

**WALDO COUNTY FOR YEAR 2010 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 30, 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.

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

REGISTRY OF PROBATE (1070) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Register of Probate Sharon Peavey.

Everyone introduced themselves as there were new budget committee members.

B. Sneed: Let's sort of skip ahead a little bit because this is one that really takes some explanation is line 4020 – Court Appointments. Where these guys are new, could you explain what court appointments are and how they work and how you get reimbursed for them and when you do, and stuff?

S. Peavey: Sure. The court appointment line is mandated by Statute that when someone cannot afford an attorney, then our Judge is obligated to appoint an attorney for them. We have set up a system now where we collect restitution. The Judge will have a hearing with the parties to see how much they are able to pay every month, so we do take money back in to cover the expenses that we had to pay an attorney or a guardian ad litem.

B. Sneed: There was a time when that was the exception rather than a rule.

S. Peavey: Yes, a while ago. So far this year we have brought back in \$3,673.00 in restitution money.

B. Sneed: These dribble in over the years, correct?

S. Peavey: They do and some carry on from year to year. We have some people pay \$10.00 a month for a one or two thousand dollar bill. But we take what they feel they can pay us.

J. Kenney: That is money that they agreed to pay and are not obligated to pay.

S. Peavey: They are obligated and if any time they feel they cannot afford that payment, then we will schedule them to talk with the Judge. People constitutionally cannot pay more than they are able to pay. So, we only collect what they are able to pay and most times it is \$10.00 a month.

J. Kenney: What is the size of the outstanding? Big, little?

S. Peavey: Less than \$5,000.00, I would say off the top of my head. On another note: the passbook camera that we purchased this year; so far we have brought in \$2,880.00 on just photos. The camera only cost \$800.00.

D. Parkman: For these new members, this revenue does not show up anywhere. It shows up on the revenue sheet that you saw the last time. So, when she says "Probate Restitution," that is a revenue and it is separated from the budget that she has to do. That was a great idea because one year - I think Susan Longley's first year - she had spent \$24,000.00 and there was only \$8,000.00 budgeted. So this account has improved immensely over the years.

B. Sneed: By law, whatever they spent we are required to fund. These guys don't know from year to year what they are going to have to put out there.

J. Bennett: Something bugs me here. I just want to know what you would repair for \$25.00, under line 4630 – Equipment Repairs.

S. Peavey: I think that is something that has been carried over and I am sure that you are right there is not much that we could fix for \$25.00. Did you mention the copier? That is a service contract. We now have a new photo copier and that is what the service contract is projected to be.

B. Sneed: So is your question Jim, could she live without the \$25.00?

J. Bennett: I am not worried about the \$25.00. I was just wondering.

B. Sneed: The other thing, remember, is that because these folks can borrow from line to line to make up deficits, if you look at the repairs for photographic equipment, they are almost \$92.00 in the hole; so that \$25.00 helps cover that.

****J. Bennett moved, B. Sneed seconded to accept the Registry of Probate Budget (1070) at \$189,530.00. Unanimous.**

E.M.A. (1010) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was E.M.A. Director Dale Rowley.

D. Rowley: I am Dale Rowley and I am the County Emergency Management Director. We are a two-person office; Olga Rumney and myself. We do a lot of planning exercises and training and we work a lot. We have been pretty successful lately about getting grants. We have been averaging about \$1 million a year. This year alone we have brought in \$120,000.00 in radios and pagers. We are building a new tower on Aborn Hill from a \$240,000.00 grant with no match required. We even got a grant to build a new EMA building. I am really excited about getting out of the cellar.

R. Desmarais: What is the timeline on that?

D. Rowley: We are advertising right now for architect engineers and we have already met with the City for the code enforcement piece. Our goal is to get something on board and break ground in the spring - get something in the ground and get it closed in before bad weather comes. We are probably looking at a 3,200 square foot building.

E. Adams: Where is the building going to go?

D. Rowley: We are looking to put it on the lot behind the Jail where the garden is in that area. It's not big enough to build all by itself somewhere. It still has to go to the Planning Board and we have met with the code enforcement officer and he has given us a lot of pointers.

J. Bennett: Is there room out there to add an office for the Sheriff Department?

D. Rowley: Well we are planning on trying to do a sheriff's office also on that lot. We had to get the land surveyed so we can get the best layout. The building committee that we have had has been looking at an EMA/Sheriff office. On our budget, we are basically flat-lined - everything but salary. I think what we are looking at is a 2.3% increase in my budget.

J. Bennett: I have seen on line 7011 funds you requested \$3,700.00 and the Commissioners cut it, and could you explain why?

A. Fowler: I guess, like what Dale said, he received a grant for a new building so he thought he needed new furniture for the building.

J. Bennett: It will be two or three years on the building, so he don't need it tonight.

D. Rowley: I do need \$10,000.00 in furniture and so I decided to try and do it in three years and ask for some each year but that got cut. Actually what we were looking for was new tables for the new EOC as the new one is going to be a lot bigger than the old one. Right now we can only get 4 tables in there and we want 12 tables in the new one. We are also going to have a warehouse area and maximize the space there for storage. We are going to go up and put cots and blankets up there. We want to try to maximize the space into the operations room into the warehouse and office space. We were thinking of just putting storage cabinets - you know, the little metal open door - so we could store stuff in there. So, that is the stuff that we are planning for. With chairs, actually, we have upgraded - we got rid of our 1956 chairs and we are now up to 1984 chairs.

B. Sneed: Any money coming out of Future Land and Buildings Reserve for this edition?

A. Fowler: Actually the matching is coming out of the Grant Matching account that we have set up.

D. Rowley: The grant from the Feds is for \$360,000.00 and the matching is \$120,000.00.

A. Fowler: Yeah, but tell them what it was originally for.

D. Rowley: It was originally a \$360,000.00 grant and the Feds said that it was for \$450,000.00 and they said, "whoops," and they said, "if you are willing to throw in an extra \$30,000.00 we will throw in the extra \$90,000.00." So it went from \$360,000.00 to \$480,000.00. So our match went from \$90,000.00 to \$120,000.00 but with that \$30,000.00 we picked up another \$90-grand.

****J. Bennett moved, R. Desmarais seconded to accept the E.M.A Budget (1010) at \$97,939.00. Unanimous.**

TREASURER (1025) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Treasurer David Parkman.

D. Parkman: We have had the same budget that we have always had except for the personnel area, which is the only increase. In fact, the Capital Outlay has gone down. Things are going along smoothly. It is what it is.

B. Sneed: Any questions?

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to accept the Treasurer Budget (1025) at \$58,513.00. Unanimous.**

AUDIT (1090) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Treasurer David Parkman.

D. Parkman: The audit is the same, \$8,000.00.

****R. Plausse moved, B. Sneed seconded to accept the Audit Budget (1095) at \$8,000.00. Unanimous.**

DEBT SERVICE (1095) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Treasurer David Parkman.

D. Parkman: We are on our last payment for the Communications Center and what you see down there is what our last payment is going to be.

****J. Bennett moved, R. Plausse seconded to accept the Debt Service Budget (1095) at \$63,600.00. Unanimous.**

INTEREST (2000) BUDGET REVIEW:

Present for the discussion was Treasurer David Parkman.

D. Parkman: Interest has gone down considerably and just a few years ago it was \$50,000.00. Last year you funded it at \$32,000.00 and I requested that it go down to \$25,000.00. The reason is our cash situation has been much better this year. When I was first on board in 2003, about the third day in January I had to borrow money, and this year we almost went through the first quarter. The TAN note we have gotten as high as \$4.3 million dollars line of credit. We haven't used that much but that was our line of credit. We topped out at about 3.5 and this year it was about 2.6 and that is why the interest has gone down because we haven't borrowed as much. The Jail helped out on some of this because they are on a fiscal year and so at the end of July we get some money from the State for the Jail, and that helped out.

B. Sneed: Is that money from the Jail an ongoing thing or is that a one time thing?

D. Parkman: Everything in the Jail has to stay in the Jail and some of this interest money the Jail has picked up in their account. I think that it is about \$16,000.00 on their part of what they borrow. So, that is all capped at your cap which is \$2.9 million and that will never be higher, according to the State. So, some of that interest that we have paid in the past, the Jail is picking up and it is in that cap. It is \$17,000.00 and we have paid it off. This is one of the earliest times that we have done that. So, we only spent \$17,000.00 and that is why the Commissioners have only recommended \$20,000.00. I would rather see \$25,000.00. One thing about interest is whatever the interest is, we are going to pay it. If we have another year like we did, then \$20,000.00 would be enough.

****R. Plausse moved, J. Bennett seconded to accept the Interest Budget (2000) at \$20,000.00. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF PATROL (1075) BUDGET REVIEW:

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

S. Story: I am at a little bit of a disadvantage as my chief deputy is not here and there are two line items that he normally addresses. There was one thing that I was going to discuss with the Commissioners at the break and I hope that they will excuse me; I am not trying to blind side them here. We do this budget back in August and since that time I got an opportunity to look at the budget more closely - at the appropriation sheet - so no big surprises Commissioners, but in looking at the sheet I see a couple of line items that I could do a little less with. I am prepared to go through those tonight. It is not a tremendous amount of money. First off, line 3000 - the full time - we are on target at 84%. 3001 line overtime - we are presently at 74% and we are 9% under and we still have 4 holidays and the court session is starting. We have Grand Jury starting next week and that follows a big vacation time for a lot my officers, so that is on target. 3002 - Stipends is zeroed out as part of contract negotiations. Clothing allowance - line 3003 is on target and this year you will see a decrease on this line. We have previously my

Lieutenant was a plain-cloths position and with a new promotion, we moved that back to a uniform position as he is in the field more. Line 3004 – Vehicle Lease – that shows that we are right on target. 3100 – Part time – right now we are 45% spent. This is an area that if you look at our expenditures right now you would probably quickly say that this is a good place to save money. I am willing to throw a little bit back at that, but I would hesitate to throw it back based on our appropriations today. The reason why I say that is we have had a real hard time finding part time people, and because of that, we haven't expended a lot of those funds this year in training. We haven't expended a lot of those funds for the extra shifts; we actually scaled back some of our services to Islesboro this summer because we could not find the part time people. So, I am prepared at this time - I could throw a couple of thousand [dollars], even as much as three back out of that, but I would hate to take that down to what you are seeing in these appropriations right now. Believe me, if had we had the personnel and could have gotten them in there, it would have. Keep in mind our part time training program has also been expanded with the Academy coming on line in 2010. With a new program for pre-service is approximately 300 hours of training for each individual after we get them back from the Academy. So, there are some expenses that are going to be incurred there. One other thing that I want you to keep in mind, and I meant to say this early on; last year I came before you with the same police reduction service of Waldo County and at that time I had predicted a 17% increase on our calls for service due to the scaling back of the State Police in the County. I was wrong on that, but I stand before you today happy to tell you that it is now 20%. Today we are a little over 19% increase on our calls for service and we did that with an increase for man power last year. I am not back asking for that second guy; we have made some shift changes and we have utilized our part time and full time to the best of our ability, so we can accommodate that without additional personnel. Line 4100 – Travel, we are 63% expended and I still have to sign people up for an annual Maine Sheriff's Conference and that is on target. Line 4200 – Vehicle Maintenance, we are at 74% and as most of you know we predicted fuel last year at \$2.50 per gallon. We were fortunate the first half of the year it stayed way down. Right now we have based fuel, and I have asked my "crystal ball" person what it was going to be next year, and he gave me a figure of \$3.20 per gallon and he wasn't wrong last year, and we are going to take a try at it this year. I don't know if it will work out, but it is what it is. I am hoping that will cut it. Bill, [Shorey] any comments?

B. Shorey: It scares me, Scott, but it is a crapshoot at the moment. If they strengthen the dollar we are all right, and if they let it go down, then we aren't all right. So the long term prognosis was \$85.00 a gallon and it may go to \$100.00, but it should settle out at \$85.00. You should be OK.

S. Story: We are going to give it a whirl at \$3.20 a gallon - certainly with your approval. I will tell you that we have implemented a lot of different things to try and save. We have gone to a fleet management program through Wright Express that gives us pre-tax fuel at the pump. That saved us some money on the budget. The other thing that we have been doing is our cruisers have been outfitted with slip roofs rather than the light bars. I personally prefer the light bars, but it is looking like we are saving a little bit of fuel

because we are driving those vehicles on higher speeds. If it was a City car, it would be very minimal in the difference but because we are out on rural roads running at highway speeds at times that I think we are saving some on that. We are trying to do the best we can with the fuel economy.

R. Plausse: You save money on the light bars but are you having more public protection? I would think that over my years, when you see a cruiser with light bars, that is a serious crime and when you see a cruiser without light bars that is like playing cowboys and Indians.

S. Story: They are very well stickered. All of our stickers, if the light hits them at night, there is mistaking that it is a cruiser. They have the reflective lettering, the stickering - there is plenty of lighting in them. We have three-tier lighting at the recommended safety level. During the day there is no mistaking that it is a cruiser but at night I don't know if you would see the light bar anyway. We have very intensive lettering on all of our cruisers and the reflective lettering. They do stand out quite well.

B. Sneed: For those of us who speed during the day, the light bars were a nice warning.

A. Fowler: It is helpful.

R. Plausse: How much money is saved?

S. Story: I couldn't answer that definitively.

B. Sneed: They use to be about \$2,200.00 a pop.

S. Story: Oh, I am sorry, the equipment themselves? I know that we were spending more money to outfit the cruisers than we are now. For a while we were spending a lot and then we started recycling the light bars, we were buying the power packs and stuff. We really haven't bought a new light bar in years.

R. Desmarais: We appropriated at lease \$1,200 - \$1,500.00 for vehicle equipment with light bars. We feel that is a tool and we want that tool being seen in return.

S. Story: Like I said, in the municipal setting I am not sure if there would be a savings in fuel mileage but at highway speeds, that thing is nothing more than a bill board on top of the cruiser dragging it back.

R. Plausse: I would like to see that. I would be interested to know how much you are saving in gas and mileage.

S. Story: We have personally not done one. The State police did one and I think it was 1 or 2 miles per gallon - about 3 - and it doesn't sound like much, but when you equate that over our fuel consumption of 25,000 gallons a year, that starts adding up.

B. Sneed: In 2005 they requested and got \$15,900.00 for three cars (radios, cages and lights). So, \$5,300.00 per car for radio and cages, so \$2,200.00 sticks in my head for the light bars and I don't know why.

S. Story: Again, that sounds somewhere near right but I don't recall. [To Chief Deputy Robert Keating, who was now present] Chief, cruiser questions, and how many cruisers do we have right now?

R. Plausse: Let's put it this way, how many cruisers do you have that would use light bars?

S. Story: We have three detectives' cars that are unmarked but they are white police cruisers with spot lights. There is no mistake what they are, too. The rest of the cars are all lettered cruisers.

B. Sneed: Chief, we got some new guys here. Would you tell them who you are, please?

R. Keating: I am Bob Keating and I am the Chief Deputy of the Waldo County Sheriff's Office. We have 16 cruisers that are on the road all of the time and then we have three spares for a total of 19. We take our oldest cruiser and those become spares and we try to get another year or 18 months out of them.

R Desmarais: In our town one of the things that we look at is we want taxpayers to see that vehicle out working and they see it better with the light bar.

S. Story: Like I said, we have been back and forth with light bars for years. I will tell you that they are more expensive to maintain and the lighting inside the cruiser aren't subject to bug hits, bird splat, icing branches.

B. Sneed: Bob, at what mileage do you replace your cars?

R. Keating: We usually start looking at them at 100,000 miles. But to give you an idea, we have asked for three new cruisers, and the cars that they would be replacing is Car #1406 which is a detective's car which is at 100,000 miles. Understand that if you approved that tonight, we don't order the cruisers until we are into the new budget year. We go out to bid and we get bids back, then we bring them to the County Commissioners for approval and by the time we are ordering, it is not until February. We have waited as long as July or August to get cruisers. Last year we were very lucky; we got them in April and May and we were able to save money because when we went out to bid last year for cruisers, one of the Ford dealers in Augusta had a leftover 2008 on the lot that some municipality had ordered and couldn't take, so we saved over \$3,000.00 and I asked if they had any more. I think you will notice in this Capital Outlay for last year there is still \$3,100.00 left in there. That was the savings and we will do the same thing this year. The other cruisers slated to be traded would be Car #1417, and as of this

afternoon, that car had 107,629 miles on it and I figure that we have two more months this year, and then the potential of having that car on the road until June or July or August of next year. The third and final car to be moved off of patrol is Car #1415, and as of today, that car has 87,000 miles on it and that is approaching 100,000 miles. So, it will be well over 100,000 before it is pulled off. Then those three cars will replace the three spares that we have, so the three spares we would be replacing is: Car # 1419 has 150,000 miles, Spare #1428 has 138,000 miles, and Spare #1419 has 142,000 miles on it. Those would be the three cars that we would auction off next year. When we get three in, we auction off three.

R. Plausse: I understand that they are not going to make Crown Vics anymore for cruisers.

R. Keating: I haven't heard that. I've heard rumors; first they weren't going to make Impala cruisers last year, but they are still making Impala cruisers. I have heard or seen nothing come through our office that they are not. They are the most popular cruiser out there. I will say that the Dodge Charger is really a tough cruiser and we have three of those, but the problem is the Dodge Charger in the trunk is so small that with the spare tire we cannot put our equipment in it. We love the three Dodge Chargers that we bought in 2007 and they have been tough as hell, but there is not enough room for our equipment, and that is why we have gone to the Crown Vics and the price is just about the same between the Charger and the Crown Vic.

R. Plausse: That was my question because I think it is going to become a realistic thing. If they don't make Crown Vic Cruisers, what are you going to buy? And then whatever you are going to buy could change the price.

S. Story: The other problem that it is going to create for us, and the Chargers did create it when we purchased them, and that is the equipment that goes inside of them. We right now have a lot of equipment that we recycle every year. A lot of those lights we recycle. They come out of the old cruiser and go into the new cruiser, and cages - I haven't bought a new cage in I don't know how many years because we just buy the retro kit with just some different brackets and throw it into the next years Crown Vic, and when we bought the Dodge's we couldn't get away with that. We had to buy separate cages, different lighting systems, different electronics for the cars and it was a lot more expensive, which is why we haven't been out to bid on the Dodge's for the last few years because we recycle our equipment.

R. Plausse: I read in a Ford magazine that they were going to discontinue Crown Vics and I think they were going to make a heavy duty Taurus cruiser and that Taurus is going to take the place of Crown Vics.

S. Story: We actually had three Taurus' back when they made those as a police package. I am sorry we had two of those. We put them on light duty as detective cars and at the

end of about three years at 80,000 miles, they were absolutely worthless. They were not designed for that kind of use - even light duty.

R. Plausse: I hope they don't discontinue the Crown Vics as they are the most dependable car in the State of Maine.

R. Keating: But, to answer your question, the short answer would be is we try to get the cruisers off the road at about 120,000 to 125,000 miles and rotate them to spare. The other thing to remember, when we are talking about police cars, is they are not like a pleasure car; they are a working automobile. It is not just the odometer mileage on these; they sit at structure fires, traffic accidents and they are idling with all of the lights going. They are sitting beside the road monitoring traffic and those types of things, so when you look at it and say, "Well we want to get them off the road and rotate them to spare around 120,000 miles," that doesn't give you the hours that is just running on that car. It is designed for a working automobile. I checked mine today and it has 275 hours on it and my cruiser has got 66,000 miles on it, which is a nice feature. We now have the hour meter on them, which is going to be great because as we move down the road and the Budget Committee could say, "O.K., that is the mileage - what is the hours on it?"

R. Desmarais: In my other life we had cars that were designated as cruisers and we did not go out on the State roads unless we were called out on emergency. On cars that you are talking about sitting, we would sometimes run them on the third shift in the winter and they would just run all night because we were afraid to shut them off.

R. Keating: Ours wind up sitting at a structure fire, or a crime scene, or a bad traffic or fatal accident, and they might run three or four hours and you have all of your light bars going and all of your equipment is running, and you can't just leave it on auxiliary; it has got to run.

B. Sneed: Just to come back to this resource coordination agreement with the State Police, now last year there was a State Police Lieutenant and he was afraid that they would have to withdraw a third of their folks in the County.

S. Story: What happened last year is we each contributed to 50% of the County and in doing that, we each contributed a minimum of 2 officers to cover half of the County. The County was split into four zones; we assigned one officer to each of the four zones. We also had a sergeant that was on to back-up on our two zones, so we actually contributed three and they usually had a Sergeant in the area; that was three. They said they could not continue to contribute that many officers to the county and they could not keep up with doing half of the county's complaints, and they wanted to cut the county into thirds. They would take one third and we would take two thirds.

B. Sneed: What happened?

S. Story: That is exactly what happened. We now cover two thirds of the county and we have two of the three zones at any given time. We have two officers one assigned to each zone and a working sergeant that backs them up. They presently have two officers to cover the other third of the County, so most of the time they have two here. By my map that was a 17% increase in our responsibility. So what he told us he was going to do, he did.

A. Fowler: It is true.

B. Sneed: All kinds of things are said and whether they are true or not is another matter.

R. Keating: It went into effect January 1st.

B. Sneed: Other troops have not done that.

S. Story: I don't know that. My understanding is a lot of troops are trying to get into resource coordination agreements in other counties, which is why I was a little frustrated with them with this situation.

B. Sneed: It was my understanding that 14 of the 16 counties have them, Cumberland being one of them that doesn't.

S. Story: Cumberland does not, Sagadahoc does not, Piscataquis did not.

B. Sneed: They do now.

S. Story: O.K. - and Oxford did not.

B. Sneed: O.K. - just curious as to what came of that.

S. Story: Exactly what he said he was going to do, he did, and that left us with 17% more coverage and when we ran the numbers this morning, that number is actually close to 20%. Moving down – Line 4315 – Telephone – that is another area where we looked that number over quite carefully. We talked U.S. Cellular into giving us the same contract with our cell phones as the State. I wasn't sure if we were going to pull it off; we did and we saved a tremendous amount of money. Right now we are 71% spent at the 83% mark of the year. That was one of the other line items, Commissioners, that I was going to talk to you about. I think that we can do with a little bit less in that line item. That, again, when we are looking at July and August and doing our budget, it is a little hard to predict how things are going to project all the way out.

B. Sneed: Quantity on a little bit less would be..?

S. Story: A couple thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Building Maintenance line 4610 – I know that we haven't spent our \$300.00 yet. We use that for vacuum cleaners, mops,

brooms and such. Without inmates in the facility we have hired a temp to do some cleaning inside the place and I think the temp is more careful with our vacuum cleaner and mops and brooms than the inmates were. Bottom line is I would like for you to leave us that \$300.00. Mobile/Portable Radio Repairs Line 4656 – that particular item we are at 96% spent. I think that I asked for a slight increase for that one by \$800.00. The cost of having our radars calibrated continues to go up every year and they have to be recalibrated annually. If we have a glitch with one of the radios or antennas, we spend most of that money over at Yankee Repair. Dues line 4820 – We are at 65% spent and I think that we still have the Maine Chief's of Police due to pay yet this year, and that should be just about right. Postage line 4835 - we took a look at. We did increase that a little bit in anticipation of an increase, but in looking at our appropriations and Karen, correct me if I am wrong, I was told today that on our civil service - because we are reimbursed for the postage on that - we started taking that out of the detail account. So it is a money-in-money-out account. Bottom line is it is not costing us money because it is reimbursed and because of that, this line item could be cut by \$500.00. Printing line 4840 - we are right on target. Office Maintenance and Supply line 5335 – we are a little bit over what we budgeted last year but we will come in under budget. Training line 5375 is at 44% and we have a \$5,000.00 encumbered amount that has yet to be paid, and we are waiting for invoicing on our ammunition. Another thing is we are \$1,500.00 saved on that because we did not send our new officer to the Academy. We have been a little but short-handed with vacations and such this year. We have held him back because he will still have time to meet the certifications if we get him out in the spring. So we have him scheduled for next year and that is why that account is a little bit under right now. Uniforms lines 5405 – that is up a little bit and remember, it was down on the other side because we moved a plain-cloths officer into uniform. That is actually up just a little bit, the price of uniforms and such are...what is a shirt now?

R. Keating: Long sleeved shirt is \$55.00, short sleeved is \$52.00. Winter jacket is \$200.00. \$129.00 roughly for boots. Stetson felt hats are \$95.00 and the Stetson straw hat is \$78.00. The shirts have stayed about the same and the pants went up about a dollar or two.

R. Desmarais: Do you put them out to bid?

R. Keating: No, we don't and I will tell you why. We do business with Wise Uniform and we do business with Neptune and those are our biggest suppliers, but we also will do business with Tri-State because we don't buy all of our uniforms at once. We get our clothing allowance, but then we set it up so that every person has their clothing allowance. Well, if this man - because you take a guy that has been on 15 years - he is not going to need as much equipment or uniform as a guy that has just started out because over the years he may need a couple of new shirts, but the two he wore last year are in good shape so he can wear them on the night shift. So, we don't just go out and say we are going to buy x-number of shirts this year. It would be pretty hard to get a bid for it. We found that Neptune and Wise Uniforms are just about the same price. Tri-State does beat them a little on price and we do shop around and then we order from Gall's, which

can be a tremendous savings, but if they can't match our colors, we want to stick with the same color shirt that we buy because we don't want four deputies to show up at a function or on a scene and they all have brown shirts on but the brown doesn't always match. I think that one thing that everyone will recognize is when you see a Maine State Trooper, everyone's uniform looks the same. We want when someone sees the Waldo County Deputies, they all have uniforms that look the same.

R. Desmarais: They are given a quarterly allowance and if they don't spend that full amount does it go into a fund?

R. Keating: No, it does not; it goes into the General Fund.

R. Desmarais: You can't do an annual purchase and put it out to bid? You don't have someone come in and measure your employees?

R. Keating: We do that. We have on file everyone's measurements, so when Deputy Brown says, "I need two pair of pants and one short sleeved shirt for the summer," he has to put his request in and it has to be approved by either the Lieutenant or I and then the secretaries place the order. That is how we run the show. We don't have guys going out and buying what they want. They have to put their request in and the request has to be approved. They don't have unlimited spending with their clothing allowance.

B. Sneed: Last, but not least; Capital. Karen, this is another one where the numbers have changed. For those of you that are looking at this it is now 7011 as opposed to 7000.

S. Story: I have three cruisers that I have called for - just to get a ball park estimate of what they are looking like next year - \$23,500.00 each and three at that is \$75,500.00. Warrantees are \$1,500.00 each. Cruiser equipment is \$9,000.00 for all three units, which is about \$3,000.00 each. I would like to budget again for three more tazers. Obviously, we cannot afford to do it all at once and we bought three last year, and I would like to do three more this year. Just for your information, we have only had to deploy the tazers one time since we have had those the past year. Unfortunately it didn't work. We had a defective cartridge, but I will tell you that the guys have those and they are not toys and they know exactly what they are and they have used them very responsibly. Let me say that they have made good responsible decisions in not using those. I just want to throw that out there as they are controversial, but the guys are being very responsible with them and, again, there has only been one time that they could have been deployed and, again, at that time it malfunctioned. Three bullet-proof vests at \$600.00 each. I will tell you that we did that last year and I did just receive notice of a grant that we got to pay for half of that cost, and I will apply next year and try to do the same thing. I had also put in for some other items. The Commissioners chose to cut those, which is fine because I understand their reasoning. That is what I have.

A. Fowler: If I may, the Watch Guard Digital video and installation we didn't cut; we have taken it from his budget but we intend to take it from our Technology Reserve, as that is what it is.

S. Story: I understand why they have done that, as well. Let me also say that this year, and I have to give a lot of credit to our grant writer - when you get to her budget, please consider it - she got us a \$35,000.00 grant so that we could outfit the majority of our cruisers with those this year. As of right now, as we speak, they are being installed. We did need to do something because our old VHS formats, with what few of them still worked, we had to try to find the VHS tapes. So, this was a well-needed update in our technology and we managed to do it through that grant. I would also like to say on the same lines for a grant - it is really not related to the budget - but for grant purposes we also just received one that I did with the Belfast and Searsport police chiefs for two speed boards and a mobile intoxilizer unit for speed details and OUI details. That was a \$16,000.00 grant and we just received that. We have had a really good grant year this year.

R. Desmarais: Are they going to be shared with the three towns?

S. Story: Absolutely. We did the grant together and all of us had to pitch in a portion of what we could be allocated in that grant. These speed boards are great. They will be able to be put up in your community and they will flash up if the person is speeding, but what is more important with them is we also budgeted those to have a data collection unit, so you can tell how many people are speeding as they go through the area, and if you leave it in for a few days, it will also give us an opportunity to see how effective it is and if the speeding is reduced over a period of time.

A. Fowler: Does it take pictures of the vehicle?

S. Story: Just the license plate.

R. Desmarais: Would you explain the equipment cost? I would assume they are for the three vehicles.

S. Story: Whelon Dual Talon dash lights - three at \$285.00. Tier 3 light heads - six at \$65.00. Speakers - two at \$179.00. Speaker brackets - two at \$35.00. Six Head Dominator Head Light Whelons - three at \$400.00. ELT tube replacement reflector - six at \$75.00. Replacement lens - four at \$20.00. I've got it here; it is itemized and we are doing most of our work through Yankee. They treat us very well.

J. Kenney: Scott, I have a statement. Intoxilizers - sometimes you are being challenged by some people who are challenging them. Are you following all of that?

S. Story: I am not, but I am sure that my two intoxilizer people are.

J. Kenney: Because it is coming up in court cases from time to time.

S. Story: Actually, James Porter and James Greeley are both our key persons with the intoxilizer program. Actually both are trainers and they stay on top of any kind of legislation or litigation that goes on and they will send me a report.

****B. Sneed moved, J. Kenney seconded to accept the Sheriff Budget (1075) at \$1,207,273.00. Unanimous.**

B. Sneed: Thanks Scott. Who's next, Barb? We are done for the night.

B. Arseneau: Veronica, do you remember who is up next time?

V. Stover: Commissioners...

BREAK

D. Parkman: I just wanted to go over the towns that have paid [property taxes]. Belfast, Frankfort, Islesboro, Monroe, Palermo, Prospect, and Stockton Springs.

B. Arseneau: [Regarding who will be in for the next meeting] Deeds will come in, the District Attorney and the Commissioners. Those are the three that you have asked specifically for. I contacted the rest and they said they didn't need to come in and tell you anything specific unless you were going to alter the budgets; then they wanted to be here. So, beyond those three that you requested, you have under 1080 – Waldo Community Action Partners, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, which is right now funded at zero, and Time and Tide. You also haven't looked at University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Employee Benefits, Waldo County Soil and Water, Records Preservation, Reserves and Grant Writing. That is what you have left. A lot of those never change.

J. Bennett: Barbara, how many is it? Seven more? How many departments?

B. Arseneau: Ten.

B. Sneed: Three big ones and 7 small ones.

J. Bennett: I say we take them all in two weeks.

B. Sneed: Fine with me. We still have to post the public hearing. I would like to be done before Thanksgiving.

B. Arseneau: We could shoot for November 20, 2009 and be done before Thanksgiving.

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.**

LAND DISCUSSION:

D. Berry: I just wanted to open it up; I would really like to have your input as selectmen in your towns.

B. Sneed: For those of you who have never been in the Sheriff's office, I would recommend a visit. Most of us would not work under those conditions. That place is a pig pen! No electrical inspector in his right mind would allow that to exist. It has been like that for the ten years that I have been looking at it, and God knows how many years. Anything that gets those folks into decent working quarters is fine with me.

D. Berry: It is really not a safe working building.

B. Sneed: The evidence locker is the wooden frame building that could burn down tomorrow. As far as the land, Don, I don't know what to think about it. What is it - 90% swamp, 6% good wood?

A. Fowler: No wood. I think it has been cut off.

D. Parkman: I went up there and took a look at it and you have City services right to the property line, and you don't need 100 acres - all you need is 7 to 10 acres and that is why I favor Keith in this, because it is not only the Sheriff's building. I can remember the Probate when there was nothing but pathways through there. The Deeds is only a matter of time when that Superior Courthouse is going to fall in and she is running out of space. So, we have the same problems that we have always had and that land is the safety. So, if you haven't read my article in the paper, it is in this week. Pick it up and read it.

W. Shorey: I think that we have looked at this problem from several different angles for the last three or four months and I think what we should do as Commissioners is get two or three scenarios down on paper in some detail of how we think it should go ahead, and have the input of this committee and see if we could have some kind of a consensus to where we need to be.

B. Sneed: I am just leery of doing that because that is an executive function and we are not.

W. Shorey: Well, let's just talk about it a little bit, then. I think what we are missing when we talk about the land is the Jail was the anchor and that would have been a great campus. Now you are probably looking at, without exaggerating a penny, a million dollars to bring utilities and roads to that piece of property. It is a very, very expensive proposition when you start talking about 2,500 feet of sewer, water, utilities and roads. It is not cheap and I am involved in one right now, so I have a pretty good idea. It seemed to make some sense to me, if we are talking about this, that once the Jail left, there wasn't much room left for the courthouse, or some other campus could be down there. So, if we

could take and sell the land and substitute the payment on the Communications Center and have a payment/part land deal to do a Sheriff's building; we have had some conversations with the State and the State is in a better mood in talking with us about a courthouse, then I think we could swing a pretty good deal to have the Sheriff building done in five to ten years with a building that would go a hundred years. Cut a deal with the State so the lease on the Superior and District Court pretty well pays for long term financing on a new courthouse. There is all kinds of land right here in Belfast for a courthouse. Probably in 24 hours you could find three or four different lots because you have utilities going right by your door step. You are a million dollars ahead before you even put a spade in the ground. Mr. Parkman has a point that he is worrying about 10 acres. I live on a street that has 10 acres and I know how many houses are there and how many courthouses we could put on it. Keep 10 acres - 10 acres isn't going to make or break selling that land because that land is not in the future of what Waldo County is going to be. The new courthouse is what Waldo County is going to be and then you have the District Court building for Deeds. There has been some thought in going through this whole process. It is not just something that we sit around and say, "Let's see what they have to say about this," and maybe we just need to have a more meaningful discussion, so as you go back to your communities you can have a better understanding of where you are coming from.

B. Sneed: The fair thing to do would be have one completed one.

W. Shorey: I think Mr. Parkman will tell you that I believe in democracy. You and I have an understanding.

J. Kenney: I have asked the question if there have been any plans laid down. I thought that I heard conversation that it was something in the future. I live over in the western part of this county and I don't even know where this land is located. I have no expectation of knowing what the value of this land is, but if it is owned by the County and there is no money due on it, why give it up? Unless I was to participate fully - what were the plans and the comparison and competing plans - because land; you cannot make any more of it. I don't know the value of it. I am pleased that my wife and I have land. If the land is in hand, then it could be used and how would it be used? What has been laid down in a document? I have heard it in conversations, but what is out there?

W. Shorey: It won't work out there for a courthouse because when you have a courthouse, the State is going to have a big hand in it because they are going to be paying...

J. Kenney: Let me say that I agree with you fully. You would need for the State to sign up; they wouldn't sign up. There is nothing that will come out of Augusta that you can predict beyond belief.

B. Sneed: The other thing, too, and we - the County - has already spent \$50 – 75,000.00 on a study.

J. Kenney: So nothing came of it? So, nothing came from it. Nothing usable. Referendum was defeated.

B. Arseneau: There were topographical maps done. The whole design was laid out. We can bring them up next time.

J. Kenney: Can you see why I am asking? If you talk in the air, it is just words. What comes from it? You can't base decisions in my world unless something is laid down - you can chew on it.

D. Parkman: We had a Jail Committee from the Waldo County Selectmen's Association and that didn't take care of things. The Jail had failed and they were going to meet and see what it was, and it never went anywhere after a few months.

R. Desmarais: I was on that for a while and the price tag was \$18 million and we are looking at \$25-30 million. This was dead in the water and then the Governor stepped in on the Jail.

D. Parkman: They met for a long time. In 2003 it was estimated at \$18 million and then steel and everything else went up and the same plans were up about \$24 million.

J. Kenney: Tell me about it. We built a house during the two hurricanes in Louisiana and our material price doubled while we were building the house.

D. Parkman: They talked about another study. I said that we have already spent \$200,000.00.

J. Kenney: Did the land evaporate in this time?

D. Parkman: No, it is still there.

B. Sneed: What is the problem between the State and the courthouses?

W. Shorey: I think what we found out when the State came over, at first they were under the impression that we were going to kick them out of the District Court. They had that impression and how they got it, I do not know. We talked a way through that and they are interested in staying, and then we got talking about the new courthouses and what the schedule was and they indicated that probably in around a dozen years to fourteen, we would be in line for a new courthouse. So, our long range plan is let's get the Superior Court and the District Court into a new courthouse and turn maybe the District Court into Deeds, or whatever the case may be. Make some use out of the building.

B. Sneed: The State would stand the cost of the court building?

W. Shorey: Well, they would lease it, but with long-term financing, and we are having a lot of talks with IUS which is being quite fruitful as far as if given the money, if we got the Sheriff's building up and built without dipping into the resources that the County has now - the Reserves - by doing some other financing and some sales - by the time the courthouse comes around we should be setting there with \$4 - 6 million dollars that we could get in on the deal and get some good long term financing. We could come pretty close to leasing that building out to make the payments on it, which would not be a bad deal for us.

B. Sneed: Fifteen years out, do they have specific State requirements in mind?

W. Shorey: Oh, it has to be many talks before that can happen. I guess the deal is if we went right in close here to Belfast, already property that is up for sale that isn't being sold that has everything going by the front door. I mean, gee - everybody put a lot of work into buying this land and they think it is a great idea but it is not in the books for Waldo County because there isn't anything to anchor the campus out there to take care of getting the utilities in there at a reasonable price.

D. Parkman: I don't know where they are getting the figures as far as the utilities. They have got Duck Trap manufacturing right across the road and the electricity comes right to the property line. So, I can't see two million dollars to go another two tenths of a mile.

J. Arseneau: I think part of that was because it is part of the Industrial Park Complex that is there and there is a certain standard that has to be maintained, and I believe that there might have to be some sewer improvements done. I will say that land is tax free at this point and immediately 10 or 15 years down the road maybe there is no game plan, but the City is going to grow and that is a prime piece of property that, when you go to the City of Portland and you look at Cumberland County and how they are set up, their buildings are all over the place because they didn't parcel anything out. They were all jumbled; you have one building here and you have to go over here for something else, whereas you have a nice parcel that is there and if it doesn't cost anything for taxes...

B. Sneed: I know what you are saying. I lived in a county many years ago in Long Island, New York that had county offices scattered from one end of the county to the other. After decades of this, they decided to build a county campus and the weeping and the gnashing of teeth was horrendous but they got over it and everyone just goes out to the county campus, and that is it.

D. Parkman: As far as the District Court goes, it is run by the State and they lease the courthouses from the counties. The Superior Court is run by the County. You see, with District Court, we went up on the rent, we signed the lease and we sent it to the State. They would never send it back signed and then they didn't pay the extra money. We went months and then they finally paid. A year went by and rent was supposed to go up again. This time, Barbara tried month after month and the State coordinator, I think he is incompetent. I wish the press was here so they could report that because he never

answered any phone calls back. That is the District Court building and they owed us \$1,700.00. Now the State has turned over the Witness Fees for the District Court. It seems to be one problem after another, and it has nothing to do with this county. The State doesn't honor their commitments.

B. Sneed: I know from looking through the old Superior Court Building, that is a solid granite building and that is a nightmare to plumb and wire or to do anything to.

A. Fowler: It is a money pit. Remember we had to replace the railing last year and where it was on the historical registry, we had to get specific railing that cost thousands. You can't heat it or cool it in the summer. I would love to just give it to the City of Belfast.

D. Parkman: It is a beautiful building, but the maintenance of it is killing us.

B. Sneed: I remember Mrs. Page; when she wanted a new computer system, it was a nightmare getting new wire.

A. Fowler: Just in defense of Dave, I've toyed back and forth with the land option. One, I am a firm believer you can't make more land and you, the people, own the land. It is yours, it is not costing you anything right now and it already has cost you something. My argument was with the Sheriff's Department, we are putting an EMA office up there now that Dale has received grant money for as the guy can get money out of a turnip. I don't know how he does it, we love him and he is wonderful. So, we will put the EMA building up there and we have formed a committee to look at different building designs and get some ideas or just toy ideas around and I have said all along I don't think there is enough parking. I know once we take down the rec yard at the Jail out back where the prisoners could go or whatever, and I know that will give us a lot of room, but my next thought was we have all heard about the day care that is across the street anyway - but she knew that two years ago when she bought the place. But if I could have cruisers coming out of there on an emergency code 3 call where I - would rather have them coming from Congress Street or an industrial park for land that we own that is not intimate area. Dale has the City involved in every aspect of it. Dale is the most prepared person and it is like, do we have to have sound barriers, do we have to have this? What does the plumbing look like? And so if I had the money, I would love to see, not study, but I would be curious what it would cost for infrastructure on our property versus there. I really think we have a hundred acres there - maybe we don't need 100 acres, so let's keep 20 and sell the rest because we have got to do something and my greatest fear is that five or ten years down the road, we are going to be in the same mess with a brand new Sheriff's office that doesn't have any room or a chance to grow. You heard Scott talk about the State Police, the State Police right now it is on the docket to close their Thomaston barracks. It is going to the Governor right now. That means who knows where they are going? We have to look out and cover ourselves. We can't rely or assume that the State - the State screwed with us on the lease that was on black and white - and they still played with us. The reason why we thought we wanted them out is

because we did. The lease ran out and we played this game with them of, "Come on – let's do a lease," and they kept playing with us. You start looking at your options. And it's like, if you're not going to sign the lease, get out. I will move the Sheriff down there and you know what the Sheriff's Office is. At this point, we are looking for any avenue to keep our people safe and whatever; so we thought, well, we can always move the Sheriff down there. But since then, we have negotiated.

B. Shorey: Here is what I think is reality, folks, and that is what we have to face. A qualified engineer has said that there is room enough at the Jail location for the Sheriff's Office and that is Mr. Rowley and his building and room enough to park the cars that are there. Unless this county is willing to put up two or three million dollars to build a new Sheriff's office on that piece of land and get utilities to it, we mine as well drop this conversation and not have it anymore because that is the reality of what you are facing for a cost to put the first piece of property on that land and have a road, sewer and water it. I don't think that this county is going to buy into two or three million dollars for that piece of land.

J. Arseneau: I was involved with a project where we built a building here within the City limits of Belfast; a three-acre lot and parking for 50 vehicles. There were many hoops to jump through with the Planning Board and the zoning. The property up off Congress Street seems to have adequate space but the problem that you are going to have is when there was discussion of expanding the Jail and doing work up there in years past when they had a public meeting, I remember there was quite a bit of opposition from people because they didn't want the cars rushing out of there, which was one of the reasons that made the Commissioners go look for other pieces of property outside. You may talk with the City Planner and things, but until you have some concrete stuff for their Planning Board to look at... We did a three-acre building and I had to have a book that thick for presentations and answering a billion questions. So, I am just saying that these are things that have to be figured out because we may have a game plan this is what we want to do, but when you get into the thick of it, you find out the City may not - well look what happened out here.

W. Shorey: I hear what you are saying, Jim, but you know we have a Planning Committee. The Planning Committee has had the ordinance guy in to tell us what we need to be aware of and what direction we need to be going. We can't do anything without some kind of a study. It has to start somewhere and we have started that process and if we are wasting our time on that process, then we might as well forget about it, leave the Sheriff where he is or float a bond for 3 million dollars and develop a piece down there in the woods and that is what you are going to pay. That is the long and short of it.

D. Berry: Well, thank you. I am so glad that I was able to bring up this conversation. Have a good day people. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Veronica Stover
Veronica Stover, Deputy County Clerk