

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
MARCH 8, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Charles G. Boetsch and Amy R. Fowler. Also present was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Present for this discussion was Treasurer David A. Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen J. Ward.

D. Parkman reported that 15% of the anticipated revenues have been received at this point in the year.

D. Parkman and K. Ward reported that on January 25, 2005, the last Maine State Retirement buyback was paid in the amount of \$111,041.00, including interest. MSRS sent confirmation of receipt of this payment for the record.

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

D. Parkman reported that the Commissioners budget is currently 34% expended, which is a normal "high" for this time of year because several items have to be paid for in a lump at the start of the year. The Commissioners reviewed a memo received from Communications Director Owen Smith indicating that the Dues/Licenses line has been overdrawn by \$255.00 because, among other things, the County Communications Directors decided to form an association this year and the dues were \$100.00. O. Smith expected that the bottom line of the budget would be able to cover this expense.

Surplus was briefly discussed. Taxes for 2005 were only reduced by \$50,000.00. There was brief discussion of the need for the Budget Committee to be aware that when they cut the budgets, the surplus goes down. J. Hyk asked for D. Parkman to write a letter and to work up the numbers for the 2005 Tax Assessment.

Later that morning, the tax assessments were reviewed. The word "Overlay" was changed to "Mil Rate" for clearer understanding on the assessment sheet.

**GRANTWRITING:**

K. Ward inquired about the planning for possible grant writing that Archivist Cheryl Coats was contracted to do and was told that funding for this grant writing would be coming from the County Planning Reserve.

The auditor's notes were briefly discussed. Surplus was explained in this way - it doesn't include Reserve accounts. Contingency was also discussed. The Commissioners had decided to make this authorization increase from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00. The auditor had asked if this increased amount was really necessary. J. Hyk felt that with the older furnaces and possible issues that could result, it was now necessary to raise the Contingency amount.

## **WARRANTS**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the February 25, 2005 Restricted Reserves in the amount of \$10,192.99. Unanimous.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the February 25, 2005 Regular Warrant in the amount of \$27,351.87. Unanimous.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 8, 2005 Restricted/Active Reserves in the amount of \$4,917.74. Unanimous.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the March 8, 2005 Regular Warrant in the amount of \$132,164.84. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded accepting the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

## **FACILITIES REPORT**

Present for this discussion were Sheriff Scott Story, Chief Deputy Robert Keating and Facilities Manager James Conley.

1. The Elevator at the Jail is no longer working correctly. Bolts can't be tightened anymore and the unit is dripping grease. The whole shaft has to be taken out and repacked. S. Story added that this has been done before but only seems to last a few years. J. Hyk stated that this needed to be done, and should be funded from the Jail Capital Reserve. The Commissioners approved the \$5,000.00 on this.
2. J. Conley stated to the Commissioners that the stairwell in the back of Superior Courthouse is dangerous. He suggested that handrails be installed on the outside wall of this stairwell. J. Hyk expressed that these handrails need to match the style and décor of the staircase. J. Conley explained that they would be brass and would look appropriate. The Commissioners requested that J. Conley obtain a quote.

## **SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Present for this discussion were Sheriff Story and Chief Deputy Robert Keating. Sheriff Story related the following to the County Commissioners:

1. Community Corrections funds would be expended on the following with the authority of the County Commissioners:
  - New Transport Van for Public Works, O.U.I. and Juvenile Diversion Programs, in the amount of \$27,600.00 complete with all lighting and equipment.
  - Midcoast Maine Restorative Justice Project is offering a program called "Adopt a Prisoner." Findings are indicating that the only way

to reduce recidivism is to look at the home environment, family, etc. It is limited to six (6) inmates at any one time, with a total of eighteen (18). This program will cost \$15,000.00 for the first year to employ the people to run it.

- Uniforms and work boots for work details in the amount of \$1,500.00.
- Renovations and furniture for the Community Corrections office that is currently shared between five (5) Corrections employees so that the room will be better and more ergonomically set up. The total cost for this was estimated at \$3,485.00.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded to accept above recommendations at a total of \$47,585.00. Unanimous.**

2. Part-time Corrections Officer Michael Hopkins was recommended for hire as a full-time Corrections Officer, effective March 8, 2005.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded hiring Michael Hopkins as full-time Corrections Officer at \$12.71 per hour, effective March 8, 2005. Unanimous.**

3. There was brief discussion of the authority of hiring part-time people as well as full-time people and it was noted that the Commissioners have hiring authority for all employees, be they part-time or full-time.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded hiring of the Christopher Truppa and Gerald Grierson as part-time Corrections Officers, effective March 8, 2005. Unanimous.**

4. S. Story requested that the County Commissioners renew the contract with Volunteers of America for 2005. Chairman Hyk signed this contract.

5. Part-time Patrol Deputy James Greeley has been recommended for hire as full-time deputy, pending successful completion of a polygraph examination, which is scheduled this week.

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded hiring James Greeley as full-time Patrol Officer, effective March 13, 2005, upon successful completion of a polygraph examination later in the week. Unanimous.**

6. The number of inmates during the month of February resulted in over-population during most of that month. S. Story submitted statistics supporting this statement.

7. One of the Sheriff's cruisers hit a raccoon and caused an estimated \$1,300.00 to \$1,400.00 worth of damage to the vehicle.

8. This February, there were three to four of the busiest days ever for the Sheriff's Department.

#### **FEBRUARY 8, 2005 MINUTES**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded moved to accept the February 8, 2005 minutes with the following two amendments: On page 2, strike, "Reserve to assist with the grant-matching funding," and page 3, change that Jonah O'Roak has "resigned," not retired. Unanimous.**

#### **NEW HIRE – VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE POSTION**

Present for making this recommendation was Assistant District Attorney Eric Walker. E. Walker stated that the District Attorney's office wished to recommend the hire of Deborah McAllian as Victim/Witness Advocate at \$12.72 per hour, effective March 7, 2005.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded hiring Deborah McAllian as Victim/Witness Advocate at \$12.72 per hour, effective March 7, 2005. Unanimous.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Present for this Executive Session, as scheduled on the agenda, was Deloris Page, Register of Deeds. At her request;

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:07 a.m. for a Personnel Matter according to Title I, Subsection 405. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded exiting Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. Unanimous. No action was taken.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At the request of County Clerk Barbara Arseneau, as scheduled on the agenda;

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded to enter Executive Session for a Personnel Matter at 10:53 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded exiting Executive Session at 10:56 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded paying Dispatcher Dennis Bryant for 300 hours of unused reserve sick leave. Unanimous.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Present for reviewing correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to discuss correspondence and Deputy County Clerk Veronica LaBreck, to take minutes.

1. E.M.A. Director Richard Farris sent a copy of a letter sent to him from Governor Baldacci commending him for his recent efforts in winterizing about 1600 homes during Operation Keep ME Warm. This was organized via Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Waldo County Action Partners were also involved, along with Unity Volunteers. The Commissioners commented favorably about this effort.

2. The legislative training by Bob Howe that is set for Wednesday, March 16, 2005 will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the Welcome Room in the State House in Augusta. G. Boetsch said he would be attending that training.

3. Officer William Nelson is no longer employed at the Waldo County Sheriff's Office as of February 9, 2005.

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded regretfully accepting the resignation from William Nelson. Unanimous.**

4. Deputy Scott Jones will receive a two-year pay step increase on March 1, 2005 from \$14.69 to \$14.90 per hour. The County Commissioners noted this.

5. Probate Clerk Anne Roberts will have satisfactorily completed one year of employment on March 22, 2005 and will receive a pay increase to \$11.76 per hour. The County Commissioners noted this.

6. Dispatcher Olga Rumney has submitted her resignation from the Waldo County Communications Center effective February 3, 2005.

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded regretfully accepting the resignation of Olga Rumney. Unanimous.**

7. Communications Director Owen Smith wrote to the Commissioners suggesting that the current Union contract be reviewed by an attorney prior to upcoming contract renewal negotiations and then, after negotiations are completed, review the new contract before accepting it. After brief discussion, the County Commissioners agreed with this idea.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, G. Boetsch seconded instructing B. Arseneau to send a copy of the current contract to Attorney Linda McGill, and to send the renegotiated contract before final acceptance. Unanimous.**

8. B. Arseneau read a "Notice of Public Hearing" for proposed changes to floodplain development standards and permanent dock standards that was to be held on March 2, 2005 at Baxter State Park Headquarters. The record of hearing will remain open until Monday, March 14, 2005 to allow persons to file written statements with the Commission, and for an additional 7 days (March 21, 2005, to allow interested persons to file written statements in rebuttal of statements filed during the previous period.

9. The Commissioners received a letter from the Chairman/CEO and Executive Director of The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards notifying them that a local Winterport youth named Samantha Dunton was chosen as one of Maine's two top volunteers and to receive \$1,000.00 for local charity service performed for children in dealing with domestic violence. B. Arseneau inquired of the Commissioners if they would like her to draft a resolution stating their commendation for Samantha Dunton's community service. The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to draft a resolution honoring the hard work of this young volunteer.

10. B. Arseneau reported that she had attended the most recent Healthy Community Coalition meeting, which was the first one she had been able to attend. She briefly reported some of the goals and ideas of the coalition, and related that they had now hired their AmeriCorps/VISTA employee, Jean Morse. A survey of sample questions had been issued for review. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that there was training and programs coming up in the near future, but she had explained to those in attendance at that meeting that the Budget Committee had not funded expenditures for this Committee, nor was there the circumstances for anyone from the County Commissioners office to be too involved with the programs being developed. B. Arseneau had emphasized that any information the Commissioners Office had that this organization needed would certainly be shared.

11. Kenneth Winters of Winters Associates will start conducting the preliminary research for the Compensation Study by meeting with Commissioner Hyk, all the department heads, and Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Adams on March 15, 2005.

12. B. Arseneau stated that the Personnel Policy amendments were nearly completed and anticipated sending this out by the following week.

#### **ISLESBORO SECESSION:**

Waldo Independent Journalist Peter Tabor informed the Commissioners about a recent special town meeting held in Islesboro regarding moving forward with the secession process. J. Hyk suggested that A. Fowler ask the Maine County Commissioners Association to vote against this. The Selectmen's Association should be aware of the situation and the other twenty-five (25) towns should be involved and know what's going on.

B. Arseneau had contacted all Commissioners during the previous week because Representative Barbara Merrill had requested a meeting with them today, but had been unable to attend due to a previous commitment. A. Fowler suggested sending an E-mail or fax stating that the Commissioners were sorry that she had been unable to meet with them today, that the Commissioners are very interested in what she is proposing to take to the legislature regarding Islesboro's secession process, but that it is very difficult for the Commissioners to schedule another meeting within the next seven days, as requested by Representative Merrill. The Commissioners asked B. Arseneau to request any information possible be sent to them so that they could review it and possibly speak with Representative Merrill individually, as time and circumstances permitted, by telephone.

#### **RESEARCHING POSSIBLE RETIREMENT PLANS**

The Commissioners requested that B. Arseneau research the retirement plan for the City of Belfast.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS & COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

A. Fowler reported the following:

- At the last M.C.C.A. meeting, various legislation was discussed including Deeds Transfer tax and the attempt to keep more than the current 10% for the Counties. Sheriff Scott Story had come and spoken there.
- Strip search court cases were briefly discussed.

**The next Waldo County Commissioners Court Session will be April 12, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**

**\*\*G. Boetsch moved, A. Fowler seconded adjourning the meeting at 11:49 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by *Barbara L. Arseneau*  
Waldo County Clerk