter and into this spring.

R. McLaughlin: The reason why I ask that is I am looking at the Commodity line and I see in the District Court there is a \$10,000.00 line for fuel and in Superior Court there is \$13,700.00.

K. Overlock: We didn't have enough data to go by when we were figuring out the oil bill to cut it down. It may be able to be cut some Dick, but not knowing what the price of oil is going to be next year when the new contract comes out, I just did not dare to slash it.

R. McLaughlin: But you did figure the \$13,700.00 based on the old system.

K. Overlock: Yes. I figured the chances of getting a new boiler and if it is done it won't be until next fall before any savings come about from it. So we are going to have to go through over half of the heating season with the old boiler.

R. McLaughlin: What is the square footage of this building compared to the other one?

K. Overlock: This one is a little larger, actually. The Superior Court building is a hard building to go by because the upstairs is only used six months out of the year. They may only use it three months but we have to keep it up warm enough so the pipes won't freeze. It is a 24 foot ceiling in the Superior Courtroom. It is a really inefficient building.

R. Lee: So you just don't use it in the winter?

K. Overlock: The court is only scheduled for six months out of the year and we never know. It may be one day this week and it may be two or three weeks that no one is up there at all.

B. Sneed: I mean someone has asked a couple of questions about efficiency and if you just look to the year to date expenditures for the fuel for the District Court it is at 61% and for the Superior Court it is 85%. I don't know; we are comparing apples and Volkswagens. I don't know.

K. Overlock: It does look like we are saving money here at the District Court.

J. Hyk: We have not had a full year to know. When did the system go online? Well, it was most of last winter, so that could explain that.

N. Nelson: I think that saving oil is saving money and I would endorse this.

R. Lee: My concern is what I said I am not clear that enough diligence has been done and to determine if this is a smartest move for the building. I am just concerned that it sounds like it is based on one recommendation from one.....

R. Desmarais: With the uncertain questions and with the 25% increase of the budget, with the furnace running great, except it cost a little more, I think that \$55,000.00 should be taken out of the budget and more information and come back next year. Hopefully we will not have 100% increase in boarding prisoners out that drives this budget. We are looking at the County next to us at four points something percent and we are sitting at 24%. I do like the idea of that \$5,750.00 to replace the lights in the courtroom. That is something that I am in favor of. I question whether that hallway needs painting this year, to be honest with you I am looking to get you back around where you were last year. We are getting there and I do not know the condition of the dishwasher.

K. Overlock: We have repaired the darn thing. It costs us \$400 - \$500.00 to keep repairing it and the last time we repaired it, I said if that sucker breaks again even though it is over \$5,000.00 for a new one, then we ought to replace it and cut our losses. You can't tell. Maybe it will go for another year. I assume it is 12 years old.

****J. Bennett moved, R. Desmarais seconded to fund the Facilities Management (1030) Budget at \$299,500.00.**

Discussion:

R. Desmarais: Instead of us figuring it line by line we will let you do it. But that oil burner is working and there are too many unanswered questions.

K. Overlock: Do we have some money somewhere to do this audit for next year? Is that in another budget?

N. Nelson: I don't know if an energy audit is necessary as much as multiple competing estimates.

R. Desmarais: Keith, I think what is on all of our minds is the budget where it is. We have to make a cut.

K. Overlock: We have to let you know what is going on with the buildings and to let you know that there are things that do need improving. Like this year you are cutting me back the same as last year but heating oil is going to go up, I am sure, next summer. Electricity is already gone up, the water/sewer bills have already gone up and the cost of all the vendors have gone up. So, actually, it is a decrease in my budget by funding me at last year's rate.

J. Bennett: Well you have to do the same thing that we all have to do. We have to sit down and cut.

B. Sneed: I guess the only thing that I would point out is if you look at the year to date expenditures, there are a lot of lines that are well in excess of 100% already. I am just bringing it up as a point of information.

K. Overlock: It is going to be very hard to stay within the limit next year because, like I said, we have had the increases.

B. Sneed: On the other hand the department as a whole is at 81% which is inline with some of the other departments. I mean, you can shovel money around in your department as you see fit.

K. Overlock: I do have to. There is no other way of doing it.

R. Desmarais: This cleaning with the prisoners; can't you encourage them to clean a little better?

K. Overlock: You get one out of five that does a good job. The other four you harp on and then if you go back to the jail and ask them for someone else to do the cleaning, all of a sudden you are the bearer of bad news and not treated very well when you say to the people who run the jail that we need to do a better job. It is a very exasperating situation.

B. Sneed: There is a motion made and seconded. Is there any more discussion or questions?

H. Potter: Maybe we should consider funding increases for fuel and electricity. I don't know if there is any outstanding accounts payable. Is there any accounts payable that would change that 72%?

K. Overlock: We have a roof job going on now which will not be going on next year. We would like to do the Sheriff's garage and roof next year because that building should be preserved.

B. Sneed: There is money in the budget that can be moved.

Motion passed with 7 in favor and 1 opposed. (H. Potter)

B. Sneed: For the two of you guys that are new at this, we have to go through these budgets again in a public meeting. We don't go through them line by line. It is a public meeting and it is in two parts. It is an actual public meeting where people sit out there and can ask any question of anybody who happens to be here. At some point, usually about an hour, and then after that we go to a Budget Committee meeting and we go through every department again and then it is just up or down on the bottom line rather than go through each line at a time. Then there is third part of it because of the LD1 stuff. The third part of the meeting is a joint meeting of the Budget Committee and the three Commissioners. If the budget is over the LD1 cap then we have to vote either to increase or exceed. There are only 11 of us this year because Richard Crossman had to resign, so all 11 of us have to vote on that. What is the time thing that you gave to me the other day?

B. Arseneau: It has to be posted 10 days. But to do that in on of the well read papers that is actually 2 weeks.

B. Sneed: So you need two weeks' notice and you are going to be gone from November 15th through Thanksgiving.

B. Arseneau: When you e-mailed back you suggested the 20th of December.

B. Sneed: It would give us more time. Do you want to do it Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.?

(The Budget Committee members looked at their schedules to see if December 13th would work.)

RESERVES (2045) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Commissioners J. Hyk, A. Fowler and D. Berry, Sr.

J. Hyk: Any questions? If you want me to go down through it, I would be happy too. In the past sometimes these accounts are funded completely from the budget in that current year. Last year, because we had some surplus, the Commissioners funded some of these accounts last year. Three years ago the Commissioners funded some of the accounts and also took \$150,000.00 from surplus in that year to reduce taxes. So, by way of reminder

to you, that in those years when we do have a surplus, as long as it is a healthy surplus, we do use a certain amount of it to reduce taxes. We do try to maintain a ratio of surplus funds to our overall budget as recommended by our bond council and by our auditor so that we would have enough money to operate the first month of January. That is how we try to do this because, unlike the towns that can have as much surplus as they would like, the counties cannot. So we start our New Year, January 1st and the first item of business that we have is to go out and borrow approximately \$4,000,000.00 because we have no money. Then we borrow money as we need it until we get our money in from the towns. Now back to the Reserves.

Future Land and Buildings (0131): The Commissioners decided we should put \$300,000.00 aside because we know that we need a Sheriff's Department. It remains unclear as to whether we need a jail or not but we do have future building needs because all of our buildings are too small and there is no where to expand and they are all in very bad shape with the exception of the Communications Center. So we thought it would only be prudent to ask for you to put \$300,000.00 aside for Future Land and Buildings. The land we have and the buildings we do not.

Employment Security (0134): I am going to let Barbara explain this.

B. Arseneau: The way it is structured with the counties is if an employee leaves employment with the County, we have to pay the unemployment. I am not explaining this well at all Karen if you want to fill in..... It is one of two ways you do it; before or after.

K. Trussell: You do it after. The Maine Department of Labor bills us and then we pay them because they have already paid the past employee.

J. Hyk: It is impossible to build it into every department's budget. So we have this active reserve account that would cover us for any employee that leaves that we have to pay unemployment for and it happens almost every year. So we asked you to put \$5,000.00 in there.

Equipment Services (0135), Records Preservation (0143), HazMat/LEPC (0145), Emergency Shelters (0150) are in good shape on our reserve accounts there.

Communications Equipment Improvement (0151): We are asking \$20,000.00 on Owen's suggestion. Now last year the Commissioners did take \$20,000.00 and created a capital reserve fund for the future replacement of components needed to dispatch law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies. What we are trying to do is one of these days all of the equipment in the 911 center has to be replaced. It could be antennas, towers, radios, etc., so we are just trying to put some money away for a rainy day so that we are not looking at a whole chunk of money at once.

Severance (0154): \$15,000.00. That is when we have someone who leaves and who has been here for 20 plus years, who has built up a bunch of vacation time and sick time and

so forth. You have to buy that back. Last year we had a terrible year because we had a bunch of people leave and it cost us a lot of money.

Courthouses (0155): We are in pretty good shape. The Commissioners funded that from surplus last year.

Jail/Sheriff Facility (0156): It is such a dump and there is so little money there we are just concerned that between inflation and the low amount of money that is in that reserve account, that it should be pumped up another \$10,000.00.

Vehicle Emergency Replacement (0157): That \$2,000.00 is like if you wreck a cruiser, which happens, you have to replace it. So the \$2,000.00 is an inflationary measure. We had a number there that we had been using for four to six years. It is just not enough anymore.

Probate/Deeds/DA (0158), County Planning (0159), Facilities All Other (0160) they are all in good shape.

Technology (0162): We don't take that up tonight because Jim Arseneau [Technology Consultant] is not here. Again, that is a pile of money that we try to put aside every year to replace all the counties' computers, and so forth, on a four to six year basis.

EMA Disaster Recovery (0163): That is a new thing. If we have a disaster in this County or something short of a disaster but an unpleasantness, shall we say there really isn't enough money put aside to try to help to recover from that? We thought that was prudent to put something in there so we could buy things.

Grant Matching (0167): We are going to go into detail soon.

So that is a brief explanation as to what this is about.

B. Sneed: For folks that are new to this, historically this whole department didn't even exist until last year. It was in the budget for the first time last year.

J. Hyk: You mean Grant Matching?

B. Sneed: The whole Reserves.

J. Hyk: Yes, we tried to put it all into one piece of paper. [To D. Parkman] Please explain why we have the different kinds of Reserves.

D. Parkman: We have three different Reserves. We have the Capital account, and we have an Active one and a Restricted one. They are all reserve accounts. The Capital is just what it is. If they need something for capital improvement, we take it out of there. The Active is something that we might be in there all of the time and the other is the Restricted account; now that would be the Sheriff. He gets federal dollars in there. It is a

restricted account. So those are the three that are in there. I wanted to tell you that this Reserve Account that is in the budget was really Karen's idea and I would like to give her credit for it because traditionally the Reserve Accounts were built up on whatever money we had. What the County has traditionally done is take it out of surplus and it got to be where we didn't have the surplus accounts. So now we have the Reserve Accounts. It only shows until December and we did that because it would tell the Commissioners that we are doing better and the Reserve Accounts are always paid in December. So what I wanted to do was show the operation of the County as that number of percent where we were without..... Am I losing you? Anyway, if the Reserves in there were zero, the amount would show that we are in better shape than we really are as far as the other departments.

J. Hyk: What would happen in the past prior to when Jethro and I got in here back in the "olden days", what the Commissioners would do is they would fund the Reserve Accounts and then they would operate out of them. They would spend the money out of them and what that meant was the money was not showing up on the budget so it looked like you weren't spending as much money as what you were. So instead of taking money and putting it in a budget and spending it, they took the money from surplus and put it in the Capital Reserve Accounts and then operated out of there. So you never had a true picture of what you were spending.

D. Parkman: The replacement of the sheriff vehicles, they use to put in the reserve accounts. Finally they started to say that this is not a reserve account and if you are going to replace it, then it ought to be in your operating budget. So that is when they changed it. When you see that, it is in case of an emergency.

J. Hyk: For example, last year when we did the boilers in the courthouse, we took a bunch of money out of the Capital Reserve Account for the boilers because that is what we had been putting it in there for. It wasn't all put in the budget in one year; we took it out of the Capital Reserve Account because we planned to do that. That is what a capital reserve account is for; it is for those major projects and you plan them out. We just want you to know that we are not putting money in here and yanking it out and operating on it. We are putting it in here and trying to build it up.

B. Sneed: What is in these accounts now?

J. Hyk asked K. Trussell to get the Budget Committee a list of what was currently in the reserve accounts.

A. Fowler: The two new things on here, Bill, would be the EMA Disaster Recovery and the Grant Matching. The Grant Matching is pretty much explanatory and we discussed it last week with regards to what they were looking for, even though there was a dedicated account for some of this grant money that the gentleman from Eastern Maine had visions and dreams of getting \$100,000.00, but we have to have "X" number of dollars. Our EMA Director is looking to get \$100 – 200,000.00 for a tower. 80% would be covered

and we have to have 10% and we have to show that we have it in order to get the grant. That is the reason why that is in there now.

R. Lee: Could I get some history, because it looks like last year you only funded reserves at \$93,000.00.

B. Sneed: Last year there were only three things asked for, \$200,000.00 for Future Land and Buildings and then the \$3,000.00 for Emergency Vehicle Replacement and \$90,000.00 for Technology.

J. Hyk: That is all we asked for.

B. Sneed: No, you asked for another \$200,000.00 for Future Land and Buildings and you didn't get it.

J. Hyk: All the other ones either we didn't fund them at all or we funded them from surplus.

R. McLaughlin: I am confused. I thought the first meeting we already did grant matching for \$40,000.00.

A. Fowler: We did.

R. McLaughlin: Then why are we talking about it if we already did it?

A. Fowler: Islesboro wasn't here.

J. Bennett: We voted it from another line.

R. McLaughlin: We are just moving it from one line to another. We don't have to go through it again. We are just moving it to reserves. We already voted it.

N. Nelsen: The Future City Land and Buildings; that \$300,000.00 is a really big number and I don't doubt its importance. It is interesting that last year \$200,000.00 wasn't funded. Is there a balance in that?

J. Hyk: You will see it in a minute and it is not much.

K. Trussell brought in the Reserve Account Sheets for the Budget Committee members.

R. Lee: Is there duplication between (0151) Communication Equipment Improvements and (0162) Technology? Can you explain?

J. Hyk: They are two different things entirely. The Communications stuff has to do with the radios, towers and stuff that have to do with 911.

B. Sneed: What these guys have done over the last few years is drag all of the computers, telephones and all that other stuff is under Technology. What these guys have done over the last few years is drag all of those little computers and telephones and they took them out of all the various departments and put them in one place. Five years ago these things were scattered all over the map and now they are scattered in one corner.

J. Hyk: They are in one place where everyone can watch them.

R. Lee: So explain to me how we go about watching the expenditures that come out of the Technology Reserve?

J. Hyk: I can't do that today, but our IT person will do that at the next meeting.

B. Arseneau showed R. Lee where the Technology Budget was in the budget.

J. Hyk: We will be taking Technology up at another meeting.

N. Nelson: If we don't put any money in it, then he won't have any money to tell us how to spend it.

A. Fowler: He has some in his budget this year. This is like a savings account.

J. Hyk: So there are the balances. There are your three accounts. You have Category 1, 2 and 3. There is Restricted Accounts at the bottom, they are pretty much, we don't touch them, and they are sacred in most ways. The Capital accounts are capital accounts. The Active accounts are accounts that are created because we are more often than not diddling around in them, like in court Appointments, Security, Severance and things like that. So there are the balances for you.

R. Lee: If the County were to decide to build a new building, would that be bonded?

J. Hyk: Yes.

R. Lee: What is the reason for a reserve?

J. Hyk: The reason for the reserve, in my mind, is when we knew we had to build a building for Communications; the 9-1-1 center, everybody went nuts when we had to bond the whole thing. They said, "You knew you had to build this, why didn't you put money aside?" Everybody was really mad. Plus, just to go out to bond you have to have money. You have to have plans, an architect, you have to know what you are talking about and it costs \$30,000.00 just to go out to bond.

D. Parkman: The last time the bond went out we spent maybe \$200,000.00 for the plans and then to go out to ballot was close to \$40,000.00.

R. McLaughlin: I have a hard time saving money in my accounts when I owe bills.

N. Nelson: When, realistically, do you see the future building being built?

A. Fowler: Not anywhere in the near future.

N. Nelson: Maybe \$300,000.00? And every year we could put a small amount in and maybe we could get to the number that we need to be at.

J. Hyk: You will never get the number that you need to be at.

R. Lee: They have \$265,000.00 now.

N. Nelson: I thought it was \$28,000.00. Am I reading the wrong line? I see it now.
****R. McLaughlin moved, J. Bennett seconded to fund Reserves (2045) at \$140,000.00.**

Discussion:

T. Biggs: Does that mean that the Commissioners still have the option to move all of them where they want to?

J. Hyk and A. Fowler mentioned that they could not hear at the other end of the table.

T. Biggs: I asked if the Commissioners still had the option to move the money that we grant you to any Reserve account that you would like.

A. Fowler: No.

T. Biggs: We need to go by it line by line.

B. Sneed: Last week we already approved \$40,000.00 for Grant Matching. So now remains the rest of the list.

H. Potter: What was the motion again?

B. Sneed: Dick made a motion to fund Reserves at \$140,000.00.

J. Bennett: And that included the \$40,000.00

B. Sneed: Yes, sir.

N. Nelsen: Do we need to say where this is being cut, then?

B. Sneed: We have to say where it goes. We are going to have to tell them what Reserve accounts to fund.

R. Lee: I would suggest that we fund the Grant Matching and let them.....

B. Sneed: You can't do that, especially with this one. In some of the other ones where they can move things around within the department, that is a different matter. Here, these are dedicated.

J. Hyk: For example, how would you like it if we took the \$140,000.00 and put it all in the Future Land and Buildings?

Sneed: I think it is legal and we need to do it.

R. McLaughlin: I will withdraw the motion so that we can figure it out.

J. Bennett: I will withdraw my second.

N. Nelsen: It seems like Employment Security and Severance Pay, it sounds like something that is used.....

A. Fowler: [To K. Trussell] Karen wasn't it two years ago that we had a jail administrator that had been with us for years that took another position and didn't it almost drain us?

J. Hyk: We cannot take it from a personnel line in a department.

A. Fowler: So basically we learned our lesson; that one employee can take \$9,800.00 from that line.

J. Hyk: What do we have in there? We have \$5,200.00 in there right now. That could be gone with one "not long" person.

R. Lee: What would happen if you had to spend more than that amount? You would be obligated to do it. Where would that money come from?

D. Parkman: It would have to come out of Contingency.

J. Hyk: Here is the deal with the Contingency. You can only spend up to \$100,000.00 in a 7 million dollar budget and you have to replace it. It is part of your money. The first thing that you have to do at the beginning of the next year is take whatever surplus that you have left over and replace the Contingency. In some cases you wouldn't have to; this year we cannot replace \$100,000.00. We don't have it.

N. Nelsen: I move that we fund for a total, including the Grant Matching, \$140,000.00, Future City Buildings \$50,000.00, Employment Security \$5,000.00, Comm. Equipment \$5,000.00, Severance \$15,000.00, Jail/Sheriff \$5,000.00, Vehicle Replacement at \$2,000.00 and Technology at \$10,000.00.

J. Hyk: I thought that we were taking up the Technology at another meeting.

B. Sneed: There is a reserve here for it, John.

B. Arseneau: I was going to say you could wait if you wanted and not make a decision tonight after you have heard it all and then take it up next week if you prefer.

B. Sneed: Does someone want to make a motion line by line basis?

N. Nelsen: I move that we fund line 0131 Future County Land and Buildings at \$50,000.00.

B. Sneed: Motion dies for lack of a second.

****R. Desmarais moved, R. McLaughlin seconded to fund line 0131 Future Land and Buildings at zero. Unanimous.**

****R. Desmarais moved, N. Nelsen seconded to fund line 0134 Employment Security at \$5,000.00. Unanimous.**

****R. Desmarais moved, R. McLaughlin seconded to fund line 0151 Comm. Equipment Improvement at \$10,000.00. Unanimous.**

****R. Desmarais moved, B. Sneed seconded to fund line 0154 Severance at \$15,000.00. Unanimous.**

****R. Desmarais moved, B. Sneed seconded to fund line 0156 Jail/Sheriff Facility at \$5,000.00. Unanimous.**

****R. Desmarais moved, R. McLaughlin seconded to fund line 0157 Vehicle Emergency Replacement at \$2,000.00. Unanimous.**

****R. Desmarais moved, J. Bennett seconded to fund line 0162 Technology at \$41,000.00. Unanimous.**

****R. Desmarais moved, R. McLaughlin seconded to fund line 0163 EMA/Disaster Recovery at \$5,000.00. Unanimous.**

B. Sneed: I have it at \$123,000.00.

A. Fowler: I have \$123,000.00 too.

B. Sneed: I have a total figure for Reserves for \$123,000.00 which includes Grant Matching.

RECORDS PRESERVATION (2040) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Commissioners J. Hyk, A. Fowler and D. Berry, Sr. along with County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

B. Arseneau: You have probably been wondering why there has been no expenditure in microfilming. There are two books that are close to being full and I believe that would happen in November, December at the latest, so that will probably will be expended. Your largest jump, to be truthful, is in De-acidification and Rebinding books. What we have been doing is picking away at it; we did one two years ago and we have done two this year. The reason that I have put it in to try and complete them in 2008 is because Brown's River, which is the company that the County sends them to, to have them de-acidified and recovered, has agreed to hold their prices another year if we complete those books in 2008. Otherwise the prices are going to go up 15-20%. So, in an effort to try and save the County some money down the road, I was hoping we might be able to complete these. These are records that were found in the Superior Courthouse basement and little critters were eating away at the covers. The covers had to be stripped off so they have no covers. They are in a box. If someone would like to look at them, I would have to pull them out and they are falling apart. We need to take care of them in order to preserve the County's history so people can look at things when they need to.

R. McLaughlin: I have seen those and you are exactly right. They are in bad shape.

R. Lee: What are the records that we are talking about?

B. Arseneau: For example I will read you the list:

- Commissioners Court of Sessions 1869 – 1878 that has no cover and needs to be de-acidified at \$1,062.00.
- Commissioners Court of Sessions 1879 – 1888 at \$1,188.00
- Commissioners Court of Sessions 1888 – 1902 at \$1,186.00
- Commissioners Court of Sessions 1902 – 1924 at \$1,161.00
- Commissioners Court of Sessions 1925 – 1937 at \$737.00
- Tax Account Book from 1889 – 1936 at \$638.00

J. Hyk: These records by law are required to be preserved. They are kind of important and they reference a lot of activities with road closures or openings that correspond with other records. You don't get to monkey with this one, it is a no brainier. You have to take care of these records. It is just that simple.

R. Lee: I am just curious, once this is done is there a much larger preservation project that will continue, or what?

B. Arseneau: You shouldn't see anything like this in a long time. This is the stuff that was neglected for years and year and then the archivist found them. These were the recommendations, and there are a few here and there I would like to approach you on in another year or so, one at a time, but they are nothing like this group. These are the most important.

J. Hyk: In the last three or four years, we have spent a lot of money on the County's records because no money had been spent and they had been piled up in the basements

for the last hundred years and no one did anything. We did manage to do a tremendous amount of work and we got a bunch of grants and we got someone in here that could straighten it out. The records problem in this County the historical preservation of them is really 99% done. We do have a terrible storage problem and we can't address it unless its to ship them and pay to have them kept somewhere else because we don't have a proper place to keep them. It is one of the pet peeves of mine. I am very proud of the job that we have done with the records. We have done a tremendous job in preserving them. This wraps it up.

B. Arseneau: As far as equipment repairs go we have an old photo copier that has been resurrected and put back into the archive. I only use it when I have to. It has a burning smell so I know that we will have to do something with it at some point.

B. Sneed: To answer your question, Mr. Lee, just over the last four or five years they have spent about \$80,000.00; just a real quick run through all of the budgets. Some of it has been personnel and some of it has been shelving and who knows what.

****B. Sneed moved, R. Lee seconded to fund Records Preservation (2040) at \$6,072.00. Motion passed with 6 in favor and 2 opposed. (T. Biggs and J. Bennett)**

GRANT WRITING (2050) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Commissioners J. Hyk, A. Fowler and D. Berry, Sr. along with County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

B. Arseneau: Not knowing how things were going to go this year, the Commissioners felt that it was a good idea to request this again. They were not sure what you were going to do with Eastern Maine Development. Again, as John spoke earlier of the history of the previous company that had assisted the County, everything we ever asked for was gotten completely. It was a total of over three years and \$180,851.50 was brought in as grants. Some of it was records preservation, Homeland Security, and some of it was Department of Justice, so it wasn't just limited to records preservation. The company that was helping the County do this really understands what they are doing. One division is still here in the State of Maine.

J. Hyk: You people will do what you want to do; you have Eastern Maine Development taking a poke. It is what it is. In 2003 – 2005 we brought in \$180,000.00 and what did we spend to get it? Some of this money is easy to get. You put your name at the top of the paper and you get 200 points. The sheriff is able to get certain grants easier. Dale at Emergency management, all he has to do is fill out the paper and it is automatic. But everything else requires work and research. You have to find it and look for it and you have to know it and then you have to write the grant. You all know this from your own towns; it is nothing new to you. Some of these things you don't even know about and that is what you are paying someone to do. You are paying them to go find the stuff and apply for it. We have been successful at it and let the record show that. If you want us to have a grant writer it is going to cost money and none of us are going to do it for nothing. We are not qualified otherwise it is all Eastern Maine Development, it is that simple.

R. McLaughlin: What if we give them \$5,000.00 and see if they can do it? Can we designate who it is? I guess that we can't designate who does it.

R. Desmarais: How much did you say they brought in, Barbara?

B. Arseneau: \$180,851.50 and that is from 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

N. Nelsen: Do we know what they will be writing grants for?

A. Fowler: The grant writer that we had in the past sought everything out from EMA Homeland Securities, to

N. Nelsen: Whatever they saw.

A. Fowler: Yes, if it would help any particular department or anything like that.

B. Arseneau: If I could add, this person works closely with the department heads and they find out what the needs are. For example, we have been told there is all kinds of federal money out there for training but you have to know what you are looking for and look for the categories depending on the type of training. That is just an example. The point would be the department heads would have to actively know what they are trying to accomplish so that person could be steered in those directions.

****R. Desmarais moved, R. Lee seconded to fund Grant Writing (2050) at \$8,000.00.**

Discussion:

R. Desmarais: I am looking at two hours per week. They are producing and it is a return on an investment as far as I am concerned. As long as they continue to do that I think it is a win, win for us.

R. Lee: What happened last year?

B. Arseneau: They cut it and wanted to give Eastern Maine an opportunity to see if they could get funding for 2007. They cut it to zero.

J. Bennett: Because the people moved away. Before that they were here and then they moved away.

Motion passed unanimously.

R. Desmarais: Barbara, I don't know if you are the one to ask, I would like to see a print out of the boarding of prisoner out of cost for the year.

B. Arseneau: I can ask the Jail Administrator. They have those figures.

K. Trussell: I can do a print out of that but it will be done by month, but it does not separate it month by month.

R. Desmarais: Let's see what it looks like, as clear as you can make it. My concerns are what we pay for board in January and the bottom line for every month.

R. Lee: I understood from discussion from the first meeting I attended, you said the bills for board came in late this year and they would need to be paid in next year's budget. Just to get a number of what they paid would not be accurate because that would sort of be cash basis, if you will, of what the actual incurred expense was.

R. Desmarais: I want to know when the bill was paid in January; if it was, in fact, paid in January.

D. Parkman: Like the first bill in January from York County would have been for December.

R. Desmarais: That is it.

D. Parkman: York County is always about 30 days behind. The one in Lincoln gets their bills out quicker.

K. Trussell: Dave asked for the bills as early as possible and they didn't come in.

D. Parkman: We keep the year open for a few days. One of the bills was paid this year when it should have been paid last year.

R. Desmarais: I am concerned with what has been paid in 2007.

NEXT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:

Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

The following budgets will be reviewed:

- Probate (1070)
- Commissioners (1020)
- Technology (1020 – 7000, 7001, 7002)

The following budgets that are left:

- Sheriff (1075)
- Jail (1050)
- Employee Benefits (2025)

****B. Sneed moved, R. McLaughlin seconded to adjourn the budget meeting at 8:33 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted by



Veronica Stover, Deputy County Clerk