

**WALDO COUNTY FOR YEAR 2012 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 29, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Budget Committee Members Bill Sneed (2012 Chairman), David Barrows, Roger Lee, Peter Curley, Richard Desmarais, James Bennett, Harry Dean Potter and James Kenney. Also present were County Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson; County Clerk Barbara Arseneau and Deputy County Clerk Veronica Spear to take the minutes, and also various County employees.

Commissioner Shorey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and did the pledge of Allegiance. First order of business was to elect a chairman.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, R. Desmarais seconded to nominate Bill Sneed as chairman. Unanimous.**

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE EXTENSION (2005) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Rick Kersbergen.

For the past few years their budget has been declining and this is the first year that they have asked for an increase to cover increase in salary of support staff. No one had any questions.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, D. Barrows seconded to approve the University of Maine Extension (2005) budget as presented in the amount of \$43,589.00. Unanimous.**

**REGISTRY OF PROBATE (1070) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Register of Probate Sharon Peavey.

S. Peavey explained the reasons for the budget increase due to personnel and court security. R. Lee asked what the percentage of increase was on the pay. It is 2%. R. Lee asked for a summary of what was negotiated in terms of percentages. Commissioner Shorey gave a brief history of the Support Staff Union and he explained the increases being 3%, 3% and 3% to the Deputies Union. There is another contract that they are negotiating on and he brought out how it was difficult to comment on as they are in the middle of negotiations. B. Sneed asked if the Judge received a raise and she said she had as she has worked there for 7 years. Commissioner Shorey mentioned at this point that everyone has gotten a two percent except for the Sheriff's union.

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, J. Kenney seconded to accept the Registry of Probate (1070) Budget as presented in the amount of \$197,177.00. Unanimous.**

**SHERIFF'S (1075) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Sheriff Scott Story and Chief Deputy Jeffrey Trafton.

S. Story said the big increases this year are personnel cost due to last year in the collective bargaining unit his budget did not reflect the increases and this budget is reflecting both years. The fuel cost is another increase as last year that was a problem. He mentioned the calls for service are up about 9% over last year. He said that everything else was flat funded. B. Sneed

asked about the training and uniforms budget only being spent at 50%. S. Story said that uniforms will start collecting up around this time of year and the training there is range training and ammunition and overtime that will come out of that line. It was asked of the Sheriff to go over his projection of fuel. B. Sneed asked if he could get the total fuel consumption from 2005 to current and that he recognized that the fuel consumption is a “crapshoot.” S. Story introduced his new Chief Deputy Jeff Trafton and that he will be a great addition to the team.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, J. Kenney seconded to accept the Sheriff’s (1075) Budget as presented in the amount of \$1,322,903.00. Unanimous.**

**ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION (1080-4715) WCAP**

Present for the discussion was Edward Murphy.

E. Murphy explained they have served 1,990 Waldo County residents with 113,800 trips which is the biggest year ever! J. Bennett brought up how emails have been going around about WCAP double dipping. E. Murphy brought out that last year between the towns and County it was \$52,000.00 and how the town funding is they send representatives out and try and educate the people in the communities. B. Sneed said that sometimes that ask for a lot and sometimes a little and it depends on the service they provide. E. Murphy went on to relate WCAP history and how they provided 1,800 baskets to the citizens for Thanksgiving and Christmas. He said they use the money wisely from the towns.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved R. Plausse seconded to fund Waldo Community Action Partner portion of the Advertising and Promotion (1080-4715) Budget at \$3,500.00. Unanimous.**

B. Sneed asked that while they were in Budget 1080 if the Commissioners were still happy with Eastern ME Development Corp. Commissioner Fowler gave a brief history of the past few years. She would like to know what do they do for the County. Commissioner Shorey was interested in leaning toward funding them completely but Commissioner Fowler was interested in funding them at \$5,000.00. B. Sneed believed that in the long run they are good to support. Commissioner Johnson spoke in regards to MCEA (Maine Coast Economic Alliance) and how they cover the entire County not just a few towns. R. Lee felt that there was not a serious effort on the County to support economic development and he believed that the county needs to be doing more.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, D. Barrows seconded to fund the Advertising and Promotion Budget (1080-4716) Eastern Maine Development Corporation in the amount of \$5,000.00. Unanimous.**

J. Bennett asked the Commissioners why they did not support Time and Tide. Commissioner Shorey gave a brief explanation of when Time and Tide had met with the Commissioners and how after talking with the rep they could not see any structure or any organization or anything that was going to happen in the near future. So the commissioners choose not to support it.

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, J. Kenney seconded to fund Advertising and Promotion (1080) Budget at \$8,500.00. Unanimous.**

### **FACILITIES (1030) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley.

Facilities Keith Nealley highlighted some of the projects that he has accomplished throughout the year. He also brought to the attention of everyone that his fuel for the Superior Courthouse is over. He discussed the new building and how he had to adjust numbers for that. It was asked also when the new building would be completed and D. Rowley said that the goal is to be in it by the end of 2011. R. Lee asked why the heat could not be turned off in the old Sheriff building and Commissioner Fowler explained that when they had gone to the Planning Board and they were told that the house had to be maintained as it is on the historical register. There was more discussion on the new and old Sheriff's building.

**\*\*J. Kenney moved, J. Bennett seconded to accept the Facilities (1030) Budget as presented by the Commissioners in the amount of \$251,637.00. Unanimous.**

### **REGISTRY OF DEEDS (1065) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Register of Deeds Deloris Page.

D. Page went over her budget and highlighted that the personnel line is up 2% and she had asked for a P/T position which the commissioners agreed to 25 hours per week. Commissioner Fowler explained that the Register has attended many meetings in Augusta due to the Mac Image lawsuit.

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to accept the Register of Deeds (1065) Budget as presented in the amount of \$125,879.00. Unanimous.**

**Motion rescinded.**

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to accept the Register of Deeds (1065) Budget as presented in the amount of \$221,867.00. Unanimous.**

**BREAK**

### **EMA (1010) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was EMA Director Dale Rowley.

D. Rowley said there was a zero percent increase in his budget and he was able to cut his telephone by \$2,400.00 by getting a grant for new fire pagers. R. Desmarais asked about narrow banding. D. Rowley explained that most of the licensing is almost done and all of the repeaters have been changed over and the change will probably be in August of 2012.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, B. Sneed seconded to accept the EMA (1010) Budget as presented in the amount of \$98,224.00. Unanimous.**

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S (1015) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau and Deputy D.A. Eric Walker. G. Rushlau went over some of the changes in his budget such as the software that is shared with three other counties and needing a new refrigerator as the current one is not keeping things cold. J. Bennett asked if the photocopier was leased or purchased. He said it was leased and there was further discussion on lease versus buying.

**\*\*J. Kenney moved, D. Barrows seconded to accept the District Attorney (1015) Budget as presented in the amount of \$215,793.00. Passed with J. Bennett opposed.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (1076) BUDGET**

Present: Communications Director Owen Smith. O. Smith said that they are in exciting and nervous times in the State of Maine as there is a lot going on. There has been a recommendation by the State of Maine for two supercenters for PSAPS. The supercenters just answer the 9-1-1 calls and then they would transfer them. Commissioner Fowler said that both she and Owen have spent a lot of time on this. She went into detail about the supercenters and how there will be no savings to the taxpayers and if the County loses the PSAP status then there will be valuable equipment lost. There was more discussion on this matter. R. Lee asked about the increases in the part time and over time lines. O. Smith mentioned that it was a big increase and currently they were in union negotiations. He said that this year he has had an unusual amount of people out on medical leave and with serious medical problems. Commissioner Shorey said those two lines and it is difficult to say to much but they are the highest priority. He assured the budget committee that they are giving it deep thought. There was more discussion over part timers. O. Smith brought out that he does not have an assistant.

There was discussion regarding part-time and over-time lines and some on the Committee stated that they felt those lines should be reduced. The B. Sneed reminded the Committee that personnel lines could not be altered by the Budget Committee. It was recommended to reduce the budget by \$23,244.00 to make the overall budget \$800,000.00.

**\*\*R. Desmarais moved, B. Sneed seconded to accept the Communications Center (1076) Budget in the amount of \$800,000.00.** Discussion: J. Kenney asked where the \$23,244.00 was to come from. B. Sneed said that it was the department chair's problem. J. Kenney again asked where it should come from. R. Desmarais recommended the Tower Sites Operations line (4620). He stated that the Department Head and Commissioners could take the \$23,244.00 reduction from anywhere they want to. He added that he was taking into consideration that by the end of the year there may be some lower figures. O. Smith said that the Towers are not owned but rented. R. Desmarais stated again that he was not telling O. Smith where to take the money from. **Motion passed with 1 opposed (H. Potter) and 1 abstained (J. Kenney.)**

### **ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION (1080-4716) BUDGET**

Present to represent Eastern Maine Development Corporation were Ralph Harvey and James Gillway, both from Searsport and Janet Toth, Business Councilor from EMDC.

J. Toth said she heard that a vote had already been taken. She mentioned that right now in lending there are 3 active loans in the amount of \$375,000 and the total since EMDC has been

started some 20 years ago they had over \$4,000,000.00 in the area. She gave a brief history of EMDC and the different funding that they offer. They work with Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock and Waldo County. R. Lee asked R. Harvey what financial support EMDC receives from the other counties. He said that other counties support them very well as it totals around \$80,000.00 for six counties. Waldo County has the lowest participating amount.

### **WALDO COUNTY SOIL & WATER DISTRICT (2035) BUDGET**

Present for this discussion was Kym Sanderson.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, H. Potter seconded to approve the budget as requested in the amount of \$20,475.00. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, J. Kenney seconded to adjourn for lunch at 11:49 a.m. Unanimous.**

### **LUNCH**

The Budget Committee Reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

#### **Searsport Fire Chief Jim Dittmeier:**

Commissioner Fowler introduced J. Dittmeier as heading up the Waldo County Confined Space Team.

J. Dittmeier introduced himself. He gave a brief history of how they put the Waldo County Training Facility together as it was costly to send people for training down to Portland for interior fire fighting. Now it cost \$200.00 per person and there are some towns that cannot afford to send a guy to school. He was asking for \$1,000.00 and that will accomplish two things. We will get another trained fireman and we get to maintain the building. Commissioner Fowler suggested including it in the Reserve Request or out of the HAZ Mat LEPC account.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, D. Barrows seconded to give the Waldo County Confined Space Team \$1,000.00 and let the Commissioners come back at the next meeting as to where they want to take it out. Unanimous.**

#### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (2025) BUDGET:**

Present for discussion were County Commissioners, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, H/R Director Michelle Wadsworth.

R. Lee asked why the health insurance keeps going up. W. Shorey explained it is a self funded, very efficient insurance. He explained the history of the self funded health insurance and gave the rates of previous years. He also mentioned how for two years there have been no increases. W. Shorey read a letter from the Risk Pool Manager. The expenses to date were read also. W. Shorey said that for two years there were no increases and that should never happened in the insurance world. A. Fowler brought up that it is different for all employees now as it was four years ago pay into their insurance. It depends on what plan they are on. She said they have really tried and the employees have been awesome. W. Shorey said one thing he would like to note was regarding the union contracts that everyone is on the 12% of paying for their health

insurance. R. Lee questioned line 4735 MePERS and why that had gone up. B. Arseneau said it was due to in Augusta they have increased the match by law that the county must pay.

**\*\*J. Kenney moved, P. Curley seconded to fund Employee Benefit (2025) Budget as presented in the amount of \$1,232,700.00. Unanimous.**

### **COMMISSIONERS (1020) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion were the County Commissioners.

B. Sneed had questions on line 4855 – Security System which is presently in the Facilities Budget. The Commissioners explained the postage meeting and the mileage. W. Shorey felt it would be beneficial for a commissioner to attend the NACo conference. He gave history of when he went with the Sheriff last year. R. Lee asked if the county looks at other vendors for the liability insurance. A. Fowler it is funded through the MCCA risk pool and the high risk is the Sheriff and Jail. She gave a brief history of how the MCCA Risk pool was formed and that it is self funded. She said there was discussion of trying to go out and do better.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Present for the discussion was Technology Consultant James Arseneau.

J. Arseneau reminded the budget committee that when they looked at the expended last year to this years request it looks like a larger increase but remember the commissioners opted to take \$50,000.00 the yearly operating cost out of the 0265 Technology Reserve account. There was a decrease of 4% due to the contracts and there will be an up and down over the years. R. Lee mentioned that line 7100 had doubled and J. Arseneau explained again how \$50,000.00 was taken out of the reserves and what had been coming out of the reserve such as equipment for the new building and some of the equipment being installed will prepare the county to be able to go forward with the virtualization project in the next several years ahead as well as Disaster Recovery. R. Lee questioned the wireless data cards under line 7100 and if more were being bought. J. Arseneau said no the Sheriff office has 14, EMA has a couple, the commissioners have one and communications has two. This is such as when supervisors are traveling remo

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, R. Plausse seconded to fund 1020-5000 Commodities as requested in Commissioners Budget in the amount of \$7,800.00. Unanimous.**

### **TECHNOLOGY – 1020-7011, 7100, 7101, 7102.**

Present for this was James Arseneau, Technology consultant.

### **RESERVES (2045) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion were the County Commissioners.

### **TREASURER’S (1025) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Treasurer David Parkman.

### **AUDIT (1090) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Treasurer David Parkman.

**\*\*J. Bennett moved, R. Plausse seconded to accept Commissioners recommendation of \$8,000.00 for the Audit (1090) Budget. Unanimous.**

**INTEREST (2000) BUDGET**

Present for the discussion was Treasurer David Parkman.

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, J. Kenney to accept \$20,000.00 Interest. Unanimous.**

**\*\*B. Sneed moved, J. Kenney seconded to adjourn the budget meeting at 2:33 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
**Veronica Spear, Deputy County Clerk**