

WALDO COUNTY FY 2008 BUDGET COMMITTEE
5th MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2007

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

B. Sneed opened the meeting at 6:03 P.M.

SHERIFF'S PATROL (1075) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Deputy Robert Keating.

S. Story: I do have my cheering committee behind me. My chief and my captain who I may refer to, to answer some of these questions as they worked very close with me on my budget.

B. Sneed: In case anybody asks, and I don't think that anyone will, but if you look at Personnel Services and you come down as far as line 3100 and just delete all of that stuff. The pay stuff of all above line 3100 is only up 2.85% over last year, so, just to let you know where that stuff is: If you come down to the bottom of Personnel the whole list of things is up 3.27%, but the actual salaries and whatever step increases and stuff is only up 2.85%.

S. Story: Is anyone wondering how we did that with the 3% increase in salaries? Or does everybody understand why that is lower? It is due to the turnover.

B. Sneed: Is that really the answer Scott, turnovers?

S. Story: Yes, we have new people that have replaced higher paying people that have left.

B. Sneed: Any other questions about the Sheriff's Personnel Patrol Budget?

R. Desmarais: I just have a thought. I just went over this last night. Line 3001 – Personnel Over-time: For some reason we have it at \$95,000.00 and this year it will be \$97,000.00. Why did I see something last night that I don't see now? I see I am on the Communications Center. \$95,000.00 was allocated and you have gone 69% and you are at \$66,000.00 with two months to go. You are asking for \$97,000.00 and I was thinking \$80,000.00. This is over-time that you can control a little bit.

S. Story: At this time of the year we have a ton of holidays, we have a pile of vacation that hasn't been utilized yet and it is low right now, but at the end of the year you are

going to find that it is going to balance pretty darn close, Dick. That is why we are down right now.

B. Sneed: We have spent \$80,000.00 the last few years, Dick.

S. Story: I also have two guys that are halfway through the academy and that was something that we did not anticipate with the turnover, so we are spending a pile of over-time from here until they get back. So that is why I say we try to manage it quite well but we are coming into the time of year where we eat a bunch of it up and two guys at the academy is a big chunk of that.

B. Sneed: Does anyone else have any questions?

R. Lee: We are just on personnel?

B. Sneed: Well, yeah, for the moment. We usually try to go through these block by block. Capital Outlay – cruisers as usual?

R. Desmarais: Are you changing your brand of cruisers or are you leaving the Crown Vics?

S. Story: We are going to probably going to go back to the Crown Vics. The Dodge has incurred some additional expenses last year that we did not anticipate, particularly outfitting them. We ran into a pile of problems with trying to retrofit a lot of our Crown Vic gear onto the Dodge. It did not work well. We don't want to run into that again next year.

R. Desmarais: That goes into my next question the cruiser equipment. I imagine your cages will go back into the Crown Vics and all of that.

S. Story: Yes.

R. Desmarais: Where do you get \$8,000.00 worth of equipment in there?

S. Story: If we were going to outfit with new equipment it would be more than that, but what we are doing is we are taking a bunch of our old light bars with new lenses and bulbs. We are literally recycling a bunch of stuff that we have sitting in the cellar right now. We still have installation costs. Just to recycle some of that stuff, you have to put lenses, bulbs, and stroke packs that sort of thing into it. Believe me that is a very conservative number than if we were outfitting new. There are no new radios in that; the radios are \$3,500.00 a pop. We are into a good place now with patrol that we are cycling radios back in that before we were replacing. So that is actually a conservative number.

R. Desmarais: Have you received any grant money towards the vests?

S. Story: This was the first year that I didn't. Every year prior to, yes I do get grants, and I anticipate that I should be able to do it next year.

R. Desmarais: The tasers are about \$1,200.00 to \$1,400.00 apiece?

S. Story: Yes, one of the things on those tasers that I insisted upon, and I am sure that many of you here at the table would agree with me; I hope you would anyways. If we are going to have those, it costs a few hundred dollars more, but they have a digital video recording device so that they are not going to be abused; not that I think my guys would abuse them. What it does is just like the video cameras in the cruisers, they eliminate someone from coming back and saying, "He tased me and he had no reason too," when, in fact, it might show the guy holding a knife or assaulting another person or an officer. They cost a little bit more, but they make much more sense. If we are going to use these things, I want to make sure that we are protecting the County from liability. I will say this much on the tasers too; I had two incidents last year alone where I had two of my officers assaulted and injured and those would have been very beneficial in preventing those injuries. We are not going into the use of these very lightly. We have done a lot of time and research and one of my officers has spent a ton of time looking at these things and making sure that if we do it, that we do it right - proper training, proper equipment and making sure that there are no abuses out there. We are taking baby steps on this. I am not asking you for ten (10) of these to outfit the whole patrol division. We want to start with three and see how it goes.

R. Desmarais: These are top quality but are they name brands?

S. Story: Taser International is the manufacturer.

B. Sneed: Just looking back through the old budgets, the cruiser equipment stuff seems to have held relatively steady in about that amount over the last four or five years.

S. Story: Last year we got stung pretty hard because of the new cars because we couldn't use the same equipment. Because we use the same equipment, we can keep that number fairly consistent. As a matter of fact, it is probably down a little bit from previous years, isn't it Bill? A few hundred dollars?

B Sneed: It's hard to say. Maybe. Give or take, it's within a couple hundred bucks.

R. Desmarais: The other brand that you have - that went out to bid when you bought the other cruisers, the ones that are not Crown Vics?

S. Story: The Dodges. That's correct.

R. Desmarais: Was the bid awarded locally?

S. Story: No it was not. It went out to Bodwell down in Brunswick.

R. Desmarais: Where do you go for service?

S. Story: Here in Belfast.

J. Hyk: The bid was significantly lower. It wasn't something that you could just say – well, it was just so much lower; we went with it because we had to.

R. Desmarais: We originally went with a place in Southborough when we went out for bid for our recent cruiser, and then there was a problem with delivery and we found they had one out in Augusta all painted, so we cancelled that one and went with the one in Augusta.

S. Story: We almost did that here, Dick, because we literally waited - our last cruiser came in August. It was a nightmare. That is why I say we are going to go back to the Crown Vics until Dodge can figure out that they really want to do this right.

T. Biggs: So line 3003 – Clothing Allowances – we didn't fund that at all in 2005 and 2006. Is this something that is going to be permanently on the budget for \$3,000?

S. Story: In previous years, it was not funded under the personnel lines. We had an audit that determined that it had to come out of there because it was taxable income. I have to pay taxes on my clothing allowance, so because of that, it goes under salary and wages. It used to come out of the clothing allowance line on Uniforms and Badges under Commodities – 5405. We used to put it in there.

R. McLaughlin: The tasers – how much is the training going to be?

S. Story: I have that. Bob [Keating], did we itemize that, or did we just put it into the training line? I do have the answer to that, Dick; it's just going to take a minute.

N. Nelsen: Just because I am not incredibly familiar, the Taser – it is an option if an officer is assaulted. What would it be used for?

S. Story: The Taser is a non-lethal device that would be used in circumstances where non-deadly force was being threatened against an officer or a third party. It could actually be used when deadly force is being threatened. An example would be an individual with a knife, if the officer felt comfortable. If a person is coming at you with a knife, the officer is justified in using deadly force because that is considered deadly force. But if an officer felt that it was prudent and could do that without risking the life of himself or a third party, he could use this device to disable the person. This gives the officers an extra option and a lot of agencies are finding out that it is reducing officer injuries from not having to go hand-to-hand with some of these people. It is also saving the lives of some of these people that don't have to have deadly force used against them. Again, it gives the officers another option. I've had officers that have been asking for these for three years, and for three years I have been putting them off because I wanted to wait and see how they progressed. There has been a lot of controversy about them over

the years but that seems to have settled down a lot. One of the biggest parts of settling that down is making sure that there is some sort of recording of their use, to make sure there is no abuse going on. Just like with every police tool, there is always the possibility of abuse whether it is a firearm, Chemical Mace or a Taser. To have a good policy in place, good training procedures and a recording device; you eliminate a lot of that. So I have waited for everything to settle down and my guys have made a good pitch.

R. Desmarais: Do we have a canine?

S. Story: Yes we do. She has found a pile of drugs.

R. Desmarais: Oh, she is a drug dog.

S. Story: It is only drug dog, not an aggressor dog.

R. Keating: The price that you are seeing there is the purchase price for the Taser and for the training equipment that goes with that. Our plan is in the proposal that was put forward by Deputy Brown, who did all of the research. He would go and receive the training and he would come back and retrain the trainer. Then for two years he will be certified to train all of the officers.

B. Sneed: Any other questions over Capital? None. Let's move onto Contractual Services. Any questions there?

R. Lee: I would like to hear a little bit about the vehicle expense line or whatever you call it here - Vehicle/Maint./Gas/Tires. Is that up solely because of the price of fuel?

S. Story: Well, it is, and the other thing on this is I have estimated our consumption out by our 2006 fuel consumption at 28,000.00 gallons. In 2006, we burned 29,232 gallons. This year in 2007, we have tried a few different things. We have rearranged the call sharing agreement with the Maine State Police. It cuts our geographic response time down a little bit. We have a couple of guys at the Academy, so we have had cruisers parked; so our experience has been down this year. We are on track, to be down a little bit.

R. Lee: Is there any policy in respect to cruisers idling?

S. Story: Last year we asked the guys that, unless they are literally getting ready to go out the door to warm the cruiser up, that we don't idle at any place. As far as beside the roadway, when they are on stops, they need to let those vehicles idle. A lot of the electrical equipment would suck a battery dead on them. The lighting bars would have to be going for safety, and that sort of thing. We don't want them idling if they are coming into court for ten minutes to do paperwork, or if they are going to the office for ten minutes. There is no written policy. They have been verbally told not to do that.

R. Lee: What is your theory on your assumptions on the price of gas?

S. Story: This is one of those moving targets. The day that I did this budget, we were banking on the \$3.00 a gallon mark. The only thing that I could do is predict where it might go. I predicted it out at \$3.50, and here I am driving by stations that are \$3.19 today. So, I don't know what is going to happen.

R. Lee: But your number is based on \$3.50?

S. Story: My number is based on \$3.50.

N. Nelson: I don't think that is unrealistic either.

S. Story: I don't think it is either, in light of what is happening right now.

R. Desmarais: I have gone over that line, and in parentheses, I have dropped it to \$135,000.00.

S. Story: How did you do that, by consumption or by price?

R. Desmarais: There is two parts to this. Consumption is the fact that you have used 24,000 gallons in 2000, and that is what you are estimating here, and you are projecting \$3.50 a gallon at 28,000; so that gives you 4,000 gallons at \$3.50 a gallon more and maintenance. Newer cars, you say, are giving you a hard time. You say this new brand, the Dodge, is giving you some grief?

S. Story: Not mechanically, just additional set up cost is where they killed us.

R. Desmarais: So, mechanically you have a car that is a little more fuel efficient than the Crown Vics?

S. Story: A little bit. It is not a substantial amount of money that we have seen yet.

R. Lee: How did you get the 24,000 in 2007 from 29,000 in 2006?

S. Story: Like I said, we have two cars that are parked right now because I have two guys in the academy, and also with the call-sharing thing that we are trying with the State Police, we changed the geographic responses and that has cut us down as well.

R. Lee: What do you think is the average fuel economy of the Crown Vics?

S. Story: They are really all over the board.

R. Lee: You don't know the mileage?

S. Story: Keep in mind that my detective and administrators' cars are Crown Vics and aren't getting that same stop quick-spin around- speed-up-to-catch-the-bad-guy and

running radar. So, we run at anywhere between fourteen to fifteen miles to the gallon on some of the hard chargers, up to twenty miles-to-the-gallon on some of your more conservative.

R. Lee: Chief Trafton said that Crown Vics average nine [miles-to-the-gallon.]

S. Story: We do much better, but I don't want to argue with the chief. We do much better than that, but keep in mind that we have two different kinds of driving. He is in the city all the time, and we are out on the back roads.

R. Desmarais: I have a Grand Marquis and on a trip, two times I pegged it and one was over twenty-seven miles and one was over twenty-eight and that was going over the White Mountains to Vermont. But that is not city driving either; I mean you are going up and down hills.

S. Story: You take our Crown Vic that we are running transports to York County; I am sure that we are running much better numbers than the one that is banging around on the back roads, coming to town, stopping, starting and chasing down speeders. It is a huge difference in the operation of the vehicle.

R. Keating: Just to give you an idea of the Crown Vic that I drive, it is a 2006, and I get twenty-one [miles-to-the-gallon] consistently with that. The cruiser that Deputy Merl Reed drives is a 2006 Crown Vic, fully outfitted with the light bar, and he responds to calls; he is consistently getting 14.6 miles. I have another Marquis that I tracked and that has been running at 13.8, so it varies. It depends on the driver and it depends on the type of work. The sheriff is exactly right; you can't look at the mileage of a municipal police cruiser patrolling city streets at 25 mph; then look at our cruisers who patrol rural roads.

****R. Desmarais moved, R. McLaughlin seconded to reduce line 4200 to \$135,000.00. Motion passed with 5 in favor and 2 opposed (N. Nelson and R. Lee).**

Commodities:

B. Sneed: Line 5405 (Uniforms/Badges) has been \$8,500.00 for a few years now. If you are taking \$3,000.00 out of line 3003 (Clothing Allowances), shouldn't we reduce that by \$3,000.00?

S. Story: Back when we were doing that, I didn't have three detectives and a lieutenant. We have also increased the personnel over the years. I would have to go back and look. That is based on a per-officer clothing allowance. It is spelled out very specifically who it goes to and how much for each one.

R. McLaughlin: Sheriff, would that be for non-uniform officers?

S. Story: No, not under the Uniforms/Badges; that one is strictly for the uniform officers. The clothing allowance is for non-uniform, detectives and administration. The other

thing; I say there is a specific amount for each officer; there is and there is a small pad in there for our part-time officers who we don't designate a clothing allowance for, and also for emergency replacement. A guy may use his whole clothing allowance and he goes out on a foot-chase and shreds a uniform in a brier patch; we can't have him running around without one.

B. Sneed: Any further questions?

R. McLaughlin: [To S. Story] Do you think under 3001, you could live with \$90,000.00?

S. Story: One of the things that my chief explained to me earlier is we projected our sick replacement; if you take a look, I gave you an over-time and part-time analysis. We ran that number at 418 hours of sick replacement and Chief, what is our year-to-date expense?

R. Keating: 811. We estimate each year, and we have for the last three years that our sick time will average around 600 hours of replacement. This year we are up to 811 and we have had officers out for various reasons.

T. Biggs: Do you allow sick hours to accrue from year to year?

S. Story: Up to a certain maximum; up to a ceiling of 720 hours.

T. Biggs: Same thing with personal days?

S. Story: No, personal days can't accrue; you have to use it within the year. They get one [Personal Day.]

T. Biggs: So ,you guys basically get 48 days a year of non-working paid days. Does everyone get 15 days paid vacation?

S. Story: That varies. A starting person gets 80 hours and some are up to 240 hours. The most senior person gets 240 hours. It depends on your tenure.

T. Biggs: That is a generous package. But we are not here to comment on that.

N. Nelson: Well, the two new officers should help because they are not going to be getting the same amount of vacation time or sick time with the ones they are replacing.

S. Story: That is correct. But, again, we did a spreadsheet actually listing the individual officers and the amount of time they have coming. We calculated that out by the hour, and you should have a copy of that.

R. Desmarais: You have two guys in school?

S. Story: Correct.

R. Desmarais: They are going to come on and pick up 80 hours (40 hours for each returning officer) per week of straight time when they get out. It seems to me that should have an effect on your over-time with getting 80 hours per week back on the road.

S. Story: Oh, it will help a lot when we get them back. We don't get them back until the middle of December.

R. Desmarais: Right, so we are talking next year's budget?

S. Story: Correct.

R. Desmarais: You don't have them listed on here, do you?

S. Story: Yes, I do; Graef and Thompson. Keep in mind, we even got stung there - I anticipate a one-officer-turnover annually, and the academy expense for that one officer is somewhere around \$1,500.00, and the other stuff that we have to send them with tallies well over \$2,000.00. I had to send two this year, not just one. I am hoping next year I will be lucky and retain the full crew, but I plan for one loss every year.

R. Desmarais: In Searsport, I figured that one officer costs us about \$25,000.00 before you get him replaced. By the time you pay for the over-time to cover, get that man out to school, the cost of the school, the equipment that they want them to arrive with; it's an easy \$25,000.00.

R. Lee: For someone that is new on this, take me through this page right here. I don't follow; I can see how you got the vacation, sick, holiday and personal days/hours. What is it - some of those columns are hours and some of those days?

S. Story: No, everything should be hours. There should be no days on there.

R. Lee: So the 10 is hours?

S. Story: That is correct. That is one work day for those individuals.

R. Lee: What I am trying to figure out is you have these columns and then you are working up over-time, and I am trying to understand how much of this time - holiday, sick, vacation, personal - is covered by over-time.

S. Story: The yellow time you see is the only people replaced. If the Chief Deputy is out, I don't bring someone in on over-time to cover for the chief deputy, and the same for the lieutenant and the three detectives. We all cover each other.

R. Lee: I guess what I am driving at, and since it is completely predictable when people are going to be out this time, why is it that we have built in over-time? Why don't we

simply just have another officer who is there and takes care of the time when these guys are out?

S. Story: The problem is when they are not out, you have an extra man sitting around, and it is an extra man with extra additional benefits and all the things that go with it.

R. Lee: I understand that. You don't want to overdo it, but you have \$97,000.00 in over-time, and that sounds like two men.

S. Story: Well, even if you gave me two men now, I still have to try and juggle a schedule where they are available when I need them. There is a point somewhere where a full-time person or two full-time people would benefit.

R. Lee: Is the deal - just so I can understand the arithmetic - you take your regular guys, fill up all the shifts with these people, and then every hour they are off on vacation, sick, holiday, personal is filled with over-time?

S. Story: And part-time. We split it. What we try and do is go with a 70-30 split - 30% of what we use is out of part-time and the other 70% is out of over-time. We try and use part-time as much as possible but keeping part-time people is terribly tough.

N. Nelson: I have another question that maybe everybody knows, but I don't: How many people each day do you need to have patrol? What kind of rotation does this schedule end up being?

S. Story: At any given time we have two officers on during the day. There are some days that we call a "float." It is a drop-down day where we sometimes have three. We cover, with our present call-share agreement, two geographic zones within Waldo County. Waldo County is broken up into four geographic zones; we cover two and the State Police cover the other two. We always have one person assigned to that zone and at night we have a supervisor whose sole function is to take care of supervisory needs, and also rove as a backup to all four zones. For example, if a trooper gets in a bind, then he will go back him up, or if a deputy gets in a bind, then he'll back him up. If one deputy in one zone is backed up with two or three calls, then the Sergeant is responsible to answer the other additional calls. At night, the schedule calls for three officers on at all times and during the day it is two, and sometimes three.

R. Lee: So 24/7, there are officers on duty?

S. Story: No.

R. Lee: I didn't think so.

S. Story: We run officers from 6:00 in the morning until 2:00 in the morning. Statistically, between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., we have very low calls for service. The officers are on call and they split that. The day shift covers a call from 4:00

a.m. to 6:00 a.m., and the nightshift covers from 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m., and they are responsible to go out if there are any calls that come in during those four hours.

J. Bennett: What do they do with the money? I was told that a woman was broken into and they told her that in order to get her report to give the insurance, she had to pay \$15.00 for it. Where does that money go?

S. Story: First of all, I don't think it is \$15.00 - it is \$10.00 - and that money would go right back to the General Fund to the Treasurers office.

T. Biggs: Do you have a patrol in Freedom, or do you leave that to the State Police?

S. Story: No, we have that zone. Every two weeks, we would have Freedom, along with a number of other towns.

T. Biggs: Every two weeks? You mean you patrol it every two weeks?

S. Story: We would be responsible for answering all calls and doing pro-active patrol for a two-week period, and then we would switch that over and the State Police would have that for two weeks.

R. McLaughlin: I move we cut line 3001 by \$4,050.00.

[There was brief discussion regarding how R. McLaughlin arrived at the number \$4,050.00. R. McLaughlin expressed his feeling that if they want tasers, "They can work a little bit together and keep the over-time down to that line."]

**** R. McLaughlin moved; B. Sneed seconded to reduce line 3001 by \$4,050.00. Motion carried. Opposed: R. Lee, R. Demarais, J. Bennett.**

B. Sneed: By my calculations, we've reduced the bottom line by \$17,050.00 to a total of \$1,036,281.10 (up 3.9% from last year's budget).

1050 – Jail Budget:

Present: Sheriff Scott Story and Jail Administrator Jason Trundy.

B. Sneed: Again, the same exercise: If you come down the Personnel line to 3000 and stop just above 3100, the salary increases, for whatever reason, is ¾%. The other five lines below that, the whole personnel block is up 5.13% over the previous year. In 2002, the jail budget as a percentage of the County's total budget, was about 21.5%. Last year it was like 29.7%. It had gotten as high as almost 31% in 2004. In comparison, Knox County with half the area of Waldo County were 27% of their budget for the jail; 2007 they were up to 39.8% of the budget for the jail. We've fluctuated about the same amount.

S. Story: If you go into the line items that I have control over as an administrator, get rid of the boarding, the associated costs of the boarding - transportation, additional fuel, additional personnel, overtime moving these people around, medical costs - if you get those out of the picture, I think you will find a very conservative increase on this. It's the same thing every year. I'm not asking for guys to drive Mercedes, not looking for gold-plated uniforms - it's a very conservative increase. Unfortunately, it is the things that we don't have control over that we are all victims of at this table, not just me as a department head, or the Commissioners, or even you as the Budget Committee, but the public as a whole.

B. Sneed: In 2002, boarding, as a percentage of the Jail's total budget, was about 5.7%. Boarding, as a percentage of the County's total budget, was about 1.2%. By 2007, boarding, as a percentage of the Jail's total budget, was up to 27.7%. As a percentage of the County budget, it was up to 8.1%. If we don't take a penny off of it tonight, boarding will be up to 41.9% of the Jail budget. Because we don't know what the bottom line for the County is, I couldn't figure that. All other things being considered, this is a case of the tail wagging the dog.

S. Story: Interestingly enough, when you say 49%; if you take a look at this particular year, we boarded out nearly 49/50/60% of our population at times.

B. Sneed: Actually, 42%.

S. Story: My point is that is pretty consistent with the number of people that we are shipping away, oftentimes. We've actually had it as high as in the 60 percentile. There have been times when we've had more than 35 [inmates] out.

R. Lee: So, it's just as cheap to board them out as it is to keep them here?

S. Story: In some instances, it is cheaper. In some, it is more expensive. Keep in mind that even with boarding them all out, you would still have the transportation costs. At the end of the day, it is not cheaper. I get better rates from some places than others, yes.

R. Lee: Could you just take us through your math for boarding? You are estimating 61 as your average daily population for this year?

S. Story: My facility will only hold 32.

N. Nelson: What has changed in the County that this many people are being arrested and need to be boarded? What are they being arrested for? Is it drug-related stuff?

S. Story: Interestingly enough, last year we didn't arrest many more people in Waldo County than we have since 1985. The number has increased slightly on the arrests, but what is happening is that they are staying longer. The average length of stay since 1985 has almost doubled.

N. Nelson: Are people committing more serious crimes?

S. Story: No, the Legislature has decided on minimum mandatory sentences for certain crimes. The public sentiment is they want people in jail for certain crimes. A very good example: In 1984, we went to a domestic violence case and oftentimes we would find the guy a place to stay, whether it was his brother's house or elsewhere. Throughout the years, the Legislature and pro-arrest policies, the law has said that we don't do that anymore. When we go to houses for a domestic violence case, it is a pro-arrest - you have to arrest that person if you can identify him as the primary aggressor. We have the same thing for many different types of crimes that the public, over the years has said, "We don't want you summoning them - we want you to take them to jail." You have minimum mandatory sentences for certain drug crimes, etc. Probation violations is huge - if you take a look at my average daily population and take a look at why people are in, probation is a huge part of that population.

N. Nelson: Did you have the same rules on people being back in probation violations during the first part of this chart, or has it simply changed?

S. Story: I can't answer that. I'd have to go back and look at the history.

B. Sneed: If you want answers to that type of question, you can go to the State of Maine's Corrections website. There is a study conducted by a company in Florida that produced a preliminary report in September and a final report in December 2007. The first conclusion: "On average, 67% of the people in county jails are awaiting pretrial." They haven't been convicted of anything - they are just sitting waiting for a judge. The average length of stay for these people who are sitting there waiting for pretrial, (average - there's 15 jails in the state) is 65 days. That means some poor SOB is sitting there 100 days, and somebody else is sitting there 30 days waiting for a trial.

J. Hyk: Some of the people in jail haven't been tried and they will never be convicted, so they're not guilty of anything. A lot of the people in jail are mentally ill because Maine has one of the highest rates of incarceration of the mentally ill in this country. That's because years ago, they let everybody out and they promised everyone that there would be services in the communities, and there are no services in the communities. When Mr. Potato Head goes off his meds and doesn't act right and the neighbors get all pushed out of shape, guess what happens? They arrest him and they bring him to the jail where the next bunch of potato heads have to deal with him and they're not trained to deal with crazy people. There's no more expensive way to deal with the problem than the way the state of Maine has figured it out. I'm going to tell you who's to blame - it's not you, it's not him, it's not me or her - it's the Governor; it's the Legislators. They are the ones who write the laws, and they are the ones who confirm the judges that pass the sentences. The citizens of this state are also to blame for allowing it to go on. Sheriff Story is not to blame and the Commissioners are not to blame. We just pay the bills and deal with the crazy people.

R. Lee: That wouldn't really affect - or would it - this large percentage of people who are pretrial? Why are there so many people in prison before trial?

D. Parkman: Do you know why? There are not enough judges.

S. Story: One thing you will find is that in Waldo County, this could be a lot worse than it is. If you make an investment in this budget, down the line you'll be saving it again. Volunteers of America – their year-to-date payback to the County, \$60K-plus, in saved bed days, is pushing on \$500,000. The other one that you don't see quite as tangible a result, on the August report, it was a complete payback – it was a Restorative Justice program. The \$35,000 we invested there had saved us \$35,000 in bed days. Every day after August, starts showing a return on that investment, but what you don't see on that are the people who are not coming back from a reduction in recidivism. That is an awesome program that we are getting our money's worth out of.

R. Lee: Is there something about the system - even given the short number of judges they give us - is there anything we can do to get the system more efficient so that people who are arrested and find their way into Superior Court can be tried and freed, or convicted sooner?

B. Sneed: There were twenty-one recommendations in that September 2006 report. Four of them spoke to things that a county could do. The other seventeen were directed at the state, whether it's the state judicial system or the state bail system, or whatever. Of the twenty-one recommendations, only four of them were something that the commissioners or the sheriff or the chief of police in Searsport or Belfast could do. The bulk of the recommendations were for things that are outside of the control of this county.

S. Story: With one exception, Waldo County is doing most of those recommendations. The only thing we are not doing at this time is video arraignments; we have some technology issues on that we have to get squared away, and that's something we can start doing in time.

R. Lee: Does Waldo County have enough time from the District Attorney's office? Should the County have another district attorney, another deputy attorney?

S. Story: That is a little out of my venue. I don't know the answer.

N. Nelson: How much does it roughly cost for an inmate per night?

S. Story: It depends - if you take my whole budget and divide it by the number of inmates that we have, it is not an accurate representation because I'm at the whim of other places per diem. If you were to take the 32, pull everything else out of my budget that's associated with boarding, I could give you that number. I haven't done that exercise, but I'm guessing it's somewhere around the \$100 mark, maybe a little less. I put a meal in front of them for \$1.25 a plate and it's a damn good meal.

R. Lee: I still didn't get my answer....

S. Story: Let me give you what I did on July 18th when I presented this: On July 18th, my year-to-date boarding experience was 4,238 boarding days. I approximated a cost of \$85 per day (personnel and transportation excluded to move them places) that came to \$360,000. That was consistent with my expenditures. I took the \$360,000, divided it by 199 days of experience (year-to-date of July 18th), and that equated \$1,809 a day. I multiplied the \$1,809 by 365, which came up to \$660,000 base figure. I added 10% to that figure to accommodate for the average growth that we've experienced since 2000. That brought it to \$7,026. I also added five additional inmates because my variance was slated to be suspended October 31st – that is now extended to January 31st. Because of fiscal reasons, the state gave me three more months. That came to a total of \$881,125.

R. Lee: I would suggest that you are assuming that, instead of 61 on this chart, \$81 on average for this year. That seems like an unreasonable jump – 74 plus 10% is \$81 and a fraction.

S. Story: Well, from 2005 to year-to-date 2007, I went 19. From last year to this year, I went 11.

R. Lee: Okay. It looks like you had a year of 42 in 2004; it got dropped down. I just question whether that's reasonable to assume that big a jump.

S. Story: It's a moving target; I'm not to going to lie to you. The projections change from day to day. I made a serious mistake last year when I came to you guys and gave you the projections based on what my year-to-date experience was this time last year. Now we have a \$100,000 to a \$150,000 deficient because I thought we would be all right. I am not going to make that same mistake twice.

R. Lee: If you just looked at this as a hill going up, you kind of drew a curve through it. For me, it would look more like it would maybe go up to a 70 average for the year, rather than 81.

S. Story: If I had given you this projection two months ago, it would have been up into the 70's. We've experienced a little relief because we just got done a Superior Court session, but I made that mistake last year and don't want to make it again.

R. McLaughlin: I know Commissioner Hyk explained to us about being overdrawn last year, and we made it up this year on this budget. I would like to come up with some way of taking that \$207,000 out of somewhere else other than putting it in this budget, which would bring it back to the \$893,000.00 that the Sheriff has already proposed. I know we have contingency and I don't know what the surplus is going to look like this year.

J. Hyk: We can't spend that money that way, Dick. We can't just spend surplus money – by law, we can't do that.

R. McLaughlin: We can spend contingency, though.

J. Hyk: We are already into contingency in some other matters, but the contingency fund is for unanticipated emergencies. This is not an unanticipated emergency; this was money that was put into the budget that was removed.

R. McLaughlin: It is an unanticipated emergency because who knows? Who knows what it's going to be? We could have cut that last year and come out perfect, but it didn't.

A. Fowler: You still have to pay back the contingency.

R. McLaughlin: Yes, you will on next year's budget, not on this budget.

J. Hyk: Can I read what the statute says about this situation, or do you not want to know?

R. McLaughlin: Go ahead – read it.

J. Hyk: “Exceeding County Assessment Limit/Extraordinary Circumstances. The county assessment limit established in subsection 2 may be exceeded for extraordinary circumstances only under the following circumstances: Catastrophic events such as natural disaster, terrorism, fire, war, or riot; unfunded or underfunded state or federal mandates; citizen's initiatives or other referenda; court orders or decrees; or loss of state or federal funding. Extraordinary circumstances do not include: Changes in economic conditions, revenues shortfalls, increases in salaries or benefits, new programs or program expansions that go beyond existing program criteria and operations. The county assessment limit may be exceeded only as provided in.....”

R. McLaughlin: To me that sounds like it would qualify as contingent.

B. Sneed: That section deals with exceeding the limit. If you go to paragraph 922, where it says insufficient appropriations, under contingent funds it says, “At the end of a fiscal year there may be transferred from unencumbered.....the contingent fund may be used at the discretion of the county commissioners for emergency purposes only.”

J. Hyk: Here's where we are in the real world, and the Treasurer can report on that. We just paid bills that put us, I believe, \$54,000 over what's on this line.

D. Parkman: \$43,800, \$44,000 – even though it says November 7th, that takes care of September's bills.

R. Lee: So we've paid ten months out of the year, because the bills that come in December, you are normally going to pay in January.

D. Parkman: What I have tried to do is get as many of these bills. We keep the year open until about the 15th or the end of January for those wandering bills that come in.

R. Lee: In January, did you pay in this fiscal year any bills incurred in the prior year?

D. Parkman: Yes, three bills.

R. Lee: I have two problems with the boarding number: 1) I think that the amount that's anticipated for this year overstates the problem; and 2) I think that the number of inmates projected for next year is a little high when you look at this chart – it's based on 81. It seems like it is a pretty aggressive rise.

N. Nelson: Look at how shallow the curve starts out – it keeps going. What's to say that it's not going to more - 10 the next year and 40 the following year?

S. Story: This is a tough thing. I understand that. Keep in mind the situation we are in right now – it's an absolute miracle we are not in this situation every year – not because of the boarding. I'll give you one example: Look at the \$44,000 medical line; that takes one heart attack in the jail, and we'll be sitting here next year saying, "Where are we going to find the \$100,000 that we didn't budget for on the medical line?" I am stunned that we haven't been here before, not for boarding. Although it's a moving target, you can at least put a shotgun spread on it and capture it somewhere near close. We made the mistake last year of shooting at it with a twenty-two [rifle] at the last minute. The medical – there is absolutely no way to predict that. We have been blessed that we haven't been in this situation with that.

R. McLaughlin: Can you explain to us how the medical works? How much does the County have to pay if they go to the hospital?

S. Story: When an inmate comes into the facility, we won them and every medical cost associated with them, unless they can go out on a furlough or bail; in which case it becomes their own personal expense.

T. Biggs: Do you pay a Medicaid rate for the hospital?

S. Story: Yes, and that saved us a huge amount of money over the last couple of years. We have to discount that ourselves; it's very labor intensive. They won't do it for us, but we have the book and we discount it.

R. McLaughlin: John [Hyk], where else can we put that money other than in jail board for this year's budget?

J. Hyk: What do you mean? Where can we put it?

R. McLaughlin: You're putting \$207,000 of this year's budget in the next year's budget; where else, other than in jail board, could that be put? I just want to see a true picture of jail board. I don't want the people to say that we're paying a million dollars for jail board this year.

D. Parkman: He (S. Story) came in last year and wanted \$700,000 for the board. You people cut it by \$150,000.

J. Hyk: Mr. Treasurer, the question is: Suppose he wanted to give you the money, but he didn't want to give it to you in that line - he wants to pay his bills. How can he pay the bill without putting it in that line? How about a "tooth fairy" reserve account?

D. Parkman: What I'm trying to say is we're \$44,000 in the hole today. That's got to be paid somehow. The bills have got to be paid in January.

R. McLaughlin: I know it does – it has to be paid out of this year's budget, not next year's budget. You can't take the surplus and use it, but you're going to pay bills this year out of next year's budget.

D. Parkman: Under state law, we have to do it that way, Dick. We just can't go into surplus and spend our surplus money.

R. McLaughlin: Okay, the question is we know we have to pay the bill, but does it have to be under the board line?

D. Parkman: Are you looking for a line that isn't fully spent in this year's budget?

B. Arseneau: You have expressed concern over the fact that the figure was so inflated. We did check with our attorney. We didn't even know if it was possible to pay out of next year's budget. He said to check with our auditor. I called the auditor, and he said that this is not a bookkeeping problem; it is not a problem to do this. These budget committee meetings can agree that they would fund it. If you're concerned about the fact it will make it look big for next year, we could put the words in on that line explaining part of this is for expenses incurred in 2007, if that clarifies it for anyone coming in and looking at it.

R. McLaughlin: Why can't you put into the "tooth fairy" account?

B. Arseneau: I don't know if you can put it in a reserve. I don't know the answer to that. I just know that is where we were recommended to pay it from, and you can certainly you can put wording after it that explains what it's for and even how much. This is why this number looks the way it does.

D. Parkman: We can do that – we can put it in a reserve account, put \$200,000 in there, and come January we can spend it.

R. Lee: That would be in next year's budget, a new reserve line for boarding.

J. Hyk: A capital account is for things. It's not a capital program. Put it under a restricted reserve account.

R. McLaughlin: Can you borrow from a reserve account that's not restricted?

A. Fowler: I checked on that also, and it's not an easy process to do.

B. Arseneau: Once those reserves have been designated for a specific purpose, they can't be used for anything other than that purpose. We looked back to see what the Commissioners had defined those reserves as, and they are very clearly defined here. I've made copies so you can have that to look at;. The statute is in the front.

J. Hyk: Dick, it would seem possible to me that you could create a restricted reserve account for unanticipated board expense for prisoners. There wouldn't be anything shifty or underhanded about it. It would be clear and transparent, which I think is very important. Also, that's all it can be used for.

B. Sneed: Roger, I'm going to spend some time tomorrow striking a line through this curve. I don't have the time or the patience to do it right now.

R. McLaughlin: If we got that separate, we can deal with this year's boarding, according to what is projected, what Roger suggested, and come up with a figure we feel is going to work for next year.

S. Story: One of the things that might be helpful for you on striking that curve; we have the month-to-month experience. I have it here to show you.

J. Hyk: Dick, if we could reach an accord working together about something along the lines that you're proposing, here's what I would like to do: Find a way to continue to pay the board bills, knowing that the money is going to be there at the end of the year or the beginning of the new year to cover. What I can't do is write another check for board. That's where we are when we leave here tonight. We either figure out a way to do this, or I can't write any more checks. By law, we can't do it.

R. McLaughlin: I'd like to get a clarification about whether you can pay it out of contingency because that's an interpretation. You're interpreting emergency as one thing, and

J. Hyk: Contingency is surplus. There isn't a pile of money in contingency – it's surplus funds. There's no \$100,000 in a contingency fund – it's a piece of surplus that we are allowed to spend, but after we spend it, we have to replace it from surplus.

R. Lee: But, if you replace it from surplus, it doesn't come out of next year's budget.

D. Parkman: If you spend contingency one year, at the end of that year you have to take your surplus and put it back into contingency. Contingency in this county is either 1 ½ or 2% of the total budget.

R. Lee: Are you saying that if we use this contingency money it's added onto next year's total?

J. Hyk: It comes out of surplus for this year. Last year we didn't even have a \$100,000 surplus, we had \$82,000 in surplus.

R. Lee: What we're trying to do is reduce the total county budget for next year, and it sounds like we are not going to accomplish that if we take it out of contingency because you're going to have to take the \$95,000 out of surplus.

J. Hyk: If you set up a separate reserve account, then go back and look at the reserve accounts at our next meeting. Then maybe we have to take some that we've set aside for some reserves and put it into this one.

B. Sneed: The law says for surplus funds: "The county commissioners.....shall use any unencumbered surplus funds at the end of a fiscal year in the following fiscal year only as provided in this section: 1) restore the contingency fund; 2) reduce the levy of taxes; and 3) other uses (working capital)." That gives them 20% to fiddle with as they see fit, to put wherever they want. This is pretty straightforward – they replace the contingency, they reduce the tax levy, and then they get a little bit of money to play with.

D. Parkman: We can pay the 20%, but this county is running right around 7% or 8% in unappropriated balances. We don't have the 20%. The surplus in the last couple of years has gone down.

R. Lee: I don't understand what it means to "play around with it."

J. Hyk: You have to read this – it's a fall-through thing. The first thing they have to do is replace the contingency; then they have to reduce the tax levy using 80% of the money that's left over from number one. There's 20% left over from number two, and that's what I mean by playing around.

R. Lee: If you look at these reserves, there's a whole bunch of them that add up to several hundred thousand dollars. Between the Commissioners supporting it and the Budget Committee supporting it, could we spend money that is reserved for Land and Buildings for the jail?

J. Hyk: The only time we ever took money out of a reserve account was out of a bridge reserve account and stated that we were no longer responsible for any bridges. We asked the auditor if we could take that money and put it towards Future Land and Buildings, and he said yes. That's the only time it's ever been done.

D. Parkman: It was shifted within reserve accounts; there was no money taken out of reserve accounts and put back into general funds.

B. Sneed: I would like to ask a more mundane question: Under capital outlay, Scott, you want to get rid of a van and a cruiser and replace them with a single cruiser?

S. Story: That is correct.

B. Sneed: Wouldn't it make sense to buy a van if you're schlepping these folks back and forth all over God's blue acres?

S. Story: The van that we are replacing is probably better served behind a tow truck. Wouldn't we be better off with a van? Jason, do you want to address that?

J. Trundy: The newest van that we have on there has very low mileage, but it has been a complete lemon for us. It has been in the shop more than it has been on the road. Our transport corporal would like to see us trade that van in using the money we get towards a van that is going to be more dependable. Quite often, we may have to make a trip all the way to Two Bridges, York County, or, as we had to do recently, to Washington County for people coming from court. It would be beneficial to us if we got the money to get rid of that van because of maintenance problems and putting the two together and possibly getting a van. The most [inmates] we can put into a cruiser is three, if we pack them in the back.

B. Sneed: That is what I was wondering. Are you going to end up spending more in gas and time on the road if you don't have a van?

J. Trundy: Well, we have both vans and cruisers, so if we know we have to move only one, two or three inmates, we will utilize a cruiser. If we have to make a long trip, we try not to make that trip unless we are making it with multiple people.

B. Sneed: This won't leave you van-less is what I'm asking – this will not leave you without a van?

J. Trundy: No, not if we trade the lemon van in, and with the money, we'll end up getting a new van.

S. Story: Initially, we were looking at a cruiser because we had just gotten the van, but since we proposed this in July, it's been a nightmare.

R. Desmarais: I have a question: You run your road cruisers, the "heavy-duties" you use in emergencies, call them emergency vehicles versus a transportation vehicle the jail uses. When you get a certain life out of the road cruisers, why can't you transfer them over to Corrections and put the new cruiser back in the Sheriff's Department? Because you're doing over-the-road smooth driving versus an emergency vehicle.

S. Story: We actually have done that over the years. Again, this was going to be a year when we weren't going to send them a hand-me-down with 100,000 miles on it. We were planning on putting a new cruiser in, because some of the stuff we were going to

send over.....140,000 plus miles on some of those. Although they don't need as much of a service vehicle, they still need a reliable one. We had three inmates stranded beside the road last week – we had to tie up a Camden officer and a second transport officer to go down so we could move them from the vehicle that was broken down into another one. To be honest with you, Dick, we've gotten by doing that over the years, but it's starting to bite us in the butt because the fleet we have over at the jail is really getting tired.

J. Trundy: We did do that this year. One of the three cruisers we replaced was a Dodge Charger. It was a pretty good car; it was much better than the van that they were running which was a 1995 Dodge Caravan that had worn out its use. We took the best car that we brought off the road and moved it over to Corrections and got rid of that 1995 van which wasn't serviceable. So, we do do that with our fleet, and the Sheriff is exactly right – with the number of transports that we are doing, sometimes almost 20 hours out of the day hauling from one end of this state to the other, it's time to stop giving them hand-me-downs and give them some decent vehicles over there.

B. Keating: He's right. Last week we had a cruiser break down in Camden with three inmates in it, so we had to get a cruiser to stand by and help guard the inmates until we could get another transport vehicle. Another week our transport vehicle broke down in Two Bridges – we had to haul that home and send another car to get the inmates. We do need vans and cruisers because we may ship an inmate down to another county to be boarded, but one of those inmates may need to come back for a court appearance or a psychological appointment. Then, it's not practical to send a 10-passenger van down there to pick up one inmate; therefore, we use a cruiser to go get him or bring him back for court appearances.

R. Desmarais: How far away are we from video technology?

S. Story: Jim Arseneau and I have spoken about that. The court here has the capability; York County has that capability; Two Bridges has that capability. We don't have it at the jail yet. I know Jim is looking at that. I don't know how his budget panned out, but I know that was one of the ideas he had – to introduce the technology this year. I really think it's a matter of the courts okaying plugging it in, then some of our inmates might be down at York or Two Bridges, but the court here has to do that. We have no say in that.

[BREAK]

R. Desmarais: Personnel services – I want to go to the Over-time line (3001).

S. Story: The yellow are cars (transport division).

N. Nelson: Can I ask a question? On vehicles, you have six vehicles listed – three of them in yellow and three of them in white. Does that mean anything?

T. Biggs: Can I ask a question about boarding? We anticipate overruns of \$100,000 this year. You're \$48,000 in the red now.

D. Parkman: \$48,000.00 in the red now, and bills were paid through September, so we have one more quarter – the October, November and December bills.

T. Biggs: That over-states it because you said you do pay some December bills in January. So, board last year was \$550,000, and we're going to be another quarter over that – say, another \$150,000?

R. Lee: We have \$207,000 here. They increased the \$893,000.00,000 that the Sheriff had to \$1.1 million.

D. Parkman: We had bills come in from the last meeting, you had until this meeting totaling \$82,000. If that continues, you can probably say another \$82,000 from November through December.

R. Desmarais: Three of us have been moving numbers around, and we come out at around \$700/\$710,000 for the year. Do you agree with that, because some of your December bills are going to be moved into January for payment? Around \$700,000 is probably what it is costing for boarding out on this year's budget.

D. Parkman: Seven hundred, that's right.

R. Desmarais: Scott, you're sliding the scale, saying that if it was \$700,000 this year, we're probably looking at \$893,000.00,000 next year. Am I correct in assuming that?

S. Story: Again, I figured it a little bit differently than the approach I think Bill and Roger want to take with it, and that's fine. I would be interested to see what they come up with. I did it based solely on my year-to-date experience the day I did this budget, and multiplied by the day. The only reason I did it that way is because it is the same way I did it last year and the year before, and I've been relatively close with it.

B. Sneed: I just did it in sort of a numbskull way; take the total number to date, divide by 10, and figure two more months to go.

S. Story: The variable in the projection for next year is the 10% that I added in because our increase between 2000 and 2007 averaged about 10% per year.

B. Sneed: What about the waiver, Scott?

S. Story: The waiver is factored in there, as well, for five additional inmates boarding. Right now, it's allowing me to have 32 inmates. When the variance is gone, I'll only be allowed to have 27 in the facility.

N. Nelson: Is that extendable again?

S. Story: No.

B. Sneed: If you want to write it down again, in 2002 the jail budget was \$898,000; in 2003 it was \$1,050,000; in 2004 it was \$1,725,000; in 2005 it was \$1,755,000; in 2006 it dropped a little to \$1,700,000; last year it was \$1,990,000.

J. Hyk: Seven years ago, Bill, we had a revenue item, a revenue sheet before. The first year I was here, we made money boarding prisoners in.

B. Sneed: I didn't figure out what those increases are; can you do it in your head, Scott?

S. Story: The only problem with doing it that way, Bill, is that you're taking the whole budget in there and a percentage of that is not going to be the boarding. The 10% isn't the increase in the boarding; the 10% is the increase in the population. Plus, don't forget, I'm adding five people to that which is a huge percentage, as well. Roger, when you are saying it looks like we're jumping to 81, that doesn't look like the same bell curve, and that may be why the curve is a little higher because I'm adding five people onto that.

R. Lee: No, I don't think so. Eighty-one 1 is a total population. You're right – there would be more inmates if you have to drop five.

S. Story. I dropped five high-risk inmates, and that may be why that number is looking a little skewed. We are adding five on there that we wouldn't be if I had kept my variance.

R. Lee: I got the 81 by taking your 74 - your average at the time you did it - and adding 10%.

S. Story: We need to talk to the EOC about reconfiguring the jail. The problem is that I don't know if we can do it, depending on the populations. One of the things we may be able to do is, if I can kick all of my high-risk people out, I may be able to recover a couple more beds. I might not lose a total of five, but the problem with that is I have to find somebody that will only take my high risk, and that's tough....they don't want all the bad – they want the good and the bad. I can't bank on that – I'm going to try, but I can't bank on it.

B. Sneed: If you want just the closing costs, in 2002 they were \$51,000; 2003 they were \$90,000; 2004 \$337,000.

S. Story: Those five alone are \$155,000 at \$85 per day.

B. Sneed: 2005 and 2006 were \$400,000; last year was \$550,000. Clearly it was undershot. If we'd done our numbers right, it should have been \$700,000.

S. Story: If you take the \$893,000.00,000 I asked for and get rid of \$155,000, now that makes a number of \$738,000, which is probably closer in line with what you are thinking, Roger, if you take a look at it by bell curve...

R. Lee: 2006 was \$400,000 and 2007 at \$700,000, we only added 11 people, but that's \$300,000. If it goes up by another 11 people, \$300,000 over \$700,000 is a million, but I know we're not talking about that.

S. Story: There is no guarantee I can get that variance, but I will try.

N. Nelson: To play devil's advocate, I think we could be looking being here next year in a situation very similar to this year but worse, where we've gone over what we might be allocating by even more than the \$200,000.

B. Sneed: I think it's a distinct possibility.

R. Desmarais: I make a motion we fund line number 4030 at \$800,000. Seconded by R. McLaughlin.

(Discussion about re-examining this in December 13th and about the State variance.)

Motion passed (6 in favor). J. Bennett abstained.

D. Parkman: That takes care of next year, but we have \$200/250,000 in bills this year. Are you going to do that tonight?

R. Lee: Couldn't we in December - when we have a better idea of what it is - create that reserve account?

D. Parkman: We can do that.

R. Desmarais: Can we go back to the first page - Overtime Line 3001? Based on what you've spent, I see that ending up at about \$90,000. There is a request for \$139,000.

S. Story: If you take a look at the worksheet, we have some expenses next year that we didn't have this year: 504 hours of replacement time for Spillman training, the new Spillman jail program component going in; increase of transport hours - that's about \$58,000, just those two items under over-time and we didn't increase it by that much.

B. Sneed: While we're looking at over-time, we should be looking at part-time at the same time, right?

S. Story: If you take a look at part-time, we projected out at \$88,346 - that's only \$4,000 more than last year.

R. Desmarais: You already spent \$108,000.

S. Story: We've had a 25% turnover in the jail; full-time people going out of there right straight ahead this year. I hope it won't happen next year, but I've had to fill a lot of those full-time slots with part-time personnel.

B. Sneed: I know it's sort of nibbling at the edges here, Scott – in for a penny, in for a pound – could we take \$4,000 out of the medical? If somebody goes through the roof with a heart attack, \$4,000 isn't going to make that much of a difference, is it?

R. Desmarais: Can you go down on vehicle maintenance because you're getting rid of a lemon?

S. Story: We're only getting rid of one lemon. Take a look at the mileage on this crew.

R. Desmarais: You went down \$500 on your request from last year.

R. Lee: You make the point that a heart attack could put you way over this. Wouldn't it make sense, because you can't get insurance, to create a reserve and fund it every year so you can build up some money to pay for that heart attack? If you put away \$40,000 or \$35,000 every year and you only spend \$20,000 in an average year, then you'd have something. It just strikes me as very odd because if you get that heart attack, what are you going to do? What if it's worse than a heart attack? What if it eats up your contingency?

B. Sneed: All right. Motion made and seconded. All in favor of reducing that line? Any other changes to contractual services? Any proposed changes in commodities?

**** R. Desmarais moved to reduce Line 4045 (medical/surgical) from \$44,000 to \$40,000. B. Sneed seconded. Passed unopposed.**

S. Story: Before you leave that, I really like what Mr. Lee said. I don't know the legalities of setting money aside, but one mistake I think we made last year is that we were well below L.D. 1 at the end of the exercise and walked away not bringing it up to at least that level. I don't know where you're going to be this year but just a suggestion - if we are in that same place, why don't we do something like that for that day when we do have something bad that happens for medical? Don't let that idea fall off the wayside – it's not a bad idea.

B. Sneed: If you look at what you were given, \$44,000 and what you've spent, that would be a good thing to start a reserve with right there. In a couple of years down the road, we'd probably be looking at a lot smaller figures than we are looking at now on that one.

S. Story: Just to expound on that just a little bit, keep in mind that we have another line item 5330 under Commodities (Medical/Surgical Supplies). Those might be two areas you might want to take a look at down the road a bit.

****R. Desmarais moved to reduce Line 5330 from \$70,000 to \$60,000. J. Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed - 4 in favor; 3 opposed (N. Nelson, B. Sneed, R. Lee)**

D. Parkman: One thing on these reserve accounts – I have no problem putting medical, etc. in these reserve accounts. We did this with these police cruisers back in the ‘90’s when the budget committee at that time put these cruisers into a reserve account, and I think we changed every year out of the reserve account. They took these cruisers out of reserve and back into the general sheriff’s budget because they became more of a year-by-year thing. We can do it, but it’s really kind of a yearly budget thing that should be done.

N. Nelson: The broken arm or sprained ankle is pretty yearly, maybe, but the heart attack or the suicide, etc., is something else.

B. Sneed: If I’ve done my calculations right, we’ve reduced the over-all bottom line for Department 1050 by \$314,000.

****B. Sneed moved to accept total bottom line of \$2,309,70.38. R. McLaughlin seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Sneed: For those of you who couldn’t make the meeting this afternoon, Amy [Fowler] handed us a short outline of all the people they talked to this past year at the County Commissioners Association, the Maine Municipal Employees, etc. Anthem, [insurance] at the moment, is providing the best for health insurance premiums – they flat-funder last year’s?

A. Fowler: They flat-funded last year’s premiums.

B. Sneed: So, that’s \$47,024.

R. Desmarais: We also had a very good experience last year which helps with those numbers. Last year we had a good year, and that helped us. That is also reflected if you look at your new budget page – that budget went down something like 0.2%. We also had a fairly good experience with our Workmen’s Comp, as well.

B. Arseneau: Sometimes we don’t get a firm number until November or as late as January. It ended up going a little higher than they or I had anticipated (about \$1,000), and still the over-all bottom line actually decreased from last year.

T. Biggs: I’m discouraged with healthcare. I don’t when it’s going to stop...very discouraged.

R. McLaughlin: Are we going to know more about this other program by December?

A. Fowler: Last year you asked us for no increase. You said, "Bring it back with no increase." We formed a committee at your request and met with insurance companies and said, "Bring us back your best deal." Interestingly enough, our insurance carrier came back with a flat rate, with no change in health insurance from last year. Our experience was very good; we've done very well. Looking at the City of Belfast and several others' increase, I'm very grateful and appreciative. Right now, we have two bids on the board that we haven't made a decision yet. They both look really good; they're both very impressive, but everything hasn't yet been tweaked. I was very impressed and pleased with the fact that we could at least withstand NO increases, versus when you look around.

****R. McLaughlin moved that Budget 2025 at \$1,350,500.00 be passed. B. Sneed seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Sneed: Has anyone read Veronica's minutes from the last meeting? Karen has received responses from only about a third of the towns, so she can do her L.D. 1 calculation. If your town has not submitted them, please whip the appropriate people. I brought ours in this evening. If you haven't done it, we have to get them back to these guys.

K. Trussell: It's fifteen towns that haven't responded.

B. Sneed: Fifteen out of twenty-six?

R. McLaughlin: Lincolnville is going to try to get it in before the 30th.

K. Trussell: Got it.

B. Sneed: Barbara, we're still good for a public hearing and budget committee and combined commissioners' budget meeting combined on December 13th at 7:00 p.m. here?

B. Arseneau: Yes.

****B. Sneed made motion to adjourn meeting. R. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Veronica Stover
Veronica Stover, Deputy County Clerk