

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
JUNE 24, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Donald P. Berry, Sr. and Amy R. Fowler. Also present were Sheriff Scott Story, Northport Town Manager Jack Driscoll, County Clerk Barbara Arseneau and a members of the press.

J. Hyk opened the court session at 9:00 a.m.

**SHERIFF SCOTT STORY – SHERIFF’S REPORT:**

Present for this report was Sheriff Scott Story and Northport Town Manager Jack Driscoll

1. S. Story reported that Mr. Jack Driscoll has a strong background in Corrections and will hopefully be serving on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.

2. **DEPUTY RESIDENCY POLICY:** S. Story had submitted a letter to the County Commissioners dated June 17, 2008 in which he discussed the policy provision (Waldo County Sheriff’s Office General Conduct Chapter 3, #10) that states that a member of the Sheriff’s Office will live in an area that is acceptable to the County Commissioners and the Sheriff. Past practice for Deputies assigned a cruiser was that they must reside in Waldo County. Two current employees are grandfathered from that rule. He noted that there have been a few corrections employees who have lived outside those parameters. In recent years, it has been harder to find qualified deputies living in Waldo County. Rather than exclude quality candidates, he respectfully requested a change in the current policy that would expand the boundaries for residency to a definitive five miles beyond the County line. He was bringing this to the Commissioners because they are listed as part of the decision makers.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded approving the change in policy to read as follows: “All patrol deputies or other officers of the Sheriff’s Office assigned a county vehicle will reside within Waldo County and an area expanded beyond the County Border not to exceed five (5) miles of road travel beyond the County Border.” Unanimous.**

J. Hyk informed S. Story that there had been some grumbling amongst local people regarding possible overuse of county cruisers while gas prices are so high. S. Story explained steps that had been taken to be as conservative as possible while still covering the needs of the citizens. With the laptops in the cruisers and the air cards being shared by the deputies, some of the travel has been reduced.

**EMA REPORT:**

Present for the EMA Report was EMA Director Dale Rowley:

1. NIMS Compliance is going well.

2. D. Rowley has applied for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grants, including:

- Replacing the Aborn Tower - \$240,000.00
- Radio Frequency Upgrades - \$20,000.00
- Communications Vehicle Upgrades - \$21,000.00
- County Command Frequency Repeater - \$23,000.00

- RCC CAD Upgrades - \$381,000.00

This is a grant Telecommunications Consultant James Arseneau is working on this.

3. An older ambulance has been obtained from Aroostook County. The state has purchased emergency vehicles for all counties but Piscataquis and Waldo counties. The previous EMA Director didn't "raise his hand at the right time" in the past, and now that Waldo County has been sending in numerous requests, including the most recent request for \$8,000.00 to assist with this, the state keeps responding that there is no money available for Waldo. Androscoggin County is getting \$100,000.00 and does not even have to match it, and they are getting that on June 30, 2008.
4. A Full-scale Exercise is scheduled on August 16, 2008 in Montville and will include the following:
  - Aircraft crash with six (6) survivors
  - It will be located somewhere in Montville (Frye Mountain Game Management Area)
  - Responders will have to go into the woods to locate and carry out survivors
  - The State Police, Forestry and Civil Air Patrol will also participate
5. The EOC Building Grant package is due July 21, 2008. Even if the County didn't get it this year, the County can apply again next year, as there is funding available.
6. D. Rowley provided a brochure on Elected Officials Guide on Emergency Management for the County Commissioners.
7. D. Berry presented the Northeast States Emergency Consortium 2008 Maine Emergency Manager of the Year Award to Waldo County EMA Director Dale Rowley. The Commissioners congratulated D. Rowley and commended him for his achievements and hard work.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to enter Executive Session according to Title 1, §405 A and F for a Personnel Matter at 9:25 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded exiting executive session at 9:37 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

#### **REGISTRY OF PROBATE REPORT:**

Present for this report was Register of Probate Joanne Crowley and Deputy Register of Probate Sharon Peavey.

1. J. Crowley notified the Commissioners that she has sent a letter to the MACo Committee resigning from her position on that committee. The Commissioners noted this.
2. J. Crowley recommending hiring Danielle Weeks of Liberty as full-time Probate Clerk, pending her accepting the position as offered.  
**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded hiring Danielle Weeks as Probate Clerk at \$11.96 per hour effective July 1, 2008, pending her acceptance of the position. Unanimous.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded entering executive session at 9:41 a.m. for a personnel matter according to Title 1, § 405 (6) A and F. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded exiting Executive Session at 9:42 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded that upon Sharon Peavey's appointment as Registrar or Acting Registrar of Probate, that she assume all the duties and roles as Department Head. Unanimous.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau with Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover taking minutes.

1. Cheryl Coats has submitted for signature the contract to perform Archive and Records Management work for a fee of \$1,100.00. The Commissioners signed the contract.

2. Sheriff Scott Story sent notice that Corrections Officer Ivan Flaherty has resigned effective June 12, 2008.

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the resignation of Corrections Officer Ivan Flaherty, effective June 12, 2008. Unanimous.**

3. Pay step increases were duly noted by the Commissioners for the following employees:

- Corrections Officer Greg Mackay with an increase from \$14.73 to \$14.94 per hour effective June 11, 2008 for reaching the two year step.
- Corrections Officer Bruce Rust with an increase from \$14.32 to \$14.53 per hour effective July 6, 2008 for reaching the six-month step.
- Corrections Officer Ruben Page with an increase from \$14.32 to \$14.53 per hour effective July 13, 2008 for reaching the six-month step.
- Corrections Officer Matthew Hopkins with an increase from \$14.32 to \$41.53 per hour effective July 20, 2008 for reaching the six-month step.
- Deputy David Mushrall with an increase from \$14.96 to \$15.12 per hour effective July 20, 2008 for reaching the six-month step.
- Corrections Officer Chad Corbin with an increase from \$14.53 to \$14.73 per hour effective July 22, 2008 for reaching the one year step.
- Corrections Officer Amy Bither with an increase from \$14.53 to \$14.73 per hour effective July 22, 2008 for reaching the one year step.

4. Communications Director Owen Smith sent request for confirmation to hire Elena Donovan as Part-time Dispatcher effective July 1, 2008 at \$11.74 per hour.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to hire of Elena Donovan as Part-time Dispatcher at \$11.74 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Unanimous.**

5. Sheriff Story sent notice that Damien A. Stone has been selected to fill a Part-time Deputy position effective June 10, 2008 for undetermined hours, at \$13.15 per hour.

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the hire of Damien A. Stone as Part-time Deputy at \$13.15 per hour effective June 10, 2008. Unanimous.**

6. Chief Deputy Robert Keating sent a letter informing the Commissioners that Frank Grillo has been rehired as Full-time corrections Officer effective May 23, 2008. Because he had resigned less than six months ago (November 24, 2007), he will remain at the same pay rate of the two-year at \$15.54 per hour, with the approval of the County Commissioners.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to approve the rehire of Frank Grillo as Full-time Corrections Officer at the two-year level of \$15.54 per hour effective May 23, 2008. Unanimous.**

7. Notice was sent informing the Commissioners that part-time Corrections Officer Nicholas Tomah's employment at the Waldo County Correctional Center ceased effective May 23, 2008.

**\*\*A. Fowler move, D. Berry seconded to accept the employment cessation date of May 23, 2008 for Part-time Corrections Officer Nicholas Tomah. Unanimous.**

8. NEW LAW FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS: Beginning on July 1, 2008, a new law will require certain elected state and local officials to have training on the requirements of Maine's Freedom of Access laws related to public records and proceedings. It requires those elected officials serving in office on July 1, 2008 to complete the training by November 1, 2008. It was noted that Sheriffs are included in this mandate.

9. Corrections Officer Matthew Hall resigned from his position at the Waldo County Correctional Center effective May 19, 2008, but will be placed on the Part-time roster.

**\*\* A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept the resignation of Corrections Officer Matthew Hall as full-time Corrections Officer effective May 19, 2008, being placed on the Part-time roster. Unanimous.**

10. An updated pay scale including the wages for the Part-time Victim/Witness Advocate, as set by the Commissioners at a previous court session, was submitted to the County Commissioners and signed by all three.

11. MACo Executive Director Hire Letter of Support: Register of Deeds Deloris Page submitted a copy of a letter that was being sent to the Maine County Commissioners Association from the Register of Deeds Association in support of hiring a full time Executive Director for MACo. A. Fowler commented that she had run this by the Maine County Commissioners Association and noted that it would cost approximately \$200,000.00 to hire a Director, adding that she would never go to the tax payers to endorse this.

13. Updated Job Descriptions – Registry of Probate: Updated job descriptions for the Deputy Register of Probate and Probate Clerk positions were submitted to the Commissioners for approval.

**\*\* D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the updated job descriptions for the positions of Deputy Register of Probate and Probate Clerk. Unanimous.**

14. Community Corrections Reporting Requirements for Calendar Year 2007 and Fiscal Year 2008: A copy of a letter from State of Maine Department of Corrections Director Ralph Nichols, with the Division of Inspections, Quality Assurance and Professional Practices Copy to Treasurer David Parkman was reviewed briefly with the County Commissioners. The total amount of the 20% Community Corrections funds Waldo County received during the calendar year 2007 that it must account for during this reporting period is \$41,748.00.

15. Mark McIntyre sent a letter to the commissioners regarding transportation projects related to roads/highways, bridges, infrastructure, mass transit, technology, ports and more which require funding.

The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to send a copy to Sheriff Story, EMA Director Dale Rowley and Ed Murphy at Waldo Community Action Partners.

16. Citizen Kimberly Corley contacted the Commissioners Office again regarding issues with the Town of Swanville Selectmen. The Commissioners believed that this was not in their jurisdiction and likely needed to go before the small claims court. A. Fowler confirmed that this is the advice she had provided Ms. Corley. J. Hyk suggested that it might be logical for D. Berry to speak with Senator Carol Weston. The Commissioners agreed that a letter should be sent to Senator Weston with a copy to Ms. Corley.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**\*\*Fowler moved, D. Berry voted to enter Executive Session for legal and personnel matters according to MRSA 405 (6) A and D at 10:15 a.m. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded exiting Executive Session at 11:09 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

#### **TIME AND TIDE RC & D REPORT:**

Present for this report was Ron Desrosiers, RC&D Coordinator. R. Desrosiers explained that the Time and Tide Region covers Waldo, Knox, Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties. The reason for coming today is every five years Time and Tide puts together a five-year plan. The RC&D's function is to "link the dots together." He provided a three-page Program Description of the Resource Conservation and Development Program.

J. Hyk interrupted apologetically and explained that he had high regard for Time and Tide and was supportive of this. He explained that he had repeatedly tried to obtain funding for Time and Tide from the Waldo County Budget Committee but the Committee has not been in support of funding Time and Tide in recent years.

Mr. Desrosiers felt that these were two separate issues. He was here, not asking for money, but requesting input.

A. Fowler asked if Time and Tide could build the County a new jail. R. Desrosiers felt that this was a tough issue.

D. Berry suggested that the issue of bed straw, as an invasive species, be addressed, as it was taking over fields. J. Hyk agreed that this was an issue. R. Desrosiers acknowledged that invasive species such as this are always a concern.

J. Hyk suggested installing dry hydrants. R. Desrosiers expressed that water sources are a very important issue to the local fire departments.

Literacy issues were discussed. R. Desrosiers had observed that this was something he saw frequently in this area.

A. Fowler expressed her concern about the economy and wanted to know if Time & Tide could bring any jobs into the area. She explained that, at times when she thought about doing something other than dairy farming, she hesitated because there aren't a lot of other employment opportunities out there. She wondered if farming was taught be RC&D.

D. Berry said someone had recently called inquiring about tilling their garden. "People really don't know how to farm and garden anymore. People don't really know how to can produce anymore," he noted.

A. Fowler said her husband has a logging business and they have received numerous calls from people who will be burning wood for the first time.

J. Hyk said that he felt that there were services offered by Time & Tide that could benefit most of the citizens of the County, but the Budget Committee has not been sharing that opinion. He also felt that his efforts to obtain funding for Time & Tide had backfired and made the Budget Committee less interested in supporting it. He wondered if the time would soon come in which the government would need to offer more assistance for food and heat.

A. Fowler commented that 10% of the country's corn comes from Iowa, which is in a state of flooding right now. "Now, meat prices will go up. It will cost more to truck things," she stated.

J. Hyk said that probably the most practical thing that could be done would be to insulate homes for elderly citizens. There was some discussion about whether or not Waldo Community Action Partners was still heading up the volunteer program to shrink-wrap windows of elderly citizens' homes.

D. Berry mentioned the recent closing of Waltz' Pharmacy, along with home delivery of medications and medical equipment to those who could not get out to pick it up for themselves. There was discussion of the many services that used to be delivered years ago such as milk, laundry, diaper services, meat, etc. and that this no longer is the case.

J. Hyk asked for the brochure provided by R. Desrosiers be sent to all the Budget Committee members and all municipalities with a letter stating that Time & Tide is at the beginning of putting together a five-year plan and that this information was being forwarded this so that you can give input for needs that could be met for their towns. J. Hyk asked B. Arseneau to assign this to one of the staff in the office.

The next regularly scheduled Commissioners Court Session will be July 8, 2008.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded adjourning the court session at 11:48 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Barbara L. Arseneau  
Waldo County Clerk