

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
NOVEMBER 25, 2008**

PRESENT: Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr., Amy R. Fowler and John M. Hyk. Also present were Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth, and County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

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

D. Parkman reported that the Tax Anticipation Note was paid off in this most recent warrant. The Reserve report will be all set for December.

D. Parkman reported the following Towns as still owing property taxes: Lincolnville owes close to \$700,000.00, Stockton still owes about \$300,000.00 and the City of Belfast still owes almost \$500,000.00. D. Parkman will be sending reminders that interest will be charged after November 30, 2008 if the owed amount is not received by that date.

STARTING SALARIES:

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that there isn't an actual starting salary for the Treasurer's position. K. Trussell explained that this situation also exists with the County Commissioners and Judge of Probate, although it was noted that the Judge of Probate had requested an adjustment in salary because she thought it was too low.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to table a decision on these matters until the next Commissioners Court session. Unanimous.**

TECHNOLOGY REPORT:

Present for this report was Technology Consultant James Arseneau of J&B Diversified Associates, Inc. J. Arseneau reported that there appeared to be some confusion regarding the Reserves and the Technology portion of the budget because the number was voted on at considerably less than an original meeting.

In Waldo County, J. Arseneau has found that people like to pay up front for work he does. In this economy, J. Arseneau wanted to warn the Commissioners that a number of his customers have ordered equipment from large, reputable companies and have not seen the equipment arrive. "Some have been stiffed really badly," he explained. He cautioned the Commissioners to only put a deposit down on any equipment purchases and/or services and not to pay in full until either the work is completed.

J. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that he is assisting D. Rowley with the grant to obtain funds to bring Islesboro and Stockton Springs on board with the Spillman software as well as to obtain laptops for the police departments in Lincolnville, Islesboro and Belfast, Searsport, and the Sheriff's Department. Five grant requests are listed strictly for the Sheriff's Office and the other requests will be for the municipalities.

J. Hyk wondered why the Towns want the County to write grants for Technology equipment for them, but don't necessarily want to fund Technology in the County Budget. J. Arseneau said he didn't believe all the Towns felt that way and many were more supportive.

The Commissioners agreed to sign the grant application.

TREASURERS ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE:

J. Arseneau explained that the Northern Data Systems application is really a cost driven by the recent Jail consolidation. It is not software or hardware, but more of a professional services item. It is to allow a separate accounting system for Jail expenditures. The Sheriff had agreed that this could come out of one of the Corrections lines and felt it was the choice of the Commissioners as to which line it would come from. J. Hyk asked for input from the Treasurer. The Treasurer said he simply felt it was not something to come out of the Treasurer's budget. He felt that it should not come out of Board or some other line, but that it was a Capital Outlay item and that was the most appropriate place to take it from. The Commissioners authorized this expenditure from that line.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:29 a.m. according to Title 1 § 405 6(F) for a personnel matter. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to come out of Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to accept a request for leave of absence for up to 12 months for Dispatch Supervisor Patricia Schade effective November 20, 2008, if need be, through November 20, 2009. Unanimous.**

HUMAN RESOURCES/PAYROLL DIRECTOR REPORT:

Present for this report was Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth and Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover.

M. Wadsworth explained that since the Commissioners were aware of the ongoing issues with the two public restrooms on the first floor of the District Courthouse, she was making a request on behalf of all employees in the Commissioners, Treasurer's and Facilities management offices to make one of those a locked employee-only bathroom and turn the other into a public co-ed style bathroom. The Commissioners authorized this request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded entering Executive Session at 9:59 a.m. according to Title 1 § 405 D. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded coming out of Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler moved, that after a great deal of work, the Waldo County Commissioners accept the collective bargaining contract between the Deputies Association and the County of Waldo. Unanimous.**

Present from the Deputies Association to sign the contract with the Commissioners were President Matthew Curtis, Vice-president Benjamin L. Seekins, Secretary Jason A. Bosco and Treasurer C. Glenn Graef. Also present was Chief Deputy Robert Keating.

D. Berry stated that doing new contracts can be a trying event, noting that it has been almost a year putting this together. The biggest component of this contract is the new Maine State Retirement Plan Special 2C, or the "25 and out". This was not done without cost to the Deputies, but was a cost-sharing thing, as they also contributed toward this feature. D. Berry stated that this contract was an excellent piece of work.

One remaining detail is the \$900.00 MEPERS Final Study. The County agreed to pay the first \$300.00 and the Association and the County will share evenly any cost beyond \$300.00.

D. Berry commented on the "huge amount of time" that M. Wadsworth and B. Arseneau have put into this contract, on top of the other work they do. He asked that the Association work with M. Wadsworth to have the funds for the study before the end of the year.

Detective Matthew Curtis said he believed that he could have the funds available to the County by the following week.

Chief Deputy Robert Keating, also present, said it had gone very well and was a fair contract for the Deputies and the taxpayers of Waldo County. He felt that there was give and take on both sides and that this contract recognizes the hard work that these employees do.

J. Hyk expressed his pleasure at being able to sign this contract.

BRIEF SHERIFF'S REPORT:

R. Keating requested that the Sheriff's Office be allowed to purchase two weapons from the Asset Forfeiture Reserve. Currently they have no spare weapons and the Sheriff is trying to build up the Part-time employee roster. All carry interchangeable weapons. Two more are needed at \$499.00 each from SigSauer. The Commissioners authorized this expenditure.

M. Curtis also spoke to the importance of uniform weapons for training purposes.

STIPENDS:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded funding negotiating stipends from the Contingency Reserve up to the amount of \$8,000.00. Passed by two, with D. Berry abstaining.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau with Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover taking notes as follows:

1. B. Arseneau submitted a revision to the Memo announcing that the Commissioners had voted to accept Great-West Healthcare Network as a third network option under the Meritain Health plan. The Commissioners reviewed and approved distribution of this memo to employees.
2. M.C.C.A. Executive Robert Howe sent notice of a proposed change to M.R.S. Title 4 § 115, the law requiring counties to provide free space to the Superior Courts, if that space was provided before 1976. In recent years, the District Courts have been holding sessions in at least some Superior Court courtrooms, and it has been said that some judges alternate between sitting as Superior Court and as District Court. The proposed language is being considered as a "housekeeping" amendment by Administrator of Courts Ted Glessner and is intended to reflect in law what is already current practice. While R. Howe stated that it did

not appear that this would have a fiscal impact on the counties, he wanted to make it available for review by all the counties to know if they saw it otherwise. The Commissioners briefly discussed this, expressed some concern and hoped that this legislative language was not a way to try and eventually obtain free District Court Space.

3. After reviewing the request, the Commissioners told B. Arseneau to schedule a tax abatement hearing for Lewis and Kathy E. Brown regarding her Belmont Property during the December Commissioners Court Session.
4. EMA Director Dale Rowley submitted, for official use only, the After Action Report on the Stockton Springs Elementary School Incident of October 31, 2008. He noted that it was not complete but was, rather, a compilation of his notes from both After Action Review Meetings.
5. M.C.C.A. Executive Director Robert Howe sent an Email to all County Commissioners informing them that the jail medical services RFP had not been sent out yet, but after speaking with one potential vendor, he was “fairly persuaded that issuing an RFP for 15 jails with several different start dates would be too chaotic, both for the counties and for the vendors. So he was no proposing that Counties issue the first RFP for Androscoggin, Franklin and Penobscot Counties as originally planned, and issue subsequent RFPs for counties with similar start dates, if there is no objection. After brief discussion, the Waldo County Commissioners noted that they had no objection to this.
6. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that the Commissioners’ Decree on the Tax Abatement Appeal for Edward and Janice Leary vs. the Town of Palermo had been sent to both the Assessors and a copy to the petitioners.
7. EMA Director Dale Rowley submitted a request that the County Commissioners authorize his application for the 2008 State Homeland Security Grant Program Summary and Narrative request in the amount of \$8,000.00. The Commissioners approved this request and Chairman Hyk signed it.
8. Technology Consultant James Arseneau submitted the Intellipath Centrex Service Agreement Plan the Commissioners had already previously reviewed for 84 months at a rate of .0176. Chairman Hyk signed this contract.
9. Becky Morgan of the M.C.C.A. sent notice that, in observance of County Government Week, the MCCA has reserved the Hall of Flags at the State House on Monday, May 4, 2009. She asked each county to let her know who their contact host will be. The Commissioners instructed B. Arseneau to remind them about this again in January of 2009.
10. The County has the opportunity to receive the Maine Municipal Association *Legislative Bulletin* electronically, if they so desire, which will help grim the MMA budget. The Commissioners opted to receive these bulletins electronically.
11. A press release will go out next week announcing the Waldo County Rx Prescription Drug Discount Cards that will be available to all Waldo County citizens. B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that the Towns are more than willing to have displays and cards at their Town Offices and are actually very excited about this program. The Commissioners briefly discussed the possibility of doing a short PowerPoint presentation to the Waldo County Budget Committee at the Public Hearing.

12. Cumberland County Commissioner Esther Clenott sent a letter to the MCCA, all County Administrators, Commissioners, Managers, Sheriff's and Jail Administrators expressing her concerns over "the legislation decimating our jails and our authority" and suggesting that counties meet immediately to "plot the strategies to address these issues with the Criminal Justice Public Safety committee, local legislators, Senate and House leadership.

13. The MCCA forwarded a notice on behalf of the Maine Triad regarding a "Coats for Seniors, An Initiative of L.L. Bean, Triad and the Agencies on Aging". On the weekend of November 21-23, teams of Triad and Agency on Aging volunteers will receive coat donations at the L.L. Bean flagship store in Freeport. L.L. Bean is hosting the event, with the Triad assisting with logistics. The Agencies on Aging will distribute coats to older Mainers who need them. For each coat donated, Beans will contribute \$10.00 to the "Keep ME Warm" fund.

14. Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth submitted a memo to the Commissioners dated November 12, 2010 in which she expressed concern that on the day of Randall Hofland's arraignment at the District Courthouse, there was only one court security officer on duty and there were no security checks. The public was allowed to come and go. In view of the potential volatility of the case, she wondered if this matter should be taken up with the State. The Commissioners stated that it certainly could and that the memo could be forwarded to the State, if she wished.

MINUTES APPROVED:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded approving the minutes from the August 14, 2007 and November 19, 2008 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions. Unanimous.**

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session will be December 9, 2008. The Commissioners instructed the County Clerk to place the following on the agenda:

- Tax abatement for Cathy E. Brown
- Decide on starting salaries for Judge of Probate, the County Commissioners and the Treasurer.
- Open the Tax Anticipation Note bids for 2009.

****J. Hyk moved, D. Berry seconded adjourning the meeting at 10:43 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by _____
Waldo County Clerk