

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

Present: Waldo County Commissioners John M. Hyk, Chairman, Amy R. Fowler and Donald P. Berry, Sr. Also present were Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth, Register of Deeds Deloris Page, Sheriff Scott Story, Chief Deputy Robert Keating, a local reporter and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

J. Hyk opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and stated that the County Commissioners would not be entertaining many questions. He expressed his confidence in Maine County Commissioners Association Claims Manager Malcolm Ulmer and the Meritain Health proposal that M. Ulmer had recommended during the November 6, 2007 County Commissioners' Court. J. Hyk stated that the Commissioners were looking to sign on with Meritain up to the amount allocated by the Budget Committee, which was proposed at 2007 amount of \$944,000.00 for similar, if not better than the current coverage.

A. Fowler said that some answers are not available until the health insurance company knows that the County is serious about choosing them. J. Hyk stated that the County Commissioners were committing to the Meritain plan at this time.

S. Story inquired about the proposed lifetime maximum amount, as he had noticed that with the Aetna proposal for 2008 did not have a maximum limit, whereas the Meritain plan had a \$1,000,000.00 limit. The Commissioners replied that they had already been made aware of this and Malcolm was researching the matter.

J. Hyk stated that the Commissioners need to take the opportunity to implement some wellness programs. "We need to get people taking better care of themselves," he explained.

A. Fowler acknowledged that with this plan, the County could now afford to do additional things such as wellness programs.

D. Berry reported that he had researched Meritain and this company has been rated highly.

J. Hyk stated that he had done some research as well and commented that, "even the re-insurer is a three-star-rated company and is well-known."

A. Fowler said her research had not unearthed any bad comments about the plan, either.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded signing on with Meritain Health for up to \$944,000.00 (same as 2007 budgeted amount) for similar, if not better coverage than the current health insurance coverage. Unanimous.**

Several department heads asked for copies of the plan. The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to make copies for all the department heads. She and M. Wadsworth were also instructed to continue to pursue the matter of the maximum lifetime amount.

MINUTES APPROVED:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the minutes from the Duke Simoneau vs. Town of Brooks remanded hearing held on November 6, 2007. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the minutes from the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad Historical Preservation Museum vs. Town of Unity. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present for this report was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau, who reported the following:

1. EMA Director Dale Rowley submitted four different Homeland Security Grant applications in the amounts of \$3,500.00, \$4,000.00, \$8,000.00 and \$120,000.00. Commissioner Hyk signed the applications and B. Arseneau was instructed to return the originals to Dale.
2. Kim Corley sent a letter to the Commissioners dated November 4, 2007 thanking them for allowing a hearing on October 9, 2007 for her to appeal the Town of Swanville's denial of her request for a tax abatement. She was writing to report that the Town had not, as yet, acted on the Commissioner's decision to award an abatement in the amount of \$1,500.00. She had not received written documentation from the Commissioners' Office and was concerned that the Town might appeal to Superior Court. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that she had mailed the decree to both the Town of Swanville and K. Corley; however she had just learned that decrees must be sent within 10 days of the decision. She had not been aware of this and would make sure all future decrees would be sent within that time period. She had been trying to contact K. Corley to make sure she had received the decree, but the answering machine was full and she could not leave a message.
3. Newly appointed Searsport Fire Chief Jim Dittmeier sent an email message to the Commissioners informing them that there seemed to be some confusion regarding the new mutual aid agreement from Waldo County and whether the agreement superseded prior procedures or not. He had heard somewhat conflicting information from the Communications and EMA Directors. The Commissioners told B. Arseneau to ask both directors to review the mutual aid agreement and contact Mr. Dittmeier to make sure they were all "on the same page."

4. As instructed, B. Arseneau related the Commissioners request for a lease between the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the County of Waldo and Jane Haskell of the U. of M. was willing to draft it.
5. B. Arseneau reported that the recent poll of all employees enrolled in the deferred compensation plan asking if they wished for their beneficiary information to be shown on their statements or not had indicated that the majority did, so B. Arseneau will be contacting the deferred compensation provider company to have that setting changed.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn at 9:30 am. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Barbara L. Arseneau
Waldo County Clerk