

**WALDO COUNTY FY 2008 BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**4<sup>th</sup> MEETING NOVEMBER 1, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Budget Committee Members Bill Sneed, James Bennett, Richard McLaughlin, Tim Biggs, Roger Lee and Richard Desmarais; County Commissioners Amy Fowler and Donald Berry; Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau. Also present were members of the Press and various County employees.

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

**PROBATE (1070) BUDGET REVIEW:**

Present for the discussion was Register of Probate Joanne Crowley.

J. Crowley: First of all, I do have my staff here tonight. I have Sharon Peavey who is my Deputy Register, Judy Nealley and Wanda Pinkham who are the Probate Clerks, and Judge Longley who is not here yet. I am presenting this proposed budget for 2008, which I am sure that you are all familiar with. I believe that you have already reviewed the budget. When you look through that, you can see there is an overall 3% increase and that is taken up under the Personnel Services. Under Appropriation number 4000, which is Contractual Services in line number 5000 under Commodities, we have proposed a zero percent increase. You will note that there are decreases and increases in specific line items but the end result is a flat increase compared to 2007. After careful review and assessment of our current budget we have made adjustments to reflect more accuracy. I am ready for you if you have any questions.

B. Sneed: Could you explain to Mr. Lee why Court Appointments go over what is allocated and what Court Appointments are?

J. Crowley: It is line 4020. Court Appointments are required by law. The judge has to do that and that is part of her responsibility. When people are not able to afford an attorney or a court appointment visit or a guardian ad litem, she decides whether or not to appoint and then she decides on a payment plan for them that they can afford. They reimburse the Court. You see \$12,000.00 there; so far we are at \$14,561.00 and Restitution to date is \$7,627.00.

R. Lee: Restitution is.....?

J. Crowley: Is money coming back in. The budget at \$12,000.00, in the past we have tried to ask for money to equal what we think we are going to spend out of that line item. Then it has been cut over the years and we have gone over every year. I think last year we had it at \$8,000.00 and at the Public Hearing there was \$4,000.00 more added at that time, and we are still going over that amount.

B. Sneed: So, should you ask for more?

J. Crowley: The way in the past, we asked for everything that we thought we would be spending out and the Budget Committee has taken a position to cut this budget and then we tried to stay within that budget and it just doesn't work.

R. Lee: Let me ask something. I can understand how that expense line would vary with the caseload and the particular situations, but what I did not understand was why you referred to Restitution, and that is for revenue that comes back to the County. Is that also just an independently sort of random number that could be up and down in a year? I understood what Court Appointments are and I understand why it can vary. I don't know what the Restitution number is. I don't know what is included.

J. Crowley: Payments are made back to the Probate Court to pay back the County.

R. Lee: Is part of the Restitution to pay back the County for the expense of the Court Appointments?

J. Crowley: Yes.

S. Longley: Two years ago we met the challenge and it is my constitutional obligation to make sure that I only ask people to pay back what they are able to pay. I think the figures that you see there will not be major changes. I would like to point out that everyone in the Probate Office has been very helpful in setting up a system to allow people to come and pay. People are very impressed and if you tell them what is expected of them; and \$50.00 per month is the norm.

R. Lee: Is the Restitution line in the Revenue line?

K. Trussell: Yes, it is. R0510.

R. Lee: I just want to be able to compare last year to this year.

D. Parkman: Last year we did not have that line because it was a brand new line. Susan Longley started to get some Restitution so this year we have a specific line for it. To offset the \$12,000.00, Probate has collected \$9,000.00 and it does not show because it is revenue.

B. Sneed: Just a County question; they are \$2,500.00 in the hole on this line; does this \$2,500.00 come out of Contingency? It comes out of the General? It comes out of Restitution?

D. Parkman: No. It comes out of their operating budget. All the Restitution does is add to our revenue, but you have to show it because it is really \$12,000.00 plus \$9,000.00. Do you understand what I am saying?

R. Lee: Yes, I do. I think that it is a crazy way to present it.

D. Parkman: That is the way the State budget does.

R. Lee: Believe me; I am familiar with that idea of revenue being over here even though it is directly related to the expense here. It seems to me that if right now so far this year it is \$14,500.00 and revenues are at 92 instead of what they forecast to be which was 6 so they are 32 ahead. So if you take the 32 ahead and compare it to the 25, we are actually in the black.

J. Crowley: I think the \$9,000.00 figure includes Restitution from December.

K. Trussell: The way you turn in your funds is from December to November.

J. Crowley: So, it is a little more than what we actually take in from January to October.

R. Desmarais: Let me clarify something in my mind here. The money going out we are over by \$2,500.00 and that reflects on the department's bottom line. The money coming in does not get credited back to this department.

D. Parkman: That is why we tried to raise it to \$12,000.00 from \$8,000.00 because it was hurting the department with a kind of a low ball figure. The revenue did not really show up in her department so that is why you people raised it \$4,000.00 last year.

B. Sneed: When Deeds collects money for every lawyer's son in the County who comes in to make copies, who gets that money? Does it go to Deeds or does it go to the General Fund?

D. Parkman: General Fund.

K. Trussell: It gets turned over every month.

B. Sneed: So anything that comes in goes into the general pot, not to the department?

D. Parkman: It is not a double entry system. You might run your town on a double entry system meaning you credit something and debit the other in your account (crediting the actual departments and then you debit your cash). This is separate because all of the revenues are separated so whatever they are working on that final budget at the end of the year, that is what they work on and the revenues all go into the general fund. It doesn't get credited back.

**\*\*R. Desmarais moved, R. McLaughlin seconded to fund the Probate (1070) Budget at \$182,000.00.**

Discussion:

R. Desmarais: That is \$3,500.00 more and my thoughts are that the final night we will see how the balance is. If we have to cut back we will revisit that one in that particular line item. But it is obvious that you are going to go over.

R. Lee: Are you planning to raise the revenue for Probate Restitution in the budget?

B. Sneed: It is not our job; we do not touch the revenues.

R. Desmarais: I am looking at line 4020 Court Appointments and suggesting that the bulk of the \$3,500.00 increase go into that line.

R. Lee: I understand that but I don't understand why it isn't the Budget Committee's job to look at projected revenue. So the Commissioners are allowed to do whatever they want with the revenues? There it is guessing too, just as it is on the expense side, but we don't touch revenues.

B. Sneed: I haven't in the six years that I have been here.

R. Lee: It seems to me the correct way to deal with this Appointments budget would be to raise it by \$3,500.00 and say, "O.K. we are doing it because we expect Restitution to be up so we are going to insist that you raise Restitution, therefore saving the tax payers \$3,500.00 because we will be assuming in the budget that \$9,500.00 will come in for Probate Restitution instead of \$6,000.00." I think that would be reasonable.

R. Desmarais: I think we are just dealing with the expense going out in this budget.

T. Biggs: So does that revenue become surplus than? Is that how it works?

D. Parkman: No, it's in what the total budget is and then we figure your income that we are going to get, which is about \$760,000 something dollars and that are deducted off the total budget. Then there is an overlay in there which is added to it, and then there is the property tax. So the revenue that we start out within the total budget, and then we take the revenues off those. Then we add on the overlay and then the town assessments to pay for the balance.

R. Lee: I was just looking at the sheet, which you handed out tonight, which shows the situation with Revenues right now and I come down to Probate Court (R0500). It says year to date receipt \$68,000.00 but you are projecting for next year \$50,000.00 for the same line.

K. Trussell: That is only an estimate, when I get that from Joanne, because she cannot guarantee how much she will have in this account.

R. McLaughlin: So if you increase the expenses and not increase the income, then we are not really getting the true picture. That is what he is saying. The Commissioners should come a little bit closer to the estimated receipts than being \$20,000.00 off.

R. Lee: If you look at General Fund interest Year to date its \$24,000.00 and you are only projecting \$12,000.00 for next year.

K. Trussell: The estimated part of it is not deducted off the total budget when we do it up, it is the actual that goes in that gets deducted.

R. Lee: I don't follow that. Don't you, in for setting the amount that you ask the cities and towns to pay use the projected revenues and subtract from the actual expense?

K. Trussell: We don't set it until March for when we set the taxes.

**Motion passed with 5 in favor and 1 opposed J. Bennett.**

R. Lee: I just have a general question. If we as the Budget Committee adopt some number for one of these departments, are the Commissioners allowed to move money around between the accounts within the departments as long as they stick with the total we have voted to approve for the department?

B. Sneed: We can suggest. There is a mechanism for them to take money from within from between departments but that means calling us back in the middle of July to do it. They have had the good sense not to do that.

**COMMISSIONERS (1020) BUDGET REVIEW:**

Present for the discussion was County Commissioners Amy Fowler and Donald Berry, Sr. along with County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

A. Fowler: Our biggest area in here is Technology which I see we will discuss afterwards. I guess that I am open to any questions.

B. Sneed: I will begin with \$44,000.00 for a lawyer.

A. Fowler: That is a significant increase, obviously.

B. Sneed: That is \$32,000.00 over last year.

A. Fowler: Yes sir, it is.

R. Lee: Who is the County's attorney?

A. Fowler: It is a law firm in Portland. There is like 14 different names with it.

B. Arseneau: Actually the County uses more than one law firm; Bernstein Shur in Portland, Bill Dawson here in Belfast, Lee Woodward on occasion. It depends on the area.

A. Fowler: We got an anticipated figure from our law firm with regards to the union negotiations. Where it is the first year of negotiating, it is going to take a lot more work on each others parts and stuff. These were the figures that we were advised. This is correspondence from one of our attorney's, from Linda McGill. I will just read the paragraph. "Keeping in mind the unpredictable nature of negotiations in general and the complexities of negotiating a first time contract with three distinct units, two bargaining agents, we would estimate the cost of these involved in representation of the County as to range between \$25,000.00 – \$32,000.00."

J. Bennett: If it is \$25,000.00 - \$32,000.00 then why do you have \$44,000.00?

A. Fowler: Normally Jim, if you look back in our past, when we were selectmen we always had MMA that we could refer to and on the County level, I think we used to have \$12,000.00. As I say, that is what the significant increase is. Actually, we had \$26,000.00 last year.

R. Lee: How many employees are unionized?

D. Parkman: I think there are three unions but there are five departments.

B. Arseneau: I have to think. One has 11, one has 7 and the other one will be or is 9 but I am not 100% sure.

D. Parkman: What about Communications?

B. Arseneau: Well they are not in negotiations this year, the negotiations will not be starting again until.....actually I take that back, it starts in 2008. There are 13 that could be in that union.

R. McLaughlin: They are already at \$44,000.00 this year.

B. Arseneau: Without union negotiations even starting, we have spent over \$18,000.00 in the prep work and the paperwork that has to be handled and filed.

R. McLaughlin: I don't want to increase this anymore but if you are already at \$44,000.00 and you are going to have negotiations that you haven't had...

R. Lee: Does the negotiations get done by an attorney? I would think that you people...

A. Fowler: It is teams and the attorneys are on them.

R. Lee: Why would the attorneys be there during negotiations?

D. Parkman: Because the unions have attorneys.

R. Lee: It seems really wasteful to me. I am not saying it lightly, I think it is wasteful, I don't fully understand why you would need an attorney at a negotiation. I could see why you would need an attorney to document and to see if you have the contract written correctly. I don't have any idea why you need an attorney there.

B. Sneed: We have flailed the attorneys long enough, how about we go to line 4722 (Liability Insurance). We have only spent about \$95,000.00 over the last few years on that. The year before was \$95,000.00 and the year before that was \$91,000.00.

B. Arseneau: I had to look back because I didn't know if there was any kind of trend. I went back as far as 2001. From 2001-2002 there was a 15% increase, from 2002-2003 there was a 29% increase, from 2003-2004 became a 29% increase, from 2004-2005 became a 20% increase. This is your smallest – 2006 was 12%. I always ask for the worst case scenario so that we are prepared. Generally they give us the worst and so far they have not had to hold us to that. I am hopeful that it won't be as much, but it is hard to tell.

R. Lee: Is this a single premium that you pay for one policy for the County or is it a whole lot of different policies?

B. Arseneau: It is a risk pool, I don't know if it helps you out or not.

R. Lee: I am just asking does that \$96,296.00; is that made up of a whole lot of bills that you have paid or is it just a couple?

B. Arseneau: They are not invoices. This is to have coverage with the Maine County Risk Pool. All of the counties are in this risk pool and that would be our assessment – for injuries perhaps or problems with the buildings.....

R. Lee: What month of the year is that paid?

B. Arseneau: First thing in the year. We will know probably in December what that might be. If I can get that to you before the public hearing, I will.

R. Lee: Did we have \$130,000.00 in the budget for this line last year?

B. Sneed: Yes, they asked for \$178,000.00. I, too, did a little historical research. You have consistently asked for more and spent less since 2000. I know it is a "crapshoot" but that is the trend that I saw. Last year you guys asked for \$178,000.00.

B. Arseneau: That was unusual because there was some litigation going on in Knox County. It went away or it got better than what they thought.

A. Fowler: Before that it was York County. The bills are what drive it up when there is controversy in any of the jails.

B. Sneed: That's right, it was the strip search.

J. Bennett: We just got our thing back and it is 2% for the town.

R. Lee: 10% would be a big increase and that would be \$105,000.00.

B. Sneed: Are there any other questions before we put Jim [Arseneau] in the hot seat?

R. Desmarais: I have a question. Amy, you are up for re-election for 2008. John Hyk is up for 2008. If both of you were to decide not to run, that would leave Don as the senior person with one year under his belt. Why do these terms terminate the two of you in the same year? I think that I know the answer an untimely death took place, is that correct?

A. Fowler: I do not know why. Seriously I would like to know why.

R. Desmarais: I think that it is wrong.

A. Fowler: I do too. I think that it is very scary.

R. Desmarais: How do we correct this?

A. Fowler: My guess would be legislative.

B. Arseneau: Yes, it would have to be. It is a state statute.

A. Fowler: It is a four year term.

B. Arseneau: All it takes is a death or someone stopping before their term is done and it throws everything off.

R. Desmarais: Can you get answers to that or do you want me to pursue it?

A. Fowler: I will check but I am quite certain that it is legislative. I believe it is in a statute.

B. Sneed: The only option is for Mr. Berry to get smart in a hurry.

D. Berry: Excuse me!

B. Sneed: I am kidding.

D. Berry: Thank you!

D. Parkman: How are you going to have three Commissioners be elected?

R. Desmarais: I just got a small class on that about two hours ago. I thought it was three year terms, but I didn't know it was four.

A. Fowler: It's like in some towns, like Thorndike when I was with Jim, every year the entire board went up for re-election, which was very scary because you could have a whole new board.

R. Desmarais: We go 2, 2 and 1; we always have 5 so you've always got someone that has been there.

**TECHNOLOGY (1020-7000, 7001 & 7002) BUDGET REVIEW:**

Present for this discussion was Technology Consultant James Arseneau of J&B Diversified Associates, Inc.

J. Arseneau: As was pointed out by Amy [Fowler], there are some increases but there are some things that I wanted to mention that I wanted to take off the requests because of some additional information that came to light. What we tried to do is this year; we have a little bit different format where we broke out the three sections that you folks had asked last time and we have the major expenditures, the lease and then you have the maintenance contracts. So I broke those into the three sections based on what you folks were requesting. I tried to identify, like under the maintenance contracts when these different contracts come up, and how much they typically are, and then, of course, the leases which are just the four that we had prior to a couple of years ago that we entered into. But in the first section under 7000, the equipment for the video arraignment, we had the

question of what is happening with #5 which is the security monitors and that is something that we had asked for last year and you folks decided to keep the budget the same as the previous year before, so we didn't do that. I am not sure where that is really going to go. It depends on what happens with the Corrections decision and Facilities. The same is true of the video arraignment equipment #12, which is on page #2. Again, that is something that there is some potential savings for the County but, specifically, what it is it is hard to say and we found out that not everyone is using the video arraignment equipment. There is a whole set up that is sitting up in the Judge's chamber over here that the State put in for the jails to use, but there is nothing at the other end. In our facility we don't have anything; you could save the transportation of some of your prisoners and things by doing the video arraignment. There are some other idiosyncrasies, so after looking at this and not knowing where the Jail is going, that would be something that would not be requested. There is a wish, #9 the replacement laptops for the deputies. We were able to get a grant initially for the four lap tops that these would be replacing. Scott [Sheriff Story] got that 5 years ago and then he was able to get a grant 2 years following that for another 7 lap tops. These, as we have gone through, they are having some problems running some of the updated software that the deputies would like to use. So this was kind of like it would be nice to have this type of thing if it was something that can be foreseen by you folks from a budgeting standpoint. The other item that I would consider to be of interest to the Budget Committee is #6, which is the data card. With the onset of new networking arrangement that we established with the Spillman software last year, the deputies are able to work in the system without having to come back into the office. We did an analysis, although we cannot say specifically, but an average deputy makes two trips back to Belfast from his patrol area to do paperwork. No sooner does he get back here, he gets called to go back out to his patrol area because of an incident that has occurred.

R. Lee: Are these broad band data cards?

J. Arseneau: Yes, they will be broad band data cards.

R. Lee: I know something about those cards. They are twice as fast as a dial up line around here.

J. Arseneau: We are using a Citrix arrangement.

R. Lee: I understand, but still, are you sure the deputies are going to find the speed of using them on their laptops adequate?

J. Arseneau: They already have a wireless card in the laptops so they "skinny up" against some of the schools like in Winterport, but they are sitting way off the road. Also with the data cards; we took a couple of data cards, had them take them out in the patrol areas. Mark Schade, one of the sergeants, took one out, Deputy Ben Seekins did and we had them demo some of the cards just to see what type of coverage we would get. So based on what we were looking at, the expenditure of the cards, as well as there is a potential savings in fuel costs, as the fuel costs continue to rise, the less that they have to come back to the office then the less wear and tear on the vehicles. So that was something that we had broken down and the one time equipment cost and the monthly reoccurring cost and, if you look at the calculations what would be saved just in gasoline and wear in tear on the cars are almost \$10.00 per visit, per deputy, per shift.

B. Sneed: What is the reoccurring cost for?

J. Arseneau: You have to pay for the data card; it is like a cellular card.

R. Lee: It is like a cell phone. It uses a cell phone band but it sends data. It is fairly high tech. I don't know, maybe a lot of police are using it around the country.

J. Arseneau: In York County, they built out their own private network, an IP network, which they put up their own antennas and did their own thing. After they did that, it works well, but the problem they had was keeping up with the technology. They have to keep upgrading this infrastructure whereas a lot of the counties that went with the data cards like Sagadahoc; they have been using it for probably five years and the State Police use the data cards also. They use a singular network for all of their officers on the road. There are a lot of networks that run through the AT&T singular arrangement.

R. Lee: Is that what we are using?

J. Arseneau: This would be a Verizon type of arrangement here. They need to go back through their network and singular has a special connection into that. Those were the items on that first section. The 7001....

R. McLaughlin: Can I ask a question on 7000?

J. Arseneau: Sure, I am sorry.

R. McLaughlin: What kind of laptops are you buying for \$6,000.00 a piece?

J. Arseneau: These are Tough Books. These are designed for that is what the State Police use. They are a magnesium alloy case and they are a 13 inch screen. They run about \$3,800.00 for the laptop and then there are mounts and other pieces that go to put into the vehicle.

R. McLaughlin: I just bought Tough Books for about \$1,800.00; it was demo, which is the same thing.

J. Arseneau: Right, I know what you are talking about. There are four varieties of Tough Books.

R. McLaughlin: This is real thin, lightweight.

J. Arseneau: These are not the thin lightweight, they are the heavy duty. This is what the State Police use.

R. McLaughlin: I know which one you are talking about. So all the other stuff that goes along with it goes to \$2,500.00?

J. Arseneau: On the average. There are some radio mounts and stuff that is in there.

R. Lee: On that subject, what are you putting on those notebooks?

J. Arseneau: The County and the outfit of the PC's this year, everything is running Office 2003 and we stayed away from Office 2007 because of the problems that we had with the platform. They also, from a memory standpoint, the old laptops only support 500 meg whereas the new laptops support 2 gig, which we find makes the equipment run much better; although the entire PC's that we put in we were running 2 gig.

R. Lee: Are you saying that our deputies have five year old notebooks right now?

J. Arseneau: There are four five year old notebooks. There are 11 notebooks altogether and four of them are two years old. You will get about five years from the Tough Books, especially the way the new ones are outfitted. The older ones that the deputies originally bought were designed for NT and so they didn't have a high memory capacity, whereas the laptops that we bought two years ago support.....

R. Lee: Really, the ones they have you can only put 512 in them. There is no popping out the chip and put another one in?

J. Arseneau: We put the 256 in and they only came with 256. We actually bought a 256 chip to put in. That is the way the State outfitted them originally and that pricing is through a State contract. There is a State contract number that Transcore is licensed to sell in the State of Maine.

R. McLaughlin: Out of those four laptops that you are going to replace, are these your top line deputies or are these part time people?

J. Arseneau: No, the way it worked was the two sergeants have the old laptops because they were the first ones to get the computers and then there are the two most senior officers have the other two laptops. There are no part time deputies that have lap tops.

R. Lee: Where does the \$50.00 in labor go for installing the anti-virus software in every PC? Who gets the \$50.00?

J. Arseneau: That is an estimate based on whether it is done from a central location or if we have to go out to all of the machines. If it was done, it would be CBE or one of the other technology firms would be involved in that. Or if we are able to do it from the County standpoint, then we will do it.

R. Lee: Most people that update anti-virus software, it is just done off the web.

J. Arseneau: This is not a consumer based anti-virus product. It is a corporate and that is what makes the difference.

R. Lee: It seems expensive to me to have to spend \$50.00 per PC to install a piece of anti-virus software. I think that is really high.

J. Arseneau: Like I said, it is an estimate. If it is an easy install.....

R. Lee: If I was running a business I wouldn't want to spend that kind of money to install something as simple as the anti-virus. It just seems really high.

J. Arseneau: Like I said it is not a consumer based product.

R. Lee: I understand that.

B. Sneed: It is the same software as if I went to Staples and bought it.

J. Arseneau: No, it's not.

R. Lee: It doesn't matter if it is the same software.

B. Sneed: The virus signatures are the same; the interface is the same.

J. Arseneau: It is not the same interface. If you take a look at the corporate addition vs. if we use Norton's, for instance, there is a central management consult that does reporting so that we can see if there is any problems or viruses that appear in the machines. The average person doesn't always know what to do with a virus. This reports back to a central console and notifies if there is a problem on a machine. We have had success in catching stuff before it spread too much among the other machines.

R. Lee: The monitors; I happened to have been over at the jail recently and I saw those two really nice monitors in the control room and they seemed perfect. What is the reason for spending another \$5,500.00?

J. Arseneau: The original intent was that when they had originally wanted to put the system in, they had not thought about the desktop space that was required. They had wanted to put the monitors up so that they could clear..... because if you lean on those monitors they are basically stacked on top of each other. They were hoping to put the monitors up and to clear and to put a different type of desk arrangement in there. If you go with a flat monitor, that is what these are LCD; the flat screen.

R. Lee: I don't remember what I looked at.

J. Arseneau: Those are full size televisions. That is what we could afford at that time.

R. Lee: How long have those been in there for?

J. Arseneau: Those have been there for a year and a half but that was all that could be done at the time based on what we had for money at the time.

B. Sneed: Last year between the three: 7000, 7001 and 7002 we allocated \$205,000.00. To date \$163,000.00 has been spent. In addition to that, \$92,000.00 has been spent out of the Capital Reserve fund. So you have spent almost \$350,000.00 and we still have two months to go and there is still \$120,000.00 left between those three budgets and the capital reserve fund. Are those going to go to zero?

J. Arseneau: The 7000 budget will go pretty much to zero. There are some additional items that have yet to be purchased that have not. A couple of things, like internet connection there is money going towards that. There is also a contract for the maintenance for the video monitor system at the jail that will be paid in December. So that is going to be pretty much at zero when we are at the end of the year. If you remember, as we sat on the committee with the technology, it was that every four years we are going to change out and you folks had been funding the Reserves so that this upgrade of the equipment could take place and that happened this year. So that is where the expenditures came from this year on the reserve side. But, again, it won't be another four years until that type of money is going to be spent again to change out the equipment and you folks had been funding the reserves so that could happen. That was the original game plan when we sat down before the Commissioners and said, "What is it that could be done for the County?" We could put money aside and the original game plan was in three years to change out the equipment and we had gone 5 ½ and did the change out.

B. Sneed: I don't have them with me but I would love to see what these reserve accounts were like last year and the year before. Have they been drawn against in previous years?

J. Arseneau: Last year we drew for the service for the Spillman software. That was \$45,000.00 for the servers and the hardware that was on that.

B. Sneed: We funded that, Jim. We gave you money to buy that software and then in addition to that you took money from the Reserve accounts as well.

J. Arseneau: I am missing something here.

B. Sneed: There are three lines here for Technology as well as a fourth line that is sort of going unnoticed and every month starting in January you were drawing against the Technology Reserve fund.

J. Arseneau: Remember this year was the year that Probate was going to get the new server for their system and that was some of the draw that is on the....

B. Sneed: Probate has \$30,000.00 of their money in there.

J. Arseneau: That is including the \$30,000.00. That Reserve fund includes the money that went to Probate, too.

B. Sneed: No, there is a separate line for Probate Reserve. \$27,450.00.

K. Trussell: That is something else.

J. Arseneau: I see the confusion. But when you folks had done the monies last year the \$30,000.00 for Probate Servers went in this year along with a good portion of the software.

B. Sneed: I just don't see how we can do this year after year. I just don't see it. We just cannot keep doing this. You have spent \$400,000.00 this past year for IT!

J. Arseneau: You won't be doing an expenditure like that again for another 5 years on the hardware. The Spillman software, when the lease is done, if you remember the only thing that we will be responsible for at that point is the maintenance on the software.

R. Lee: What does the Spillman software do?

J. Arseneau: It is the record system that is used by law enforcement for both Belfast, Waldo, Lincolnville and Searsport. There are another couple of agencies within the County. It's the data base that has everybody's information. Any calls fire, EMS. If you look at the lease on page 3, the Spillman lease, I think, in 2013 will be ended.

R. Lee: Are you a County employee or are you a consultant?

J. Arseneau: No, I am not. I work for the Commissioners as a consultant.

R. Lee: For employees who do we have?

J. Arseneau: There are no employees.

R. Lee: Ok. There is a lot of stuff in the County just look at the lists. Who actually does the installations?

J. Arseneau: Well, for instance when we did the PC's, CBE Technologies, who are the folks that provided the hardware the first time around.

R. Lee: Who is CBE Technologies?

J. Arseneau: They are a vendor out of Portland. They are basically a bar that specializes in big computer networks and they provided the installation and the expertise. They also help us with our firewalls and some of the other miscellaneous infrastructure.

B. Sneed: How much of this stuff is bid out?

J. Arseneau: Well the computers, which are the majority of the expenditure that was done, was purchased on the State contract through HP. They are a GEM program. CBE went out and they compared what is considered "smart buy" versus what the State is allowed for their contract prices and they gave us the best on those too. I also went to Dell to look and see what their prices would be on the specs that we had on the machines, as well as looking at a couple other OAM type based equipment.

B. Sneed: But no published solicitations or bids? Nothing posted in the local newspapers?

J. Arseneau: There was nothing, no. But we had made sure that we bought it on the contract for the State.

R. Desmarais: I am wondering if everyone is done talking. We have to take something off of this. I can talk out loud. Personnel Services going up \$3,000.00, is a reasonable increase. Contractual Services, they are going up to \$197,695.00. They are looking for about \$40,000.00 more for legal. Am I correct on that?

B. Sneed: Yes.

R. Desmarais: Commodities stays pretty close. Then we have Capital Outlay. My thoughts right now is to go back to what they were allocated last year \$205,000.00. That would give about \$133,000.00 cut. If I were to make a motion on that, I would say that the bottom line for the department total would be \$540,000.00, which is about \$30,000.00 higher than last year's bottom line. I am not strong in technology.

R. Lee: I would like to have a chance to talk with you off line and understand it. I just have the impression that the County has incredible spending on technology. I mean the City of Belfast doesn't have anything like this and maybe there are good reasons why. In City Hall I don't even think there is a network.

J. Arseneau: There is a network because I have done work on it.

R. Lee: This level of money is not spent.

J. Arseneau: I will be honest with you there is a lot of equipment that you folks, which you have in the Clerk's office now, are nice stuff because it was all bought as part of the outfit. I know in the office of the Assessors as well as the office for the CEO, what they had originally for equipment they were able to change in the last couple of years based on some recommendations and things. Again, there are not as many people running the departments.

R. Lee: How about the Police? I understand that some of this helps Belfast because of the Communications Center.

J. Arseneau: Your police department uses all of the servers that sit up in the County. They are actually a part of our network.

R. Lee: Do Belfast policemen have data cards and Tough Books?

J. Arseneau: I have encouraged Jeff to look at that and he is going with...

R. Lee: So the answer is they don't.

J. Arseneau: They don't right now, no, because they are right here. For them it is five minutes from the office whereas the deputies, they have a bit of distance whether they are coming from Unity or Winterport. I just ask you folks, I understand that the request is what we would like to have and we know that we can't always get what we would like to have, but at the same time, if you put us back at the \$205,000.00 then I think that there are some areas there that we won't be able to, like the data cards – we won't be able to do that because we won't be able to fund that. If you

notice the last section under your maintenance contracts, there are some like there is the NOS agreement that I am not sure is going to happen this year, but the other things for some of the software and the hardware devices, if we don't keep them under maintenance and we have a problem, then we have to buy a new product or we have to buy the maintenance at twice the cost of what it is to get it serviced. When you are dealing with your firewalls and your switches you don't have, you take the switch out and say, "O.K. guys, your computers are not going to run for the next three days until we get another switch." That is not necessarily acceptable, at least with law enforcement.

R. Desmarais: I know that other departments have been here and the "wish list" is out there but these figures came across at a 25% increase and we have to speak to that.

J. Arseneau: Sure. If there is some way that we can....

R. Desmarais: I came up with \$540,000.00. What I did was go back to \$205,000.00 from \$337,500.00 down to \$205,000.00 which leaves you \$132,000.00 drop. I left the other lines and you may feel different about this. I left the other lines on the Commissioners' budget request right where it is with the big one being the legal costs. They have to enter these contracts the right way.

(There were multiple discussions going on at once about the amount of the Commissioners Budget which made it hard to follow on the tape. About one minute)

**\*\*R. Desmarais moved, T. Biggs seconded to fund the Commissioners (1020) Budget at \$525,000.00.**

Discussion:

R. Desmarais: I had a conversation with another department head a few hours ago and he said he really would like his budget gone over line by line. I said either way, you will be able to move it around in the end. We have to vote on this.

B. Sneed: The only way that I would come close to voting for this is if I could see the expenditures out of the Technology Capital Reserve Accounts for the last three years; every penny that has gone out and where it has gone.

K. Trussell: I can get that for you.

B. Sneed: I want to compare that against what the budget for that year was spent on as well. John sat there last week and said that you do not dip into the Capital Reserve accounts for an operating department and it looks to me like that is exactly what you did last year. It looks to me like that is what you did. If you are just doing your forklift upgrade because the four years are up so be it. Let's see what the numbers are.

J. Arseneau: That is basically what happened with the servers that we bought last year. That was all part of where the long term plan was with the County. So that is why some of it was authorized to come out of the Reserve.

R. McLaughlin: What happens if you don't get the wireless data cards this year?

J. Arseneau: You folks will continue to spend whatever it is. Right now at \$2.80 a gallon for gasoline it's about...

R. Lee: Why can't they go find Wi-fi at various locations around the County?

J. Arseneau: You can do that but the problem is that you are sitting in a school yard up next to the building because the Wi-fi envelope is only so far out and then you are not sitting on the patrol road, whereas with the data card you can sit right on the road and be doing paperwork and just the act of the car there slows people down and the radar is on and is able to catch those people that don't anticipate them being there. During the day time what they found is now that the schools are in session, they can't go drive up in the yard and sit in the school yard because the kids come out for recess and stuff. It has been fine during the summer because they were able to get away with some of that, but now that school is in session, it is kind of hard.

R. McLaughlin: I think that would be a plus; they would be taking care of the children.

R. Desmarais: I don't see the difference of sitting on the road. I know the vehicle is a tool of law enforcement; its presence, empty or not, has an effect. But to say that money goes out rather than have them sit on the side of the school, I can't see that as a cost savings.

J. Arseneau: The issue is them coming back to the office and if you could save them two trips per officer....

R. Desmarais: What we have spent on Spillman, haven't we already got these people out on the road doing their thing? Wasn't that the whole reason behind Spillman when you wanted \$600 odd thousand for it when we first set it up?

J. Arseneau: When we had originally set it up we wanted to have the mobile, but because there was a question about how much it was going to cost, we did not get the full mobile capabilities because the County didn't feel like they wanted to spend that amount of money. So we took the core that will provide them with a way to get into the system, they can do that with the wireless card but what we found is when they do this, they are sitting – for instance, if they are out at the Weymouth School, they are sitting back off the road and they literally have to pull up to just about where the stairs are to be able to get the signal that's needed....because you only get about a 150 foot range from those antennas where they are placed on the building. So they are snug way up against the building trying to pick up a service. There is some savings. I can't tell you, "You are going to save indefinitely \$10.00 per time," but it does save some.

R. Desmarais: Didn't we originally say that we weren't going to give you the money for the Spillman but then you went out and you leased it? Every budget there are additional add-ons to Spillman that keep popping up and we are still dealing with add-ons to Spillman popping up. I keep seeing money asked for, for Spillman.

B. Sneed: \$20,000.00 for training.

J. Arseneau: Well there is a new Jail modular that changes the whole look for the Jail, so that is if we want a trainer to come out for two weeks to train all of the Corrections staff.

B. Sneed: They were all trained on this to begin with.

J. Arseneau: But it is a whole different interface.

R. Lee: Why not just keep the old one?

J. Arseneau: You could do that but the problem is if you go too far back, then you could have support issues.

R. Lee: I know all about this. I deal with this in another area and people in your business; you always push for the latest version.

J. Arseneau: No, I don't want the latest version of things. That is why we don't see VISTA sitting here in the County.

R. Lee: Thank God!

**(BREAK)**

B. Sneed: Let's back up here a little bit Jim. If I understood you properly by the end of the year line 7000 will be close to zero, right?

J. Arseneau: Yup.

B. Sneed: At the moment there is \$32,000.00 in there. The leases are already paid for.

J. Arseneau: Yes, the leases get paid in August.

B. Sneed: We have a line in here that says Technology Main Contracts.

J. Arseneau: Maintenance contracts, telephone system for the three buildings.

B. Sneed: It says \$6,050.00 is what it says.

J. Arseneau: Yup, and we have spent \$5,994.00. They gave me an estimate.

B. Sneed: Now on our sheets for this coming year for line 7002 it says \$60,250.00.

J. Arseneau: You have \$6,000.00 for the telephone contracts, then we have the contracts for the servers which run for a two year period; they were included in the original purchase of 2006 and those are coming due next year, if we choose to do that. That is \$33,200.00 and that is the biggest chunk. Then you have the firewall coverage for the maintenance contracts that's content filtering and that is what adds up to \$60,000.00 for contracts this year.

B. Sneed: These servers are just plain ole' HP Intel boxes?

J. Arseneau: Like I said, I don't know if that is something that we will actually entertain for this year, but like I said, I wanted to show you folks all of the expenditures that we could be possibly hit with if we want to depending on what you folks decide ultimately.

R. Desmarais: If we gave you everything that you wanted this year then we wouldn't have to give you too much next year, right? Or will there be another list?

J. Arseneau: There will always be a list. There is also the yearly support for the Probate software system and there is also the video arraignment support, which would go away since you are not recommending doing that. I wanted to show you what all of the different contracts are and when they come due. If you notice, like with the Spillman stuff, there is nothing there; well that won't happen until 2010 and 2013. The law enforcement firewalls is a yearly amount, but like some of the software is a two year contract so you pay it next year, but you won't pay it again until 2010.

R. Lee: Under #5 it says HP Hardware Service Contract – then several of these in parenthesis after them says, “Presently included in hardware lease payments.”

J. Arseneau: So when we originally purchased the hardware in 2006, the lease that was obtained to get the software also included payment for two years with this contract.

R. Lee: So in the upcoming fiscal year there is no longer... now you would have to pay it. Out of the \$33,200.00, is hardware service? How many physical servers does that maintenance contract cover?

J. Arseneau: That covers at least six. There are six servers altogether under that NOS agreement, then the Probate server which went in this year. That does the new docket system for Probate.

R. Lee: What is NOS?

J. Arseneau: It's a NOS. It is more than just hardware. If there is a problem they will actually send someone out at night to come fix it.

R. Lee: Who are they?

J. Arseneau: CBE Technologies is the authorized HP vendor for the area. They do work for a lot of the Counties, Hancock, Penobscot – they have a good background on the government side.

R. Lee: What is the law enforcement content filter device? If it is confidential then you don't have to tell me.

J. Arseneau: It is exactly that. For \$1,500.00 if that device fails it is a content filter and they will replace the device and it also keeps definitions up-to-date. In other words, it blocks all kinds of stuff. I mean we are blocking a lot of things. We don't allow instant messaging; we don't allow several other different portals like social networking type things. It is all covered by that.

R. Lee: So you have these physical devices that are hidden software that runs....

J. Arseneau: Because it is at the edge of the network where it goes to the internet. You have three campuses, basically, of this building, Superior Court and the law enforcement campus.

R. Lee: And this is not to buy it but to maintain it?

J. Arseneau: If you want the latest definitions for blocking.

R. Lee: Some of them do not have any amounts of money next to them.

J. Arseneau: They are not due this coming fiscal year. I tried to put the date span whether it is yearly or five years.

T. Biggs: [To B. Sneed] So what did you find out about Capital Reserves?

B. Sneed: It is in line. There is a lot of money spent this year getting everybody upgraded. So in theory, they shouldn't have to spend anything next year.

J. Arseneau: You still have to fund the Reserve so we can do it again in five years. Please.

**Motion passed with 3 in favor, 2 opposed – B. Sneed, R. McLaughlin and 1 abstention R. Lee.**

The following budgets will be reviewed on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

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

R. Lee: Do we have the benefit numbers?

R. McLaughlin: We don't have them yet.

A. Fowler: We should have those figures for you by the next meeting. We are meeting with our insurance guy on November 6<sup>th</sup> at our next Commissioners Meeting and he is supposed to have those figures for us, so we will have those.

T. Biggs: So where did these figures come from?

B. Sneed: I should have explained from the beginning Jim. Veronica and I found some typos in the original sheets so that stuff in red is fixing the typos and they were just typos. When did we do that?

V. Stover: It was this week.

R. Desmarais: [To B. Arseneau] I don't know where the question goes to but there are a couple of us who would like to sit down with the insurance figures for all personnel except for the communications people and go over those figures with someone in the office.

B. Arseneau: Sure.

R. Desmarais: Could we come either the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of November to have this meeting.

B. Arseneau: That should be possible. So, who would be coming in and at what time?

R. Lee: I would like to be informed of it; I don't know if I could come.

R. McLaughlin: I have to ask Amy something. With all of the insurance meetings that we had, did we gain anything than what we've already got or are we going the same old route?

A. Fowler: Dick, you attended those meetings right along with me and I found that I learned a lot about the different insurance companies, carriers and what they offer so on and so forth. We came out of there with two strong options – A and B. Did it change the chemistry of the world? No, I really didn't think so. But, remember, we kept kicking around the potential C that never got written down with regards to this several employees. Let's say Joe's wife may work for a school or a Wal-Mart or whatever and her employer will say, "We will give you \$1,000.00 if you go on the other insurance." They give them a benefit, an incentive to go elsewhere. I think that we had kicked that around a little bit but it never went anywhere.

R. McLaughlin: What happened afterwards when they came in and offered you a hard line of 12-15%? Did that go anywhere?

A. Fowler: In all honesty it's not that it went anywhere but with the potential unions coming into play here, I can't really make decisions on it. I am just trying to figure out how to word it. You can't take away from somebody.

R. McLaughlin: This is our year to set something before the unions come in. Are we already too far into the union scene to?

D. Berry: Yes, you are.

R. Desmarais: I question that; I don't think that we are.

B. Arseneau: The minute unions form, it's as if you take a picture...

R. Desmarais: May I say something to you? [To the Commissioners] It was said to you last year at the last meeting and it was agreed that a committee would be formed then and that committee was formed and active when we went in and we presented our version of it. There was no union anywhere.

A. Fowler: I believe that one union had already voted.

R. Desmarais: I believe that no union had voted at that point, none.

A. Fowler: Did you come before me as a representative of the Budget Committee or did you come before me?

R. Desmarais: As an individual. There were two or three of us that went and sat down; not as members of the Budget Committee; we are not speaking for them. Actually I put a plan together and it seemed to be approved. No union had been voted in at that point, none what-so-ever. So all of this took place before. Now I offered a three year plan, obviously three years is out the window because things have changed. There is not going to be a three year window to implement this. The plan is dead in that respect but the original visit was not out of order in my book. If you think that it was going the wrong way then I think that I would like to talk about it.

A. Fowler: Please understand respectfully that I am still new to the union process and what we can do and what we can't do.

R. Desmarais: I understand. I am not saying that I know unions but I have been in one and I have spent 15 years out of it and then got into one and we have dealt with unions. I have never sat at a negotiating table for a union other than our own. We had no union when the committee was organized and when the committees met and when we brought that proposal, there was no union out there.

D. Berry: Even though there was no union at that point of time, you know have three pieces of union block which are legal and binding and that you must negotiate with in good faith. So no matter what, and just to read to you a piece, "Under well established and consistently enforced labor relations law, the Commissioners may not make any changes in the wages, hours or working conditions of employees represented by a bargaining agent unless or until such changes are negotiated with the bargaining agent."

R. Desmarais: Did you look at Linda McGill's letter, item #5 on page three?

D. Berry: I have it and that is the sentence that I just read from.

R. Desmarais: If you read the second sentence in there under #5.

D. Berry: Let me read the whole thing. "Both the Budget Committee and the Commissioners should appreciate that significant reductions or alterations in the current personnel line will increase the time, difficulty and expense of the bargaining the initial union contracts. If such reductions are necessary or in the best interests of the County, of course they should be made, and negotiations will proceed on that basis. For example, the Commissioners may believe that the County can and should reduce the expenditures on health insurance, a position taken by many public sector employers and a common issue in union negotiations. However, any goals to achieve savings in wages or benefits should be at least feasible, and the Commissioners (and the Budget Committee) should appreciate that the process for achieving savings or reducing wages or benefits is now more complicated."

R. McLaughlin: First of all we are not reducing wages. We are not reducing benefits if we keep the benefits the same as they were last year.

D. Berry: It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter because you are negotiating a contract.

B. Sneed: We are not, you are.

D. Berry: Yes. We represent the people of the County in negotiating the contract which we must do in good faith. You can say whatever you want to but you must come up with a set final contract which states the benefits, the salaries, etc. within it.

R. Lee: When are you going to negotiate those contracts?

D. Berry: Probably in November.

B. Sneed: This is really none of our business.

D. Berry: That is right. It is really none of your business actually. That will begin in that point in time. What is interesting here is I am on a different side of the wall from where I use to be. I wrote the third contract for the teachers in the State of Maine here in Belfast. Why? For the same reasons that other people do union moves. So now I am on this other side of this coin representing the people of the County and the Commissioners and basically I will be the chief negotiator for the Commissioners. We are bound by law people and you can make all of the moves you want but when it comes down to the final thing, it is actually what is negotiated between the Commissioners and those groups.

R. McLaughlin: Just because they are unions doesn't mean that they have to have 100% health insurance paid fully by the County.

D. Berry: That is correct, absolutely, Dick that is the whole process of negotiating. That is where I take the roll of the negotiator for us in those types of things. I can't sit here and say anything about that. This is "MUM."

R. Lee: The reason I asked about the timing is I would like to understand as we get into this world in which some of the employees are unionized and we have a budget deliberation process that goes on from whatever it is September through November. Once you have a contract it doesn't matter what we say, the County is obligated to comply with that contract. So I just wanted to know what the sequence is going to be. Are you going to be coming to the Budget Committee with a contract that has already been negotiated in the future so that we are just presented with a bottom line that has been negotiated or are you going to go out and negotiate with the employees after the budget process? I just don't understand.

B. Sneed: It is not that unusual. We have been dealing with the Communications Center exactly the same way for years. So this is just adding more people to the mix.

R. Lee: So how does that work when it comes to salaries?

B. Sneed: We don't give Owen everything he wants.

R. Lee: Well suppose we don't give him everything that he wants, does that mean he has to go back and tell his employees when he negotiates that he can't give them what they want?

B. Sneed: The bottom line is this. There is a County assessment level – LD 1. Exceeding the County assessment under extraordinary circumstances and they are listed: catastrophic events such as national disaster, terrorism, fire, water, war, riot, unfunded state mandate, citizens initiatives, court orders and decrees and loss of state funding. What are not extraordinary circumstances are economic conditions, revenue short falls, increases in salaries and benefits. So if we don't want to exceed the LD 1 limit and salaries is what is pushing it over then that is not according to the law that you probably helped write [to D. Berry].

D. Berry: I did not vote for LD 1 so let's make that very clear. I totally opposed LD 1.

B. Sneed: So we are not dead in the water here, but we are getting close.

A. Fowler: So next week you want Sheriff, Jail and Benefits.

B. Sneed: Yes. That is all that is left.

R. Desmarais: When do you want to have the insurance meeting, Barbara?

B. Arseneau: Can you give us until the afternoon because we are going to need a little time to get it all together?

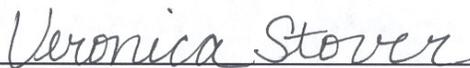
R. Desmarais: Wednesday or Thursday?

B. Arseneau: What is better for you?

R. Desmarais: Thursday at 1:00 P.M.

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, R. Lee seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 P.M. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by



Veronica Stover, Deputy County Clerk