

**FY2014 WALDO COUNTY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND
FINAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2014**

Present: Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson; Budget Committee Members Bill Sneed, James Bennett, Richard Desmarais, Thomas Flacke, Clement Blakney, Harry Dean Potter, Peter Curley, Fred Rollins and Arthur Durity. Also present were Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, H.R./Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth, several Waldo County department heads, several members of the local fire departments, and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to record the minutes.

Chairman Bill Sneed opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. He explained how the meeting would be conducted and explained that only one hour would be allotted for the public to speak and asked that those who did, please limit it to 5 minutes. He asked if there were any present who wished to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING:

First speaker: William Gillespie, introduced himself as the Fire Chief of Liberty and President of the Waldo County Fire Chiefs Association.

W. Gillespie said he was present to speak on behalf of the firefighters and fire chiefs in Waldo County about a program that they endorsed in the Communications Center budget, which is the "I Am Responding" and "Rip and Running" program. This program links Spillman and would allow them to receive a text message when a call comes on. They struggle with pagers and radios to always get the page. Pagers may be turned off for various reasons. He himself always has his pager on and the pager can receive a text message anytime without making any noise. It will give him a text message that tells him the location, severity, and nature of the call and with a smart phone, it will provide a mapping procedure of how to get to the call the most efficient way. This information is stored in the phone and he can program it to indicate that he is responding to the call. Dispatch receives this information without him having to go on the radio. This way he is not tying up radio time and with multiple departments going to structure fires, five to six at a time, it is very difficult to get onto the radio to acknowledge what is going on. This allows him to manage what he has for incoming apparatus and equipment without having to get on the radio. It allows him to manage his business, which is difficult when more than one department is coming and the radio is busy. They would like to implement this program as a backup to what they currently have, which is radios and pagers. This allows a backup that gives him all the information he needs. The original budget requested in the Communications Center Budget was \$22,975.00, which was denied by the Commissioners during their review of the budget. It is a three-year contract for this program. After that the estimated cost is about \$4,500.00 per year. It would keep this program in their system. Many firefighters are not able to wear their pagers and radios at their employment, but can generally wear their cell phones. This allows them to get more firefighters to the scene, which is a struggle during the daytime right now. Currently, he has to text many of his firefighters as he is driving to try and reach them for fire calls.

In Liberty, only 3 firefighters who can respond during the day. Asking for this to be funded to have a second backup system to make it easier to do their jobs. The benefits is that it helps the firefighters with their dispatching system because it captures all the times. A computer in the station or on the smart phone can tell him all the equipment that's coming, the time they left the station and anything that has been acknowledged by Waldo Communications Center can be transferred over this. Every department is required to report to the State Fire Marshall's Office for all incidents. This captures all the information and that needs to be done is transfer it from to another, and eliminates his need to call Dispatch. The Communications Director can speak to the fact that over the past few months and even the past twelve years during the Communications Center meetings there have been numerous discussions about overwhelming dispatchers on fire calls. They're working toward having only two people sign onto the radio at any given time. This still gives him the freedom to know what he has for manpower and equipment. He asked him to consider this as an option for the firefighters. He didn't think it was asking for the moon but for a backup system to what they currently have. He felt that Commissioner Shorey could attest to the number of days in the Searsport and Stockton area that there are times when the radios just don't work. They cannot afford the radios just not work. He asked the Budget Committee to consider this request.

B. Sneed asked if there were any questions.

R. Desmarais said he had read both letters sent by Chief Gillespie and Chief Archer and he made some contacts from his "former life" and they told him they are ten to twenty years ahead of up here. The contacts used this through their 9-1-1 center in system in Connecticut and noted that it was fabulous; they get a tone, and they get a message. They are very pleased with it.

A. Durity said he missed the first Budget Committee meeting in which this was discussed and asked why it had taken been eliminated from the budget.

W. Shorey explained that the County is putting a tower in Stockton, which has been a problem area for several years. The Tower is projected to cost \$100,000.00. They had to go up another 20 feet, so it is costing \$125,000.00 and should be completed the first of February. The Commissioners couldn't that they had the money to add another \$25,000.00 on to the budget when they are already over projections for this year by over \$25,000.00. It would have been \$150,000.00 for communications equipment if they had added this program on, so they didn't think they should consider it.

R. Desmarais explained that in his "other life" he was president of the ambulance association, and acknowledged that the daytime coverage was always a problem, detailing the difficulties they experienced. He felt the "I Am Responding" and "Rip and Run" would help get the message to these people.

W. Gillespie commented that Belfast and some of the other towns have the luxury of not needing five or six town responses. For Liberty, he has a five-town response, whether it's night or day. During the day he might get 25 firefighters; during the night he might

get 35. There's a huge discrepancy but it's in the delay of time. He detailed how it works if firefighters can respond during the day, they are pump operators only. But if he has people that he knows are leaving work without him having to call them on their cell phones to see if they can come. Some of them cannot necessarily pick up their phone to answer a call but can monitor their text messages. He added that there are "dead spots" such as in Hannaford store, for example. Belfast is a "crater" and that is understood. He needs everyone to come that can come and he needs to be able to reach everyone. Most people live by their cell phones now, but not their pagers. So they get their text messages, and text messages go through even when a telephone call won't. It gives the agencies an opportunity to grab a bigger audience. They are struggling in the fire service to get man power out and need every little tool they can to get everyone needed out there.

T. Flacke asked if it was the Commissioners' intention to put this program in the Budget next year (2016).

W. Shorey said they would reconsider it next year and possibly ask EMA Director D. Rowley to write a grant. But this year the Commissioners wanted to spend \$100,000.00 to upgrade the tower in Stockton and it went to \$125,000.00 and they felt if they could get by next year, they would prefer to wait.

A. Durity asked where in the budget the tower expense would be found and was told by W. Shorey that it would be

B. Sneed, speaking to Owen Smith, said that he had done some research and noticed that Knox County got a quote from Spillman last year for "Rip and Run" this program and it was quoted at \$8,000.00 for the package and \$900.00 a year for the maintenance. He inquired about why Waldo's quote was so expensive.

Communications Director O. Smith said that Knox was only paying for the "Rip and Run". "I Am Responding" is a different part altogether.

A fire fighter in the audience asked if he could explain why the price is different. He explained that he also belonged to Camden Fire in addition to Searsmont Fire. A lot of the departments in Knox County had purchased it themselves, so that's why Knox County's initial cost wasn't so much. Rockland, Camden, Rockport and some others had already purchased it.

B. Sneed asked if there were any towns in Waldo County that have pagers going to their cell phones.

B. Gillespie said that Lincolnville gets paged through cell phones but it is paged through Knox County. He also explained that Winterport has a system that basically takes what comes across the pager and transfers it over as a text message to some of their firefighters.

Another firefighter from Frankfort noted that they do something similar, but it was not the same thing and doesn't cost them anything. If the power goes out it doesn't work. It is hooked up to a computer at his house.

B. Gillespie said it was not the same system; it's a system that allotted to them. It doesn't transfer the information to a computer to allow B. Gillespie to know what's happening. It doesn't work, obviously, when there is no power which is not good when storms cause power outages for days at a time. During some of these storms already this winter, he noted that Dispatch was overwhelmed with calls during that time.

B. Sneed asked O. Smith if he agreed that the reason the cost was so different for Knox County was because so many departments had already. O. Smith said he wasn't sure but explained that when Spillman quoted "Rip and Run" for Waldo, it was \$6,913.00. The "I Am Responding" is the rest at roughly \$15,000.00 to \$16,000.00. A lot of that cost is getting it set up and ready to go. Knox did get theirs on a grant and they also have fewer fire departments than Waldo. When asked what the yearly maintenance was, O. Smith replied that \$295.00 for Spillman "Rip and Run" and the "I Am Responding" yearly is \$1,526.00. What they originally looked at was a 3-year contract as that was cheaper than a 1-year contract for the "I Am Responding". A one-year contract is over 2/3 of the cost of the 3-year contract.

F. Rollins asked what "Rip and Run" was.

O. Smith explained that Rip and Run is the Spillman program that takes it from the CAD system. When the call is dispatched down out of the CAD system, "Rip and Run" pushes it into "I Am Responding" and sends out the text message.

F. Rollins asked if the firefighter would get it on his pager.

B. Gillespie explained that it would be received both by pager and by cell phone or smart phone.

O. Smith explained that "Rip and Run" is one piece; the Spillman that provides the interface from the CAD call and that is what "kicks" "I Am Responding" which is the robust part of the program that does everything that B. Gillespie talked about.

B. Sneed asked if this program is from Spillman. O. Smith explained that it was not; it was from another company that sells it separately. O. Smith added that Knox County and Oxford have it and everyone in Knox loves it and the fire departments participate in it also love it.

B. Sneed confirmed that the \$23,000.00 listed in the budget is not just for "Rip and Run" but also "I Am Responding". O. Smith explained that "Rip and Run" is \$6,900.00 and the rest of it is for a 3-year contract for 15 departments to come into it. In the end it is cheaper than coming back every year. O. Smith said that once it's set up, it's easy to

maintain and he had spoken with Bill Gillespie about the discipline of maintaining it. It's a lot of money to get into it.

P. Curley commented that as far as the dispatchers go, it takes the load off them to constantly call for help, and asked if that was correct.

O. Smith responded that it is more the load of answering back from the agencies in the field. The Communications Center is still going to dispatch it down as they have always done. They will page it and announce it and as we do that, "I Am Responding" puts out a program that just furthers the page. It will work on iPads, smart phones, the computers in the stations, etc.

W. Gillespie explained that the big thing that it will keep the dispatchers up to date with what's happening as the agencies contact them via the phone versus the radio. They won't have to constantly say, "701 copied and are en route". They won't have that interaction. They'll have 701 come up across the screen that says, "I am en route direct to scene," or "I am en route to the station," or "I can't go." It also is available for him as the chief officer to look down at his smart phone and know he has seven firefighters responding and won't have to go to the fire station and get a truck; he can go directly to the scene and do his assessment and it also allows him to see that Washington is coming up and they have five guys and three trucks and Montville is coming, etc. It would give all that information on his smart phone without ever having to talk to dispatch.

P. Curley asked if the approximate \$23,000.00 is for 3-years and asked if it was possible to do this on a one-year trial.

W. Gillespie said that the trial cost of one-year expense would be \$13,893.00. It's a one-year contract and includes the IT folks coming in to install everything into the system.

B. Sneed explained that he would come back to O. Smith for the rest of the Communications Center Budget shortly.

1080-4718 Advertising & Promotion - Time & Tide RC & D:

Present for Time & Tide RC & D was Vance Wells. V. Wells explained that Time and Tide is a five-county Operation and they feel their support from those five counties brings in a lot more than the Budget Committee realize because they don't see some of the good things they do. He listed some of the things that had happened this year. One woman was helped to finish her book that explains what farms have been doing all over the State of Maine from St. Johns to York County. It has been suggested by the Department of Agriculture that it is a useful tool for resource for kids who now have school gardens. Time & Tide is strong on networking and while people say they do the same thing as the cooperative extension or some other organization. They are all working together to try to get a job done and if people have read the most recent material, agriculture is on a rebound and has been Time & Tide's prime interest until very recently, and now they are looking at all their resources, including the human resource, which they have 8% or so that are depending on taxes to carry them through. He listed some of the things that have

been promoted and supported by Time & Tide this year: Alewives Festival in Benton, Local Foods on Local Tables, which brings agriculture into the stores and especially Hannaford has done a wonderful job using food from local farms; climate education in various areas, Green Street Methodist Church in August had a week of workshops that covered things from agriculture to environmental sciences, a gentleman from Vassalboro is now building a unit in the old Harris Bakery changing hay into heat pellets.

There are new members on the council who are excellent help are Kym Sanderson from Waldo County, Heather Burt from Sagadahoc County, Jeanine Richardson from Wiscasset who owns two businesses - Scion and Agricultural Processing and Marketing. Time & Tide assisted a group from Lincoln County who are monitoring the PH balance in the ocean, which has been becoming more acidic. Another woman has received money for mobile slaughterhouse. There is quite a need for that. Several poultry growers have found that the USDA is becoming so precise in their sanitation standards, so some of the local slaughter houses are not as active as they were at one time. Time & Tide has worked with a farm in Unity, even suggesting the possibility of them having a farm museum to add historic value and attract tourists. He himself spent the greater part of last summer arranging Time & Tide tours two-hour trips for tourists to come here for about \$25.00 to \$50.00 each and they would be showing primarily the geology of what made Maine what it is - the deep harbors, the forests, the difference from the washout plains in Southern Maine to the hills and mountains and a why different types of industry occupy different areas, and then a special trip for forestry to show the differences in where the various trees grow because these are the differences in where our industry is. The concept is to educate them to get them to come to Maine and do business with us. They stopped at Windsor Furniture in Lincolnville, Robbins Lumber, Point Lookout, all of our harbors, Rockport, the botanical garden in Boothbay, a bridge up the road, and all types of resources including lobster fishing that can be taken advantage of.

B. Sneed asked if V. Wells could wrap up his comments.

V. Wells concluded that Time & Tide has made a lot of connections. He has visited well over 100 different lodges and the people in the front offices all felt this would be a good idea. Any money made would help pave the way for Time & Tide and beyond that, money would go help enable folks on welfare to be trained to become a positive instead of a negative.

B. Sneed encouraged anyone from the public to speak or ask any questions. Nobody came forward. B. Sneed suggested taking a 10 minute break at 6:27 p.m. The meeting recessed at that time.

The meeting reconvened at 6:39 p.m.

FINAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:

B. Sneed explained that normally the Budget Committee would go through the budget in numerical order but the retiring Sheriff was not feeling well so they would take this department first.

1075 SHERIFF'S BUDGET:

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the Sheriff's Office at \$1,328,116.00. Unanimous.**

B. Sneed stated that Jim Bennett wanted to revisit the payroll for 2015 which included 27 pay periods.

J. Bennett said he wanted to discuss this because the time worked was all in 2014 and Dale (Rowley) said at the last meeting that he is on salary so the people on salary would not be getting it, that it was the hourly people who would. But the whole pay period is in the budget.

D. Rowley stated that this was not what he said.

W. Shorey said that the County has an accountant who has advised the Commissioners that this is the way to do this. It would be foolhardy for the Commissioners not to follow his advice.

J. Bennett stated that the Budget Committee gave the money for the 2014 salaries that was requested and now there is another \$115,000.00 added.

W. Shorey explained that this request is for the 2015 budget and in 2016, it will go back to the regular schedule. This happens once every 11 years.

J. Bennett argued that he understood it is the 2015 but the work was done in 2014 and has nothing to do with the 2015 budget. If employees had direct deposit, the money would already be in their accounts in 2014.

W. Shorey commented that J. Bennett was arguing about a day or two. J. Bennett said he was arguing about \$115,000.00. W. Shorey explained that it evens out over the other ten years, starting in 2016. He assured J. Bennett that nobody was stealing any money. He reiterated that the County has an accountant they pay good money to and he says that the books are all right and this is the way it's supposed to be done.

A. Durity asked if this \$115,000.00 is to cover the extra pay period for hourly workers or salaried workers. W. Shorey explained that the payroll for the County is about \$115,000.00 per payroll. This payroll comes once every 11 years it comes in the other year in this particular situation.

A. Durity asked again if this payroll covers hourly or salaried employees. W. Shorey said it covers everybody. A. Durity used the following example: if an employee earned a salary of \$30,000.00 a year, in this year with an extra pay period, are they making more than \$30,000.00 per year? W. Shorey thought it was average out at the end of the year. A. Durity said he wasn't asking about it averaging out another year. He asked if they made more in that year. W. Shorey deferred the answer to the Deputy Treasurer.

Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell explained that all employees were receiving an extra pay period.

A. Durity stated that then the salaried person is making more than their salary that year. He thought that was crazy and felt that the employee is hired a salary for one year and get this extra pay, then for this one year, they are getting a bonus.

W. Shorey stated again that every 11 years, this occurs.

A. Durity said that salary had nothing to do with pay periods. He felt that the salary should be divided by the 27 weeks instead of 26 so it stayed the same amount. He said the employee was supposed to get \$30,000.00 a year and the bi-weekly pay periods were just a convenient way to distribute the pay.

W Shorey restated that this is what the accountant had stated should be done. A. Durity asked where the accountant was and W. Shorey said he wasn't present. A. Durity said he could not vote for this \$115,000.00.

B. Sneed asked if D. Rowley had anything to add. D. Rowley did not.

A. Durity asked if the Treasurer was present. He asked D. Parkman why someone being hired for \$30,000.00 was being paid more than their salary once every 11 years. D. Parkman explained that payroll is paid bi-weekly. A. Durity argued that it is an annual basis and had nothing to do with annual salary. D. Parkman explained that it is paid in 2015 but includes one week of 2014 and one week of 2015. A. Durity asked if this meant that the employee made less than \$30,000.00 in 2014. D. Parkman said he was not saying they were paid less, but it was a week less. A. Durity said that the budget for 2014 should have been a lower amount. D. Parkman said, if you are paid every two weeks, it is as has already been stated – every eleven years there is an extra pay period.

A. Durity restated the illustration and asked if the employee was being paid more than \$30,000.00 or not. In 3 years' time, will the employee earn more than \$90,000.00 or not?

(Both D. Parkman and A. Durity were speaking at the same time.)

A. Durity asked if the 2014 budget was \$115,000.00 less than 2015. D. Parkman explained again that it is because there is an extra period. D. Parkman said in 2016, it will be lower because there will be 26 payments, not 27. It is because this is happening at the end of the year.

B. Sneed asked if Dean Potter had a question.

D. Potter said it doesn't make sense to him to pay salaried people a lower rate per pay period for one year. They're going to work every week, every pay period.

A. Durity said that the person was getting paid \$30,000.00 per year. Paying them bi-weekly is just a convenient way to distribute the money to them. If it was distributed over 26 pay checks versus 27, it is still supposed to total \$30,000.00.

D. Potter said that was true, but you would be paying them at a different rate every pay period. A. Durity agreed.

B. Sneed said they could vote on that when they voted on the bottom line.

1010 – Emergency Management Agency

B. Sneed asked if anyone had any questions for Dale Rowley. There were none.

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to fund the Emergency Management Agency at \$113,244.00. Unanimous.**

1015 – District Attorney

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the District Attorney’s budget in the amount of \$256,405.00. Unanimous.**

1020 – Commissioners

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the Commissioners budget in the amount of \$318,029.00. Unanimous.**

1025 - Treasurer

****B. Sneed moved, A. Durity seconded to fund the Treasurer’s budget in the amount of \$75,909.00. Unanimous.**

1030 - Facilities

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to fund the Facilities budget in the amount of \$286,590.00. Unanimous.**

1065 - Registry of Deeds

****B. Sneed moved, D. Desmarais seconded to fund the Registry of Deeds budget in the amount of \$220,761.00. Unanimous.**

B. Sneed noted that Deloris Page will be leaving the Registry of Deeds after 42 years of working for Waldo County. There was a round of applause for D. Page.

1070 – Registry of Probate

****B. Sneed moved, H. Potter seconded to fund the Registry of Probate budget in the amount of \$223,920.00. Unanimous.**

1076 – Communications Center

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to fund the Communications Center budget in the amount of \$921,239.00.**

****R. Desmarais moved, A. Durity seconded that the motion be amended to include the “Rip & Run” system.** Discussion: R. Desmarais stated that the budget is going to be down almost 3.5% this year. He had heard someone say, “Let’s wait until next year.” He commended the Commissioners for giving the Budget Committee good budgets and have been keeping them low in the last few years; below what they were the previous year. The future is unknown. He believed this system would be a benefit to the firefighters and emergency services of Waldo County and felt that this is the time, and the funds are available, to put the total package out there and make them available to them. He commented that when there is a bad situation as a responder, it is certainly nice to know that “the cavalry is coming”.

J. Bennett was in favor of waiting to see if the Commissioners could come up with a grant to fund this. He felt that there should be as many savings as possible because people are having a hard job to pay their bills now.

A. Fowler asked if the addition that D. Desmarais was looking for was the \$22,000.00 and was told that it was \$22,975.00.

R. Desmarais asked how things were in other parts of the County, and asked A. Fowler that question.

A. Fowler thanked the firefighters present for coming out tonight, and for all that they do. She acknowledged that she knew most of them and that she had grown up in a household of firefighters. She said she knows exactly what they mean when, during the day, there is no coverage. Initially when the budget came before the Waldo County Commissioners, the Commissioners always make cuts. She apologized to W. Gillespie, stating that normally, she picks up the phone and call him and she had been busy and hadn’t had a chance. She felt she had been educated tonight, and she had done some homework, and she totally supports this. She knew it is a struggle every day to get people to the calls. In favor of this year.

F. Rollins said he listens to the scanner and hears everything in the County and couldn’t agree more with this program and what it means and the savings to the County that is not tangible, but there would be a great savings in the end. He would like to see an effort put into grant writing. He would approve it with the amendment of the Commissioners, possibly with the help of Dale Rowley, trying to find some grant money to offset it and put the money back if a grant was obtained.

W. Shorey said he didn’t know how it would work for a grant being awarded if it was prepaid, as he believed that could be a problem.

J. Bennett said it would not work to do it that way. All confirmed this.

B. Johnson reminded that the \$22,975.00 is for a 3-year contract.

B. Sneed said that he had noticed from reading the minutes that occasionally the Jail Technology is dipped into. A. Fowler explained that this was only for Jail expenses.

B. Sneed asked if this could be stretched to the Jail. A. Fowler said she appreciated where he was going with this thought, and she didn't want to see them not move forward on this, anticipating or hoping for a grant because it may not happen. She would like to start this program and then look for grants to relieve the burden in ensuing years for maintenance, etc.

W. Shorey suggested approving the budget at \$921,239.00 and the Commissioners would look around to find the other \$22,975.00.

B. Sneed said that they would need to vote on the amendment to modify it, first.

D. Desmarais wanted to see the whole amount in there.

B. Sneed restated that the motion was to fund the Communications Center Budget at \$944,214.00. He asked for a second. A. Durity reminded all that D. Desmarais had made the motion and that he had seconded it. There was a little confusion but the end result was as follows:

The motion passed with 6 in favor and 3 opposed for a total of \$944,214.00.

1080-4716 – Eastern Maine Development Corporation

B. Sneed asked if anyone was present from EMDC. There was nobody. B. Sneed said that in their submission, the paperwork said that for the Towns of Prospect, Frankfort, Searsport, Stockton, and Unity, they reviewed the shore land zoning ordinance to ensure alignment with regional goals and assisted in the adoption of the state shore land zoning. They didn't. He stated that the shore land zoning ordinance was adopted in 2009 and they hadn't seen Eastern Maine Development Corporation in five years. They had received no correspondence from them; nothing. So he didn't know what they were padding their submissions with but they didn't do anything for Prospect.

A. Fowler said, speaking for herself, in the past she had voted against funding them and the argument had always been "prove what you do for us" and they couldn't and hadn't so she appreciated what he was saying.

B. Sneed asked if there were any questions about the other departments in the 1080 budget: Waldo Community Action Partners, Eastern Maine, Time & Tide, Waldo County Firefighters Association, Midcoast Economic Development District, Belfast Creative Coalition, etc.

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to reduce the budget by \$2,000.00 to \$11,500.00, and the \$2,000.00 would come out of the request from Eastern Maine Development Corporation.** Discussion: R. Desmarais said he couldn't see reducing one without the other and felt they were getting more out of Eastern Maine Development Corporation than Midcoast Economic Development District. He was at a meeting last night and they were going to be setting classes – business starters; information like that

and will be holding it down here instead of Bangor. It said it wouldn't affect every town but that is all people of Waldo County and even if Bangor wanted to come down to attend it, they are starting to work and he felt it would be a shame to dump the \$2,000.00 and kick them out without kicking the other one out.

J. Bennett said to go ahead and kick the other one out.

B. Sneed said that there was a motion made to reduce the budget by \$2,000.00 by taking out funding for Eastern Maine.

Motion passed with D. Desmarais opposed. The total for budget 1080 was now \$11,500.00.

1090 – Audit

****B. Sneed moved, J. Bennett seconded to fund the Audit budget in the amount of \$9,000.00. Unanimous.**

1095 – Debt Service

No funding requested.

2000 – Tax Anticipation Note

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to fund the Tax Anticipation Note Budget in the amount of \$15,000.00. Unanimous.**

2005 -Waldo County University of Maine Cooperative Extension:

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to fund the Waldo County University of Maine Cooperative Extension the amount of \$41,110.00. Unanimous.**

2025 – Employee Benefits

****J. Bennett moved, B. Sneed seconded to funding the Employee Benefits budget in the amount of \$1,126,000.00. Unanimous.**

2035 – Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District

****J. Bennett moved, D. Potter seconded to fund the Waldo County Soil & Water District in the amount of \$25,000.00. Unanimous.**

2045 - Reserves

No funding requested.

1050 - Corrections

No motions made, as it has to be paid by state statute, regardless.

FY 2014 Budget Total

****B. Sneed moved, D. Potter seconded to fund Fiscal Year 2015 for the County of Waldo at \$7,827,151.00. Discussion: J. Bennett said he thought that some funding should come out for the salaries; the \$115,000.00. **Passed with J. Bennett opposed.** .**

DISCUSSION ABOUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

R. Desmarais asked if the discussion had been settled about paying money for economic development to the company coming to Belfast if Waldo County citizens are hired.

W. Shorey said that there is \$35,000.00 in the Reserve account that they have not done anything with and they have not met yet.

A. Fowler said she is waiting for a lot more information.

R. Desmarais said he didn't know if the Budget Committee should discuss it or not. He said he had very strong feelings and he had expressed them. He didn't believe he was alone and he didn't think that they should be taking tax payers' money and handing it to the Commissioners to make these economic development decisions. In a town, there are layers – budget committee, selectmen, etc. and you go up the line. They, as a budget committee don't have all that protection. There are nine of them to review the County budget and say “go” or “don't go” on an item.

W. Shorey said that it is his understanding that as the discussion ended the last time, there was \$35,000.00 in the budget that wasn't determined if they were going to do that or not. Kathy Littlefield made the strong pitch for another \$35,000.00 and that didn't go anywhere and the Chairman said, “Well, if something develops, you can always call us back into session and we could have a discussion and see where we want to go.” It was his understanding that the Commissioners don't have any holds on that \$35,000.00 that they have in there; they can do it or not do it – that money is in a reserve account, but if they were going to do anything different, they would come back to the Budget Committee, they were not saying they would even do that with the \$35,000.00 but that was the way he understood how it would work.

B. Sneed said, looking at the reserve account list, there wasn't one listed for that. He asked if it would go into next years.

W. Shorey asked K. Trussell to explain how it would be set up. He explained that the motion had been made.

K. Trussell asked if there had been a new name.

B. Arseneau explained that it was named “Economic Development.”

R. Desmarais said his concern was with the \$350.00 per employee. He said that there would be two other large employers coming online in the next year.

W. Shorey said he understood that they had a difference of opinion on this matter.

R. Desmarais asked how the others felt.

A. Durity asked if they as a Budget Committee have the ability to vote to restrict how reserve funds are used and was told no by all.

B. Johnson stated that the Commissioners could only take the Budget Committee's suggestions and advice.

A. Durity suggested that if the Commissioners did use it for that purpose, he would encourage the Commissioners to make it payable only after an employee has been on the job for more than a year. C. Blakney agreed. A. Durity commented that turnover benefits the employer in this case and it would increase incentive to hire.

W. Shorey suggested that they pay it only after the employee had been hired and finished the training and they could easily say that after one year, they would make the payment.

A. Durity said that the goal is not just quick jobs but sustainable jobs and sustainable business that will be here year after year and he felt putting that kind of criteria would push it in that direction.

W. Shorey said that the State of Maine has a high interest in this project.

B. Johnson said she personally would like to see these employees that get this money be a full-time employee with substantial benefits and something so that they can live.

R. Desmarais said he would like to see the public notified of what these plans are he didn't know if the Budget Committee wanted to "sound off" on where they stand on this; whether they want to be made aware of it and are either for or against it.

C. Blakney said he felt the Budget Committee could voice their opinions on it but just because they make a stand but he felt that they needed to hold the company's feet to the fire and say that the money would come with conditions and make them work for that money rather than "rape pillage and get out of here." He felt they needed to add a benefit to this area, with a one year commitment. He even felt that one year was slim. He said they were talking about this before, regarding call centers coming into the area and hiring a bunch of people and then leaving.

F. Rollins said this had been done a lot in the last couple of years throughout the State. He thought that it was not unfair to ask that. He added that he was in Belfast today for a few hours and to a few establishments and places of business and said he saw people bringing in applications for employment in two different establishments and if you look what the trend is around the State, and especially nearby with paper mills going down, etc. he thought about Belfast and the surrounding area and he agreed that there should be good conditions to have a little stimulus money to benefit the local people so that this money stays in this county. There are lot of people out there who need work.

W. Shorey said he appreciated what was being said and what troubled him a little is that the deal was that after an employee was hired and trained, then the County would pay

\$350.00 per employee. He had looked at the size of the operation and he thought to himself, “How can this possibly effect if someone comes to Belfast or not for \$35,000.00? It didn’t make any sense to him. But he knew other things have been going on. He knew that the State has probably taken a look at \$500,000.00 because they like the looks of the way this situation looks, so in a week or two probably should be coming to be known. He still thought, going back to the \$35,000.00 – one of them could pay \$35,000.00 if we had to, to get a company here but it is probably \$2,000,000.00 to \$3,000,000.00 to start up. What does \$35,000.00 have to do with it? So when the Commissioners are talking about how our mind got off on this track was when Waldo was having a discussion about hiring someone for possible part-time economic development work, the Commissioners thought it would cost the County about \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00 for that position and then this came along and this is about 200 jobs at the time. He said he couldn’t think of any place that \$35,000.00 would be better spent if there are jobs coming to Belfast. The deal was they would have to hire people from Waldo County and the County would have to be provided a list of names and where they lived. He said he wouldn’t be surprised if something happened down the road because there are some big figures being thrown around and it still baffles him how \$35,000.00 could possibly be the straw that breaks the camel’s back, so to speak.

B. Sneed said that this was the problem with the incentive programs. The argument has been made that traditionally “but for this, they wouldn’t be here” and over the years as people have looked into these arguments, they don’t hold water. If this company is going to come here, they’re going to come here, period. \$35,000.00 isn’t going to amount to much. He tended to be sympathetic to R. Desmarais; he felt economic development is to not lure individual companies here by paying them. Somehow to broaden the horizon to make them want to come here – to him it seemed like corporate welfare.

W. Shorey said that the Commissioners understood how some of the Budget Committee felt and they are not naïve to think that \$35,000.00 would be a stumbling block.

R. Desmarais said that he just wants the public to be aware of what is done with the money by the Commissioners.

A. Durity said that what he felt attracts new businesses to any area are good roads, good employees, good communication and so \$35,000.00 or \$70,000.00 can be given out; but are our roads in a good condition to attract businesses?

W. Shorey said the roads are not good enough and he heard what was being said. He said he figured they would find out at some point why \$35,000.00 is important.

A. Durity said that infrastructure attracts businesses.

W. Shorey said that the place has a reasonable enough lease amount, which is attractive; the square footage is good, etc. He had heard the State has been down there and is fairly interested in getting involved in the deal, so they would see how it went.

R. Desmarais expressed concern that if they do this with one company, they will have to do it with another.

W. Shorey said he didn't necessarily agree; noting that there is competition all over the country on Brownfields grants and they run out of money.

L.D. 1 Tax Cap Meeting

Not needed. The budget is below the L.D. 1 Tax Cap.

****B. Sneed moved, F. Rollins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.
Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Barbara L. Arseneau
Waldo County Clerk