

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

PRESENT: Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Donald P. Berry, Sr. and Amy R. Fowler. Also present were Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Present for this report were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

REVENUE CONTROL REPORT:

D. Parkman was pleased to report that the County has already received 100% with three (3) months still remaining in the year.

APPROPRIATIONS REPORT:

There was brief discussion on will happen if the Jail Board cannot be paid. "We can't keep bleeding money. You have \$100,000.00 authorization for contingency. You've spent \$4,000.00 already on EMA issues," D. Parkman commented.

D. Parkman also reported that Court Appointments line in the Probate Budget was "in the red." "I had increased that to \$12,000.00, but the Judge felt she could be reducing it. \$8,000.00 has been brought in on the line for court fees, which offsets this," D. Parkman stated.

D. Parkman read August 31, 2007 Reserve expenditures. Deputy Treasurer K. Trussell read expenditures from the Capital, Active and Restricted Reserve Accounts and the Commissioners made the following motions:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 31, 2007 Capital, Active and Restricted Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$193,754.71. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the August 31, 2007 Capital and Restricted Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$16,367.19. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 11, 2007 Capital, Active and Restricted Reserve Warrant in the amount of \$19,354.85. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the September 11, 2007 Regular Warrant in the amount of \$87,923.67. Unanimous.**

**** D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

YEAR 2008 BUDGET REVIEW:

TREASURER (1025)

D. Parkman requested bringing Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell's salary to top of bottom third during 2007 and was asking again this year. He reminded the Commissioners that this position is not a union employee.

J. Hyk said he would like to settle this issue right now. It was noted that it is the statutory right of the Treasurer to set the salary for the Deputy Treasurer. A. Fowler, referring to the County Salary Survey, noted that fourteen (14) counties have a deputy treasurer; four (4) do not. J. Hyk commented that this should have been corrected several years ago.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to increase Deputy Treasurer's salary 7%. Unanimous.**

D. Parkman asked K. Trussell what the interest on Tax Anticipation Note was. K. Trussell said that she could not obtain this from the bank at this point.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Treasurer's budget at 5.27% increase over 2006. Unanimous.**

AUDIT (1090):

D. Parkman noted that the auditor had told him he would be doing this at same price as the previous year. D. Parkman explained that they were over budget last year because extra work had to be done on the audit.

**** D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept Audit budget as presented. Unanimous.**

DEBT SERVICE (1095):

K. Trussell explained that there were only two more annual payments left on the Communications Center building.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Debt Service budget as presented. Unanimous.**

INTEREST (2000):

D. Parkman told the Commissioners that, "\$50,000.00 should do it."

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the Interest budget as presented. Unanimous.**

RESERVES (2045):

J. Hyk wondered if the Commissioners should ask Budget Committee to put a substantial amount of money aside in Future County Land and Buildings reserve. "We have asked and asked the Budget Committee, but they have refused. I recommend a minimum of \$300,000.00," he stated. D. Parkman thought it might be wise to think about it and discuss it more next week.

K. Trussell pointed out that the Technology Reserve is "dropping fast." J. Hyk said that the Commissioners would need to hear from Technology Consultant J. Arseneau to see how much should be added to that reserve account.

TAX CAP – TOWNS:

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that some towns had been over by a little and took surplus to cover it. Most of the towns were good about getting back to the County with their L.D. 1 Cap figures. D. Parkman noted that the Town of Waldo wouldn't supply it because Selectman Kathy Littlefield felt it was "a waste of County money spending time looking at this."

PROPERTY TAXES:

K. Trussell noted that the Town of Swanville has paid its assessment early. D. Parkman added that this kept the County from having to borrow money this year. There is \$550,000.00 left that hasn't been touched, so he was requesting the same as last year.

(The County Commissioners then held two tax abatement hearings: One for Robert LaMontagne, President of the Belfast/Moosehead Lake Railroad Preservation Society vs. the Town of Unity, and the other for Sandra and David Baker vs. the Town of Troy. Those minutes are recorded individually and separately.)

FACILITIES REPORT:

Present with the Commissioners was Facilities Manager Keith Overlock, who reported the following:

1. There is a contract with Howard Wells for the District Courthouse roof project.
2. Gravel pad for EMA: EMA Director Dale Rowley has funds to place a gravel pad up on the Congress Street property.
3. There is grant funding available for a gravel pad for generator at the Jail.
4. Gravel has been placed out behind the Jail to help deal with the water leaking and seeping into the Jail.
5. Grant funding opportunities for handicap ramps will be released a little later on. Architect R. Fenny has done drawings for ramps, copies of K. Overlock submitted to the Commissioners.
6. Wardwell Company will be taking their equipment off the County's Lower Congress Street property now that they are finished working nearby, and they will leave a pile of loam on the property for the County, if the County wants it. If not, they will haul it away.
7. K. Overlock had a meeting with Clerk of Courts Terri Curtis, State Facilities Manager Norman Ness and an attorney regarding the following matter: On August 16, 2007, a disabled person could not get into the Superior Courtroom because the combined weight of this individual and the weight of his/her wheel chair exceeded the chairlift's weight capacity of 400 pounds. The attorney persuaded the Court to agree that an alternative trial or hearing location would be used in the future whenever a similar situation occurs.
8. K. Overlock made the Commissioners aware that District Court has used the Superior Courtroom several times this month. They do not ask the County for permission to use it. He brought this to the Commissioners attention because District Court pays rent for space, whereas Superior Court does not by statute.
9. K. Overlock asked that the County Commissioners please review his 2008 budget request carefully.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present with the County Commissioners was Sheriff Scott Story, who reported the following:

1. Captain Robert Tiner had resigned effective September 1, 2007. S. Story told the Commissioners that R. Tiner would have been due for a \$700.00 stipend if he had worked a few weeks longer for the County and asked the Commission to approve paying \$700.00 stipend to R. Tiner.
**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded approving payment of the \$700.00 stipend to former Captain Robert Tiner. Unanimous.**
2. S. Story recommended Detective Jason Trundy to fill Jail Administrator position.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to approve hiring Jason Trundy to fill the vacant Jail Administrator position effective September 3, 2007 at a starting salary of \$43,732.46.. Unanimous.**

3. S. Story asked the Commissioners to authorize an Agreement to Participate in Inmate Service Contract between the County and the Maine Jail Association, Inc., a Maine non-profit corporation, for bulk and/or group rates, including the provision for inmate telephone services. The Commissioners approved this.

There was brief discussion of Jail Board costs and likely overdraft of that budget line. S. Story explained that invoices received from other counties boarding Waldo's inmates arrive about one and one-half months after boarding them, so there were more invoices coming than what has been paid. He commented about the budget for inmate board, "The Budget Committee set it. I said I would try to live with it." J. Hyk felt that the Commissioners could not pay for any potential overdraft from Contingency funds, because that is for unexpected emergency and this was not an unexpected emergency. He felt it was not appropriate to spend contingency money on this.

S. Story briefly reviewed meeting with the legislative delegation the day before and felt that the delegation was in support of counties [in reference to the Governor's proposal for the State to take over county jails.] He suspected Somerset County would cease construction on its new jail in the near future.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to enter Executive Session at 11:21 a.m. for a Legal/Personnel Matter. Unanimous.**

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to exit Executive Session at 12:52 p.m. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau with Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover present to take notes for the minutes. The following was reported:

1. 2008 Budget Committee Ballots: For District 1, Roger Lee of Belfast received three (3) votes and Nokomis Nelson of Islesboro received four (4) votes. For District 2, Richard Crossman of Frankfort received six (6) votes.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the 2008 Budget Committee vote results. Unanimous.**

2. Pay step increases were noted by the County Commissioners for the following employees:

- Dispatcher Lorraine Farmer reached her two year pay step on August 1, 2007 with a pay increase from \$14.49 to \$14.99 per hour.
- Corrections Officer Jennifer Stilkey reached her one-year pay step on August 20, 2007 with a pay increase from \$13.76 to \$13.91 per hour.

3. AETNA US Healthcare sent notice of a research study being conducted to further the development of value-based insurance designs. In the study, AETNA will follow members who have had a heart attack and who are on maintenance drugs such as beta blockers for 2.5 years, beginning on October 1, 2007.

4. The Maine Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Navy's Center for Asymmetric Warfare invited the Commissioners to observe the East Coast Initiative/Waldo Responder 07 exercise running from

Wednesday, September 26 through Sunday, September 30, 2007. The first day of the exercise will take place on Islesboro; the second day in Waldo; the third day in Belfast and Castine and the fourth day in Stockton Springs. The Commissioners were to RSVP to EMA Director Dale Rowley. The Commissioners noted that this unfortunately was occurring the same time as the annual Maine County Commissioners Convention.

5. An error was found on the Exempt and Excluded Personnel Pay Scale for 2008, under the Minimum/Start column. 3% had not been added to that. This had been corrected.

6. Maine Municipal Association sent an announcement that the Board of Trustees of the MMA Workers Compensation Fund voted at its May 24, 2007 meeting to allow a dividend to the members of the Fund who meet the established criteria, which included Waldo County. The County has received a \$2,649.00 dividend check as a result of its good loss experience. The Commissioners were pleased to accept this.

7. B. Arseneau received an Email message from Regional Court Administrator James “Ted” Glessner stating that he had drafted a document that provides the justification for the District Court payment of rent at the 4% higher level effective July 1, 2007 and have asked staff to issue a check as soon as possible to provide the differential that the County has not yet received. In the meantime, he was pursuing the revised lease language so that he can submit that to the Commissioners for their review and signature. As soon as he knows when the check will be issued, he will contact B. Arseneau. He apologized for the delay and hoped payment would be received shortly.

8. Maine Association of County Clerks, Administrators and Managers president Bill Collins sent a survey regarding MCCA Planning Committee and an attached survey for information regarding county government. The Survey has been completed and sent by the MACCAM Association, and the Waldo County Commissioners stated that they had completed one and sent it back, as well.

9. At the request of the Commissioners, B. Arseneau had contacted Cumberland County Manager Peter Crichton regarding NACo dues, and whether it is worth the investment to enroll with NACo. P. Crichton had responded that he believed it to be well worth the investment and also enclosed a statement made by Commissioner Gary McGrane, who averaged the dues paid by Cumberland County to be 2.5 cents per citizen and described it as a “bargain.”

10. B. Arseneau shared several pieces of Email correspondence from Grayson Hartley strongly encouraging moving forward with the County’s State/County proposal and have a meeting right off with legislators and Department of Corrections people, particularly after reading the Bangor Daily News this past weekend about the Governor’s proposal to take over County Jails. He felt the Jail Study Committee’s proposal was “good and makes more sense than what I am hearing from Augusta.” He stated that the time and effort the Waldo County Jail Study Committee has put into trying to resolve the jail facilities problem in this area should “not just go down the drain” and he believed that they should keep pushing the proposal and “not let the Augusta bureaucracy force something down our throats that we are not happy with.”

11. EMA Director Dale Rowley sent by fax the updated job description for the new title change for the EMA Deputy Director/Administrative Secretary.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN UPDATE:

B. Arseneau briefly updated the Commissioners regarding the \$1,000.00 fee to transfer of funds from Edward Jones to ICMA-RC. According to ICMA-RC Representative Mark Gosselin, it “took a little bit of a fight” because the account balances were small, and that this would need to be a five-year commitment.

COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:

Commissioner Fowler requested that the County Clerk add to the records that A. Fowler was serving as a member on the Judicial Branch Infrastructure Advisory Group with Chief Justice Leigh Saufley.

NEXT COMMISSIONERS’ SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session will be September 18, 2007 and the following is to be scheduled:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded adjourning the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Unanimous.**

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