

**WALDO COUNTY FOR YEAR 2010 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2009**

PRESENT: Budget Committee Members Bill Sneed (2009 Chairman), Robert Plausse, Evelyn Adams, Richard Desmarais, James Bennett, Ronald Price and James Kenney. Also present were County Commissioner Donald P. Berry, Amy R. Fowler and William D. Shorey, County Clerk Barbara Arseneau and Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover to take the minutes and various County employees.

D. Berry, Sr. opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and called for nominations for Chairman of the Waldo County Budget Committee for the year 2010.

****J. Bennett moved, R. Desmarais seconded to elect Bill Sneed as chairman for the 2010 Budget Committee. Unanimous.**

B. Sneed: We have a lot of new people, why don't we introduce everyone. (Everyone introduced themselves.)

B. Sneed: The three that we are missing is Roger Lee from Belfast, Nakomis Nelson from Islesboro and Ron Price from Freedom. We get these every week that we meet (expense reports). We as the Budget Committee are not allowed to interfere with personnel matters and we can touch the bottom line. In practice if we want to cut something we have to specify. They don't have to go along with that and they can do that because they can shuffle within their budget. We are required to be specific where we are going to cut something and, I guess, if we raise something, too. The point of no return is the Public Meeting; the final public meeting. From this point on until that evening is temporary. It is only at the Public Meeting that we go through everything rapidly. Anything else that I have forgotten?

D. Parkman handed out the revenue sheet to all on the Budget Committee.

J. Kenney: I have two questions; one is personnel. Is that fixed in the statutes? I was looking in the statutes and did not see a reference for that specifically. I must have missed it when looking in the book. Secondly, using Mr. Nealley [Facilities Manager] for an example as you just cited, if this Committee cuts an item, it lowers the budget as we understand it and so he works with that budget. So if we took X out of Mr. Nealley's budget, he cannot exceed the sum of the total minus X.

B. Sneed: Yes. The Commissioners are allowed to move money between departments but in order to do so they have to reconvene the Budget Committee. Thank God that has never happened.

J. Kenney: I understand the answers to my two questions. Thank you.

B. Sneed: You can find all the statutes in all their glory online. I can't lay my finger on it, but in a moment you will see that the Commissioners have the sole discretion. It is in here and I can't find it.

J. Kenney: I accept your answer. The reason why I raise the question is statutes were included in the book and either I misread that or I didn't understand what I was reading. The point had been made previously and I just wanted to verify the root of it.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (1030) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley.

B. Sneed: Mr. Nealley do you have anything to say? Do you want to make a presentation?

K. Nealley: Sure, I will come up and chat with you. I am Keith Nealley the Facilities Manager. A couple of items, after talking with the Commissioners, I had a couple of items under Capital Expenditures. We were looking to do a handicap ramp up on the top side of District Court and we didn't have money last year and we were able to put a handicap ramp down below. We did a little research and found out that the State of Maine may be of some assistance with a grant for us to do the upper ramp, so the Commissioners pulled the money for that and we are going to pursue other avenues which will be a good approach. The other thing that we were talking about is \$9,200.00 for paving at the Communications Building and we are going to hold off on that and see what happens next year. Most items were at the same if not a little bit lower. One of the few things that I did adjust upwards was the Water/Sewer line, as I found an article in Village Soup that it may increase 20%. Fuel costs - you folks had issues with my estimates last year which is your prerogative and your crystal ball worked better than mine - so we were locked in at \$3.80 last year a gallon and this year we are locked in at \$1.80. Things are better there and for the second half I talked with some of the oil distributors and I've used \$2.30 a gallon. So, I don't have a lot of room to wiggle around with. So, my overall budget is \$45,000.00 except for the Capital Reserves; everything else was kept relatively the same. I have only been here for two years in May so I had to go back and set up a lot of history. I still have room for adjustment as far as the numbers; some go up and some go down and I work within the box.

B. Sneed: Two things that caught my eye are line 4628 Cleaning the Sheriff's Office, and you allocated \$4,500.00 and you have only spent \$440.00.

K. Nealley: I have someone who is working on that. What happened was we used inmate labor to do that work and we haven't had any inmates in the Jail since May or June and I have a guy who is cleaning over there to catch up. With the new program we will have residents that will be able to clean.

B. Sneed: Could we cut it in half and be safe?

K. Nealley: You could, but I can't guarantee how long these people are going to be there before they cut them loose.

A. Fowler: Can I just caution you - this is a re-entry facility and these people will be worked out into society - working jobs and so on and so forth. We don't have any yet and we are supposed to officially start November 1st, but we are in this predicament with the Sheriff's Office, but also in the Communications Center where we could utilize a lot of their services.

B. Sneed: The other one that caught my eye was the line 5375 – Training and Education.

K. Nealley: I have been a little pre-occupied with this Jail restructuring. Whenever I can take the efficiency Maine courses, I take those. I think that I have only taken a couple of classes this year. I'd just as soon leave that alone. The training and education is to everyone's benefit.

B. Sneed: So do you have an actual bottom line after all of your tweaking?

K. Nealley: The bottom line is \$245,673.00.

****J. Bennett moved, B. Sneed seconded to accept the Facilities Budget (1030) at \$245,673.00.**

Discussion:

J. Kenney: You need to understand I am a new boy on the Budget Committee and you have talked about the budget has been set up for cleaning and there might be alternative approaches to the cleaning. Let's just say that comes to be and the budget of \$4,500.00 is not consumed, is that directed to another point if not spent? What is the practice of the County when we have an item that is not spent, where does it go to?

D. Parkman: Any line that is not spent is not carried over. So if he doesn't spend that money it just falls into surplus.

J. Kenney: It doesn't become free money to go... this is what I need to hear.

B. Sneed: Money cannot be moved between departments.

J. Kenney: O.K., but within the department you can.

K. Nealley: If I had an expenditure that came up I would go to the Commissioners and say, "Look I have \$4,500.00 in this cleaning budget and I need a new lawn mower," for instance. The Commissioners could authorize that expenditure out of that line.

J. Kenney: What I am hearing is there is a process that provides an authorization of directing money into certain accounts.

D. Parkman: They can go over in any one of the line items but they cannot be minus on their bottom line because you folks have set the figure at whatever amount. Come December when you set that figure, that is the figure that he has to work with, but he might be over on certain lines.

B. Sneed: In fact, if you look through this print out and look down year-to-date variance percent which is the 4th column over, you will see there is a lot of minus signs.

J. Kenney: Understand my question - it is to gain information and not directed at your department (1030 Facilities) at all. How do the monies flow? There is a process to direct monies away if a need occurs within a department. What I understand is the total budget cannot be exceeded unless the Budget Committee meets.

K. Nealley: I am still fairly new at the whole management thing so I use real numbers as to, like, the water and sewer and what it actually cost me because that is the only way at the end of the year where my budget should be next year. I could easily put that into another column and make everything come out to zero at the end of the year but it doesn't show me what numbers need to be adjusted.

J. Kenney: Do you understand the nature of my question?

K. Nealley: I do.

W. Shorey: In talking about this budget I would like to point out that we are all on a slippery slope with oil at the moment and it may well be that this \$2.20 figure may not hold. They need to start trimming up that dollar bill or we may see \$2.40 or \$2.50 or \$2.60 by January 1st. It could very easily happen.

A. Fowler: It was a savings of \$12,000.00 in heating oil.

R. Desmarais: I just want to say that figuring out year-to-date percentage, we are at 79%.

D. Parkman: The last page you will see 75% and that is where we are actually at with two pay periods gone.

B. Sneed: On the Capital Reserve part at the bottom you will continue to see \$100,000.00 and that this county is required to carry by law, and the percentage is fixed by law and that is for absolutely unforeseen circumstances; so if the oil did go through the roof, they could go to this for that purpose. It is theirs to spend as they see fit.

D. Parkman: But if we do spend any of it, at the end of the year that figure has to be back up to \$100,000.00 for the next year. If we don't use it, it stays there.

B. Sneed: It is a "semi floating slush fund" for real dire emergencies.

D. Parkman: It isn't much when you take a 7 million dollar budget.

R. Plausse: Going back to the Capital Improvement projects, you hope to get a grant for \$34,500.00?

K. Nealley: The State has a little money that they need to spend so we met with them and things are looking good. We are going to improve the ramp that is up here, the slope is a little off and we are going to put in an automatic door opener. We seem to have established a good rapport with people at the State as far as the District Court goes. They actually wanted to take a walk through over at Superior Court and see what they could do for improvements. I had a good meeting with them along with the Commissioners this week.

R. Plausse: I would like to thank you for going after this and taking the time to do this and to explore avenues to use money.

K. Nealley: Thank you.

B. Sneed: Say you only got half and again on account of the reserves; there is one called Future Land and Buildings - now the Commissioners might or might not want to dip into that to make up if there was a shortage for a grant. That is up to them, but they have a place where they can go to; but that is their executive decision but we try and keep these funds at some level where they can do stuff like that.

Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (1076) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Communications Director Owen Smith.

O. Smith: There are a couple of things that I want to say and you have kind of mentioned one of them. Through your suggestion last year we got the ergonomic furniture in September. It is up and running and it is working out very well. Knox County is installing it [in their center] in December. Again, I thank you for last year for where we found the money for that and the Commissioners were willing to do that. It should be good for twenty –to-twenty-five years and it came out of reserves. Other than that, you folks have the numbers and my increase is always where it is and that is in Personnel. There are two new line items this year which are Shift Differentials, which is anyone working evening and over night shift and that moves around. Then shift differential's overtime.

R. Desmarais: Owen, have you been having some problems? I hear some tones going out like you are working on the system. Is this just normal repairs?

O. Smith: Nope, we finally got the other half of Fire South down at Point Lookout. We signed the contract in May. We are working out the little bugs in that and the system has to be guided by GPS, and when we installed it we realized that the levels changed and it had to be corrected. So, they were working on that for the last couple of weeks.

B. Sneed: On Tower Operations to date you have not spent 2/3 of what you got.

O. Smith: Most of that is because we didn't bring Point Lookout online until the end of May so we lost our first half of the year with that - the South Liberty site, and that has a 4% bump built in for next year.

B. Sneed: Are they [Liberty] happy, finally?

O. Smith: I hope so. Most of it was grant money and the work going on came mostly out of grants. So, they have an incentive to get it up and going.

B. Sneed: Aborn Hill is in good shape?

O. Smith: Aborn Hill - on Monday morning we are going to start new construction with a grant that EMA was able to get. We are putting up a new tower - 140 feet - a new building and fencing, and we hope to be done mid-December.

B. Sneed: New generator?

O. Smith: Nope, the generator that we have is only four years old. The other one burned up in the fire. We are going to leave the two buildings that are there because one of them will house the generator and the other one we will use as storage.

J. Kenney: I see in the write-up that there is a COLA. I understand COLA, but who establishes COLA? Is there a formula that is given?

D. Berry: Yes. The COLA level is set by the Commissioners but the reference to that is looking at what the National COLA is. One of the things that we are working away from, as some of the people know now, is working away from using COLA at all and developing salary scales for everyone. I personally dislike the COLA.

J. Kenney: As you and I have talked about at one of your meetings - the COLA - you have guidance on how to choose COLA. I am an engineer so I look at things and the process. Thank you.

B. Sneed: Any other questions for Mr. Smith?

****R. Plausse moved, B. Sneed seconded to approve the Communications Center Budget (1076) at \$761,204.00. Unanimous.**

(BREAK)

TECHNOLOGY (1020-7100, 7101 & 7102) BUDGET REVIEW:

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

B. Sneed: Before we get started, back a few years ago the Commissioners, in their infinite wisdom, decided to take all of the technology under their department which used to be scattered amongst every department in this book. So, there is basically two parts to the Commissioners budget; one in their office and the Technology. We are going to look at Technology tonight. [To the Commissioners] Did you, by any chance, change the numbering schemes because these things say 7000 and the other ones say 7100, so the accounts have changed.

K. Trussell: Yes, they have.

B. Sneed: I have one other question. What is 7011 - \$900.00?

B. Arseneau: That is not related to Technology. It is an actual Capital Outlay item. Our shredder we anticipate dying, and our paper cutter needs to be replaced.

J. Arseneau: Basically the Technology that we have is three different divisions: There is a General, which has to do with the day-to-day type operations, payment of Internet service, repairs for the machines, software that is used for anti-virus for content filtering, the email domains and also the

wireless data cards that are used by the various departments. Then you have the next category, 7101, which is Technology Leases. The County of Waldo has a variety of leases of software that it will own at the end of either five or seven year periods that basically the majority of them effect the law enforcement and the dispatching centers as well as all of the EMS, fire and police departments within the County that utilize the software. There are two leases that have to do with hardware with the actual equipment that I used for all of the file and print services by all County departments as well as the law enforcement agencies that carry data, so Lincolnville will be online - they can see all of the calls that Searsport has handled and any other contact that the County has had with that individual. It offers a good data base for making sure of follow-up on situations. The last account number is Maintenance Contract. So, with certain pieces of hardware and telephone systems, your computer systems they are contracted - some of them on a yearly cycle and some of them are on a two year cycle - and I tried to identify in budget line as to what the yearly cycles are. So, you will notice on some that it has NRATT (not required at this time) but will come due at another fiscal period. Just a little bit of history as to what Technology has been able to accomplish; as Bill mentioned, the Technology Committee that had been set up by various folks within the County, is that the County needs to handle this technology as its own instead of letting each organization within the County do their own thing. So, the County is standardized on hardware; we use the same computer equipment whether you are in the Registry of Deeds or if you are sitting up at the law enforcement complex. The only thing that might change is some of the specialty software, such as the law enforcement or the docket management stuff that is used by the Registry of Probate, but the computers are identical. So, if there was a problem, we could pick a machine and move it to another department. Everything is the same; there is no specialty, with the only exception being the Sheriff's Department uses special laptops in the cruisers, and these are expensive - which is similar to what the State Police have in their cruisers. When we go and buy things, we buy in quantity versus buying different items, which was a smart thing that was recommended by the Technology Committee and the Commissioners went along with that. So, this past year we have requested to get the laptops, and after, we went after two grants and didn't get either one of those grants from the Department of Homeland Security or from NEMA. Highway Safety in February contacted the Sheriff's department and we were able to get six laptops that typically would have cost us about \$4,500.00 a piece and that does not include any of the software. We got those that cost nothing from the State because the Sheriff's Department files certain crime reporting statistics on a regular basis and because they do that, they become eligible to receive certain grant funds. When some of the other departments saw that - Lincolnville and Searsport - they were going to try and keep up their reporting through our centralized system because there is money to be had if you have this reporting that has been going on. So, all of the deputies have a notebook that is current. We have had four notebooks that were from 2001.

J. Kenney: I have a quick question and that is on the hardware. Do you have a plan of replenishing on a cycle and what is that cycle?

J. Arseneau: The cycle originally was recommended three-to-four years by the Technology Committee. We haven't been able to keep to that but what we have done is it's been about a five year replacement cycle. Servers are going 6 years. We just refreshed the PCs back in 2007, so they won't be due for a refresh until 2011. They come with a three-year warranty, so what we did last time is we bought a two-year extension of the warranty so that if there were any issues, it is just a matter of calling up and getting a replacement. The Commissioners, along with the Budget

Committee, made recommendations to put money in the Technology Reserve so that these funds would be available on a replenishment cycle. We have been doing very well in keeping to that; of course, there is always areas where things have to be cut, and I will say, Bill remembers the original recommendation; we may not have been able to uphold what we recommended to everyone to put away for money every year. We make do with what we have and it's been pretty successful. In 2007 that was the second refresh that happened. There is some other stuff that is going to be happening with regards that some of the software is going to be upgraded and updating the antivirus software that is three or four years old.

J. Kenney: Six years ago, I have retired from a major corporation - United Technologies. We are a corporation of 200,000 computers and we went away from ownership to leasing and saved money. Have you ever looked at leasing - and it is a general question - have you looked towards leasing? We saved big money.

J. Arseneau: We did; we leased all of the servers. The servers are leased on a five-year plan. So, instead of paying a chunk of change, we split it out over a five-year period and we own them at the end of the five years and then we will enter into another lease to pick up new equipment and sell the old. The old PCs - we were able to resell about two thirds of them to various municipalities - and we refurbished them and put new antivirus software, updated the UPS that were in there and they got a full version of Microsoft office.

J. Kenney: So, that is part of your planning?

J. Arseneau: Yes.

(BREAK)

Budget Committee member Ronald Price entered into the room and all introduced themselves.

B. Sneed: Just one thing with Technology leases - don't we have a separate one for Registry of Deeds, and don't they have their own lease?

J. Arseneau: Deeds is part of the \$4,000.00 payment for the docket management system for the Ikon software that they have. The State - all Probate offices got together and there is one website now to go to and get all Probate information for all counties in the State of Maine. Registry of Deeds has their own arrangement with a records company called ACS. So, basically we did the upgrades with the laptops and have been able to complete those this year and we are going to be upgrading some of the software for the servers, and then we also brought on board Stockton Springs and Islesboro. All connect remotely to the server. So, the County decided that all of the licensing should be handled at one point instead of letting each agency have their fingers in it changing software, so everything is managed from one point. So, if anyone has any specific questions or if you just want to ask...

B. Sneed: In the back, over the last number of years Jim has submitted this with a detailed breakdown, and don't be put off by the numbers. In years past I have always started here and gone

at it with a hatchet and when I got all done I looked and found that the Commissioners had beaten me to it, in the tune of finding \$7,000.00 more than what I could find.

J. Arseneau: There is a grant that we are going after for one of the items that we had requested from the Commissioners and we are hoping to get that.

B. Sneed: I don't care how it happens, I just want to thank you gentlemen for doing this. This is the most fun that I have had at a budget meeting in a million years. Thank you.

D. Berry: Thank you, we appreciate it.

B. Sneed: [To members of the Budget Committee] Ask questions about this stuff. I understand it and if you don't, then ask.

J. Arseneau: When you read through the detail, was there anything that didn't make any sense?

B. Sneed: You just have to ignore your numbers because these guys [the Commissioners] have already cut your numbers.

(Multiple conversations going on at once.)

B. Sneed: Don [Berry], I don't believe that you guys have actually made note of the reductions here, the individual line reductions.

D. Berry: The line there was \$30,000.00 out of line 7100.

B. Sneed: But did you guys make note of all of the details of that? We used to do that in the same tab. So, to answer your question, you just have to ignore these numbers because we don't know what they cut to get that \$30,000.00. I know what I was going to cut to get the \$30,000.00.

J. Kenney: Perhaps the nature is what if they didn't reduce something that you thought there was room to reduce in and there is no way to cut it back? That was just working through my head. How is that resolved now?

B. Sneed: I can resolve that because I have been doing this for nine years and I know this stuff. I don't know how anyone else would do it.

J. Kenney: Is that something that you can lead us through, or do we just ignore?

B. Sneed: These guys didn't make notes of how they did it. I can tell you how I would have done it, but that doesn't mean anything anymore because they have already done it, and more.

D. Berry: I think what we would do in the future based on that - Barbara and I just had a short chat back and forth - and we would take in those line items and just do a line through showing where we had done a reduction in it.

B. Sneed: That way we would know where they reduced.

A. Fowler: In some of the departments you will see we did that; I think that this one slipped through. I know, like EMA and others where we made cuts; it will show in the budget where it was either zero-funded or whatever.

J. Bennett: Is there a way that you could do a sheet for later on and give to us before we have another meeting with the lines through it?

D. Berry: Sure.

B. Sneed: This is truly a work in progress. It wasn't too many years ago that these guys did not have any of this on paper in the computer.

D. Berry: One of the things that we attempted this year, and if you look at your book you will see it because it was never there ever before, and that is the fact that you have listed there your expenses for the last prior 2008-2009 - your appropriations - and then you have the department request for this year. That is followed by the blue line, which is where we set the values for each of those departments, and that brings you to the green block which is your block to work in. So, that is a major improvement over even a year ago.

B. Sneed: In order to have done that in years past and you would have to do what I still do which is to bring the last nine years of budgets. This is truly a work in progress and it gets better every year.

W. Shorey: I have a comment, Mr. Chairman.

B. Sneed: Sure.

W. Shorey: On these figures that we are talking about, one of the goals was when we started out this year that when we finished with what we call the Commissioners Budget, we felt that budget should be very close to where the Budget Committee would be because we looked at ourselves just as an extension of the Budget Committee, only getting a first look at it. We took it down to the lowest that we thought we could go without it affecting the stability of the system and we worked quite diligently at it and we are glad that you are recognizing that, and you can see that we are trying to get the job done. We shouldn't look at ourselves as opponents; we are all trying to get it down to where it is a legitimate, logical budget.

O. Smith: Is it appropriate that I just mention something?

B. Sneed: Sure.

O. Smith: Jim mentioned it and I can relate to technology in my little corner. In my little corner of the County, aside from the hardware, is having to do with the Spillman system that we purchased three years ago, and the Spillman system often times is alluded to as a "law enforcement" system. It is much broader than that. Yes, it contains information that all of the law enforcement agencies use and, yes, it all starts with us except with the few things that Searsport, Belfast and Lincolnville

may enter, but it all starts with Dispatch. Beyond the law enforcement-CAD-part of it is a very robust records management system that involves every public safety entity in the County, as well as this database. So, every month those agencies that asked to avail themselves of the records keeping, we email that record to them. So, as well as law enforcement, and its all public safety in the County, and it is a very robust system of which I understand a lot about it, but I don't understand the technical part of it. All I know is that it works and that I can access it from outside and it works fine. I just want people who were not involved in the discussion three years ago to know that it isn't just "law," it's everybody and I have met with Evelyn [Adams] this past summer concerning certain records and procedures for Frankfort. The records that we get from the records system are very pertinent to these agencies that request it. So, it keeps track of everything except 9-1-1. It does track how many calls have been generated. 9-1-1 is generated by the State; we don't pay any technology for that except through your phone bills. I just don't want that to go without being said. It happens to be housed in my building, but it sure isn't my system; it belongs to everyone in the County. Thank you.

R. Plausse: What do we have for back-up systems?

J. Arseneau: We are using a tape back-up. It is an 800 feet system and we are also using a Ray 5 Ray, which basically takes the data and spreads it over multiple discs so that if it fails, the system continues to run. All of the power supplies are with UPS's. We have multiple connections for the Internet going out of the building so that things will continue to run. We also do back ups to the servers up at Owen's building to the Probate server that sits here, and the data that sits here gets replicated to a backup directory on the servers up at the Communications Center. We don't do anything off site from the standpoint that tapes get sent to some storage facility that is non-county owned, but we do get it outside of the building.

R. Plausse: So, no matter what the disaster, law enforcement would still be on?

J. Arseneau: There can always be the disaster that if we were to loose the main server - we have a single server, as it is not cost effective for an agency of our size to have multiple servers - we would be down for a period of time, but we would probably be able to tie into the Knox system; just as they tie in with ours. The record information that we have replicated would be a matter of getting the hardware and we do not have any agreements with anyone because that type of stuff is expensive to have that and we are not at that level as a business-standpoint to do that. We will be looking at a different type of server, which will probably be a IBM server, and there are some options that will be available at that time, but we may look at moving the data to somewhere else. But, if we take the tape, we could take the tape and set it up in another county that is using Spillman. Knox, Penobscot, Hancock and Sagadahoc are sister agencies. Also, in theory, at present if there was something that would shut the Communications Center down where they couldn't work in the building but the service was still running, everything can be accessed remotely. We can have up to fifty simultaneous users on the system - both County employees. So, if we had a pandemic type thing where you had to send people home, many of your department heads and supervisors could still work from home and access their email as long as they have Internet access at their location. So, we do have a back-up built into the system.

J. Kenney: [To Bob Plausse] I heard the word “back-up” and I was thinking more of data storage, and I think you were asking on redundancy. Back to data storage, my wife and I have recently found I-OMEGA; you can buy terabytes of data storage that fits in the size of the palm of your hand - \$100.00. Just a statement. I heard you mention 800 gig.

B. Sneed: You two were talking mostly about law enforcement stuff; Probate takes care of their own stuff by sending it to Augusta.

J. Arseneau: At Probate every night it gets sucked out of their machine and sits at a server, not in Augusta, but it is out of state somewhere and all of Deeds stuff every night get replicated in New York.

B. Sneed: My point of view is those are the important records of the County. I don't care who has been locked up.

J. Arseneau: Did that answer your questions to both the data and the hardware backup? If you folks would like to see what we have, I would be more than happy to give you a tour at the Center, and that would be a great thing, and would love to entertain that if you would like to do that.

B. Sneed: Well we can't vote on the whole Commissioners budget but we could vote on these three subsections.

****R. Plausse moved, J. Kenney seconded to fund lines 7100, 7101 and 7102 from the technology portion of the County Commissioners Budget (1020). Unanimous.**

B. Sneed: Do we want to meet next week, Barbara? Can we meet? Is there anyone available to meet with?

B. Arseneau: Those are good questions. The Sheriff is not available until the 30th. I am not sure who you want to meet with at this point.

B. Sneed: I just had the feeling that we have four department heads that are elected public officials; at the minimum we want to give them the opportunity to strut their stuff if they want to because they are elected. If the folks from Waldo Soil and Water don't want to come...

A. Fowler: Make no mistake; we weren't trying to deprive you of seeing anyone, we just didn't know if you needed to meet with some of them. But I agree with you in regards to some of those other department heads that you want to meet with.

D. Parkman: Before you leave tonight can I say a few words about the County in general as far as where we are financially?

B. Sneed: Sure, but can we get the agenda set for next week set first?

D. Parkman: Sure.

B. Sneed: What about next week?

D. Berry: I will not be here next week.

B. Sneed: Do you want to put it off another week? If Scott [Sheriff Story] is here then we might as well strike while the iron is hot. Mrs. Page and Sharon Peavey...Sheriff, Probate, EMA and Deeds.

(There was brief discussion on what budgets were left for review.)

B. Arseneau: These are your meetings and it is really up to you who you would like to see.

B. Sneed: [To the new Budget Committee members] If you would like to have anyone come down and talk and say what they want...

D. Parkman: I just wanted to thank the towns, first of all. We normally have a few towns in September and we had eight this year that had paid [property taxes.] Freedom - for the second year in a row - I want to thank the people in Freedom for paying right up front. The rest that have paid is Swanville, Burnham, Montville, Winterport, Northport, Searsport and Unity. Since then Knox has paid, Lincolnville has paid, Morrill, Searsmont, Troy and Waldo. What you have done is we have a T.A.N. [tax anticipation] note that the line of credit is \$4 million dollars and we used \$2,650,000.00 and this is the lowest that we have ever used, and it will be paid off this week. When I was elected, it was January 1st and on January 3rd I called the bank and said that we needed \$100,000.00 for payroll and I thought that was unusual. I was on the job three days and I was already borrowing money. This past year we have almost gone the first quarter without borrowing money and that is why it is so low. The cash situation is doing well in this County. That is some good news for you to take back and I do really appreciate the towns that paid because it really helps us out.

J. Kenney: Can I take a moment and ask a question? You got money from Unity when we got money from the tax payers. We were close to zero and we haven't borrowed in over a decade, so we are set up as convenient.

D. Parkman: Some of that money on the T.A.N. that we borrowed was for the Jail and the Jail is almost separated out from this County. They are on a different year and we just finished with the audit report for six months, and that should be coming in just for the Jail. One other thing that I want to talk about is this revenue sheet. We might have a problem on the revenue sheet. All of the Jail money that we use to take is staying with Jail on Revenues. We used to get paid close to \$200,000.00-plus for help on the running of the Jail. We hardly see it and the State says to go on a fiscal year; well any town that is on an annual year, you are going to get really messed up and about 80% of Waldo County is on an annual year because right now you people set the budget in December, we get the State evaluation in January, we set the Mil rate in February and in March town meetings you know what you County tax is. If we have to wait until the fiscal year at the end of June, you are really going to be unhappy with us. I have been resisting going to a fiscal year and I don't need that headache.

B. Sneed: Our town charter won't allow having a town meeting after July 1st; we have to have our town meeting before July 1st.

D. Parkman: So, on the revenue side, we have lost the Jail revenue and I don't know what you have heard about the Deeds in Hancock County, but they lost the lawsuit and they might be losing their fees. Now, the fees, if you look on there, is \$200,000.00 for this County. It is the biggest money maker that we have. If we lose that, then it is going to fall back on the property tax and we just went to a meeting – Amy [Fowler], Owen [Smith] and myself to the Maine County Commissioners Association and they brought up the Jail. As you know we are capped at \$2.8 million. I'm not sure what is going to happen with our Jails. It might be a problem if we lose that money, but we really don't know what is going to happen.

R. Desmarais: Dave, I have a question for you. The revenue sheet that you handed out - R0800, Miscellaneous Income...

D. Parkman: That was a place to put this; it will not happen again. This is a one time shot. As you remember, one year we didn't pay the Jail board back two or three years ago when we ran over, so you people had to put in another \$200,000.00 for that run-off that we had to pay after January. Well, when they went to consolidate the jails, we thought that was county money and there was no other place to put it within that revenue sheet where you see the \$200,000.00. So, that is how we saved that \$200,000.00. It was spent the year before, so we were going to lose it, so we put it under Miscellaneous. Does that answer your question?

A. Fowler: So, you will never see that again, Dick.

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M. Unanimous.**