

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
MAY 19, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Donald P. Berry, Sr. (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler and William D. Shorey. Also present were Jail Administrator Jason Trundy, Treasurer David Parkman and County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:**

Present for this report was Jail Administrator Jason Trundy.

1. COLA DISCUSSION FOR CORRECTION SUPERVISORS: J. Trundy presented a recommendation for the Supervisory Corrections Staff for the 2008. He reminded the Commissioners that the Supervisors did not receive a COLA increase in 2008 because union negotiations had not been completed. A. Fowler noted that this amounted, roughly, to \$1,700.00 each.

D. Berry reminded everyone that the union had two opportunities to get a 2008 COLA and did not opt to do so. Just the legal fees associated with the negotiating process had totaled nearly \$42,000.00. He emphasized that it had been the unit's responsibility to vote on this. He felt it was a sad situation on their part to let themselves be controlled by just a few within their group and not ask for the details on what the Commissioners had agreed to in October of 2008, which included a number of other pieces. D. Berry stated that it bothered him that he had to sit here now and consider their actions that they could have taken back last year. He noted that during the negotiating period, the Corrections Supervisors were not paying the employee health insurance portion the way other employees have been. "This contract could have been settled and should have been settled," D. Berry stated. W. Shorey asked if the unpaid employee portion of the insurance has been recouped by the County. D. Berry responded that the County had paid it and it was not able to recoup it. A. Fowler said she never would have let it drag on the way this group did, based on the actions of a few people within their group. She felt that she needed to support the increase for 2008 because she has spent a lot of time up there recently and felt that the employees have had to work under stressful circumstances due to the reduction in work force. She stated that she agreed with Commissioner Berry's view even if she felt differently about it.

D. Berry acknowledged that the Commissioners recognize that this issue was not J. Trundy's fault but, rather, the unit's responsibility. D. Berry said he hoped that those people in the unit who did not let the others know what had been offered and did not have discussions with them would recognize this responsibility. He felt he could not vote to give the Corrections Supervisors \$1,700.00 each. A. Fowler said she understood but felt that this was the only group of employees who do not know if they have a job tomorrow. She acknowledged that they got "jerked around" by their unit representatives, but she felt that some of them were ignorant of what had been offered.

W. Shorey, when his viewpoint was asked, responded that "from a business viewpoint of dealing with people who were over the age of twenty-one who did not appear to care how expensive the negotiations had been," and while he had told the Sheriff that the Commissioners would listen if they came back with this recommendation, he did not mean to automatically approve this. He said he would be open to another recommendation. D. Berry said he really did not agree with paying them \$1,700.00 but might be open to paying them something else.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to pay the officers the lost 2008 COLA in the amount \$1,719.00 each. A. Fowler in favor, two opposed.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to pay half of the \$1,719.00 per individual, which would be about \$859.60.**

Discussion: J. Trundy said he realized that they were talking about an average, but some of those officers made considerably more than others. If \$859.00 was given as a flat rate, it would be almost paying in total some people and be very low for others. W. Shorey agreed.

**\*\*A. Fowler amended the motion to be 1.5% COLA for 2008.**

Discussion: D. Berry felt this was more realistic to what he would recommend. A. Fowler said she just was bothered about what these employees had been through but was also concerned about those who had not accepted the original offers in 2008. **Unanimous.**

J. Trundy thanked the Commissioners for the funding they had agreed to the last meeting and thanked them for being willing to consider this additional request.

2. REENTRY FACILITY PLANNING: J. Trundy informed the Commissioners that they have worked a few days with the Consultant doing the study. The first meeting was longer, very productive, set priorities, set a timeframe and a list of things to accomplish. Since then, staffing plans have been worked on, figuring out the physical changes that would take place, etc. The consultant has started on the re-entry program and is meeting in Augusta on that topic. W. Shorey asked J. Trundy what his feeling was that - on a scale of one to ten - this re-entry facility would come to fruition. J. Trundy replied "a nine." Now that the \$3.5 million has been added to the budget, and he felt that the Board of Corrections was in support of this and seemed to be committed. "As long as the ink dries" and as long as the \$3.5 million goes through, he felt quite confident that this would go through. W. Shorey commented that he had been listening to the number of emergency sessions that had been held and was wondering about things. J. Trundy said, in his opinion, that a lot of people in Augusta had committed a lot of resources to make this joint system happen, from the Governor on down. He felt that many of them recognized what would happen to the system if the \$3.5 million was not included. He felt that they understood the fallout of pulling that \$3.5 million would be too much.

D. Parkman asked if the \$3.5 million would be put toward any of the Jail Mission changes. J. Trundy replied in the negative. He explained that the BOC knew how much money was going to be needed for the 15 jails. Regarding the four Jails that might experience changes or closings, the money for those jails was put back into the system to run the other Jails. The BOC realized, after doing all this examination and "scrubbing" of the budget for all 15 county jails, that the \$3.5 million was necessary.

A. Fowler stated that it was to the credit of the Sheriff and Jail Administrator "practically living in Augusta" that the County Correctional Center had a future and that they were very much respected in Augusta. She commented that the employees at the Jail also knew how much effort was going into running and continuing to run the Jail. Both W. Shorey and D. Berry commended J. Trundy for his skilled efforts.

3. J. Trundy asked if there were any comments or concerns on the part of the Commissioners regarding a recent disciplinary matter handled by the Sheriff. The Commissioners had no comments at this time.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Present for this report was Treasurer David A. Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, and Technology Consultant James Arseneau. D. Parkman reported the following:

### **REVENUE:**

D. Parkman reported that the revenue seemed a little bit low, but the County overall was still ahead. Deeds revenue was low in terms of transfer tax because less property is being sold. K. Trussell commented that about \$2,000.00 on average has been brought in each month in 2009 whereas it often was \$7,000.00 or more monthly during previous years.

### **APPROPRIATIONS:**

D. Parkman stated that the County budget could be 33% expended and is 35% at present. He reported that in the regular budget, the County had not had to borrow from the Tax Anticipation Note (T.A.N.) until the end of March, which was an improvement over previous years.

### **EXPENDITURES:**

D. Parkman read expenditures from the reserve accounts for the County Commissioners.

### **JAIL ACCOUNT:**

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that 55% has been expended from the Jail T.A.N. The Sheriff has told D. Parkman that any funds left over should remain as County money. The Commissioners can use that funds for whatever they wish, the way the statute reads at this time. A. Fowler commented that there had been some confusion over whether the money had to go back into the BOC system, then there was confusion that any left over had to be used strictly for the Jail, and now the understanding was that it could be used for "whatever."

J. Arseneau explained the way the Technology replacements in the reserve had been funded and wondered if the Commissioners needed to fund an account that nobody had really told them to fund. He had understood that anything left over from the 6-month budget was "gone." It had been budgeted, but did it need to be moved from an expense account into a reserve account in order for it not to be lost. A. Fowler wondered if that is how it would work and said that she knew there would be a lot of technology needed for the jail mission changes. J. Arseneau explained that in a previous discussion with the Sheriff, the Sheriff thought that some of this had been set aside in the regular Technology budget, but Sergeant Robert Walker confirmed that this was actually planned to come out of the Jail budget, not Technology. J. Arseneau reminded the Commissioners that back in November of 2008, when the budgets were being put together, there was no Jail mission change proposed at that point, so there was no way money could have been set aside for that in the Technology budget.

W. Shorey inquired about the budget structure. J. Arseneau explained that in the first six-month budget there was some funding for the video system and other things, but money would need to be set aside for upgrades in several years. He also expressed concern about contracts that had been paid in part by the Jail budget. Those portions of those contracts still needed to be paid by the Jail budget because they don't benefit other County departments. When asked, J. Arseneau said that there are some monies that are not expended in the first six months, they need to be moved to a reserve account, or the like, to be used later. A. Fowler noted that other county jails would not be able to have money left over, and W. Shorey agreed that the unspent funds should remain in the County. D. Parkman said this money isn't really sitting in a checking account, but if a certain amount of funds are going to be

used in the future, the unspent portion now should be saved. J. Arseneau illustrated that, when a door is put in, it is a fire-rated, commercial door, for example. He felt that the renovations would likely cost more than anyone anticipated. W. Shorey felt that these funds need to be separated out and earmarked. J. Arseneau stated that there would be a meeting this afternoon between the Jail Administrator, the Facilities Manager and himself regarding what the costs of renovations would really be and how this would impact all three budgets. He reminded the Commissioners that some of the Jail video equipment had been paid for out of the regular Technology budget. He had been told that some of the equipment purchased in last two years would now no longer be needed. D. Berry said that he felt that if the State wanted to change the mission of the Jail, the State should be funding the cost of the changes, not the County of Waldo. There was brief discussion of where the County would come up with money to make these changes in the next six months. There was also discussion of how the State did not pay the County's expenses for the State inmates that were put in the county jails.

D. Parkman expressed that that he thought the Sheriff should come before the Commissioners in the next month and tell them how much money would be left over from this first six-month' budget so that the Commissioners could save it for use next year. There was discussion of how long the mission change would actually take.

W. Shorey said that he felt that the renovations in the County Jail should not be coming out of the budgeted money. He felt that part of that \$2.8 million budget should be coming back and used for the renovations. D. Berry reminded all that until things were actually signed, nothing was "real."

D. Berry said that even though it was a democratic process to have the Budget Committee, it "handcuffs" the Commissioners for twelve months each year. Things that come up in the middle of the year, such as this Jail mission change, are challenging to deal with. D. Berry said he felt that the State will still not have made a decision by July 1<sup>st</sup> about the Jail Mission change. With no decision and no money to do it, he was very anxious about how all the counties were going to be treated by the State.

W. Shorey suggested that if there was money left over, part of that money should not go to the State, it should come back to the counties that are making the changes to help pay for them.

When asked, J. Arseneau recommended that if the Commissioners are asked for funds for the Jail, there are funds available. For example, when the inmates needed Internet connection, there was no problem getting it installed. It did not come out of the County's budget, and other things for the inmates are funded from but not from the County budget. He was concerned about future upgrades of technology equipment and said that nobody seems to be able to answer the question of who will fund this in the future; the counties or the State.

D. Parkman wondered how invoices would be handled, as he felt they couldn't be invoiced to a reserve account.

W. Shorey said that when he worked for the Searsport Water District, there were additional funds that they did not know what to do with. They made the mistake of asking the PUC, who reduced funding over several years to weed that down. He felt that the County should operate with considering that these are Waldo County funds "until told otherwise without question." K. Trussell noted that the final

ruling on Jail mission changes is June 5<sup>th</sup>. She added that they have requested budget changes to be given June 6<sup>th</sup> to the State.

**WARRANTS:**

**\*\*W. Shorey, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the April 30, 2009 Jail Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$47,033.27. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the Jail Payroll for April 16, 2009 and April 30, 2009 in the amount of \$85,271.32.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the April 30, 2009 Regular Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$92,952.70. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the Regular Payroll for April 16, 2009 and April 30, 2009 in the amount of \$175,556.63. Unanimous.**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the April 30, 2009 Active and Restricted Reserves warrant in the amount of \$18,878.70. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 19, 2009 Jail Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$56,132.72. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 14, 2009 Jail Payroll in the amount of \$47,080.70. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the May 14, 2009 Regular Accounts Payable warrant in the amount of \$58,105.42. Unanimous.**

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the Regular Payroll in the amount of \$96,368.57. Unanimous.**

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the Capital, Active and Restricted Reserves warrant in the amount of \$31,322.64. Unanimous.**

(The Commissioners adjourned to hear the tax abatement appeal of Donald Zahoruiko vs. the Town of Palermo.)

**TIME AND TIDE RC&D:**

Present for this discussion was Ron Desrosiers of Time and Tide RC&D, and a few moments later, Vance Wells of Time and Tide RC&D.

R. Desrosiers informed the Commissioners of various projects Time and Tide is working on in the County of Waldo. Time and Tide is working with a town to examine energy issues and looking for opportunities to reduce energy and meet energy needs for the community. Time and Tide is also working with Mt. View for "Ag in the Classroom." He noted that there a number farms that children pass by on their way to school. The focus and "buzzword" is "authentic learning: See, smell, touch.

Time and Tide received a grant to do some vegetable-growing and putting food on the table. The vegetable operation will go into Village Farm. Another project also going on in Waldo County.

He informed the Commissioners that his reason for meeting with them is because the Waldo County Commissioners are one of Time and Tide's sponsors. He explained that Time and Tide was created in the 1960's. On the council or board, they have representatives from each County, including County Commissioners. Currently, he noted a lack a representative from the Board of County Commissioners.

If the Commissioners wished, they can appoint someone or have Time and Tide appoint someone as a key point of contact and also an alternate – so there are actually two positions. In some counties all those positions are filled. Someone can go back to the Commissioners and report.

R. Desrosiers explained that it has been noted that problems in one county are usually similar to problems in another county. Sagadahoc County is struggling with energy use in the buildings just like Waldo County. In Lincoln County, when clam flats close, this is an economic cost to communities that don't have a lot of job opportunities. Often leaking sewage will close a clam flat. Sometimes resolution can be reached at times through a conservation group, the town and a home owner. He briefly related information about the clam flats in Stockton Springs.

RC&D meets six times a year. R. Desrosiers noted that sometimes people call in to the meetings, and there is provision for this, too. He said it works best if there is active participation and communication among all parties in order to "get the best bang for the buck" for each County. He noted that the group meets in different counties, so not all have to drive to Augusta each time. They also move around to other district offices for three of the six meetings. He explained that they always have a lunch at the mobile meetings. R. Desrosiers noted that Vance Wells and he had thought of some names to fill the vacancy that would bring skills along with the ability to report to the Commissioners. A. Fowler said she personally would rather hear their recommendations. On recommendation was Andy Reed in Unity; a retired individual who worked with Merrill Bank and could bring a financial knowledge to the board. Both Commissioners Fowler and Berry's names have been suggested by other commissioners in other counties. A. Fowler said she was honored but could not do it. John McIntyre, who also lives in Unity, was also mentioned. R. Desrosiers asked if they should just try to fill the vacancy with someone who could occasionally report to the Commissioners. The Commissioners agreed. A. Fowler did say that she liked the Commissioners being invited to things, even if they cannot attend, because occasionally they might be able to and at least they were being included and kept in the loop. She stated her appreciation for all that the RC&D did.

Vance Wells added that he was still a new person on the board, but did have some background and was doing his best to get "up to speed." He explained that wooden bridges can be maintained and will last a lot longer than might be thought. W. Shorey commented that he recently received a telephone call from an individual inquiring about bridge maintenance and would be sure to send that individual to Mr. Desrosiers. V. Wells added that the Salt Water Conservation District also has an individual that can assist.

The Commissioners thanked R. Desrosiers and V. Wells for meeting with them.

**MALCOLM ULMER, HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR:**

Present with the Commissioners for this discussion was Malcolm Ulmer, Communications Director Owen Smith and Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth.

A. Fowler commented that Cumberland County had a wellness program and said that M. Ulmer had explained to her that Cumberland was spending a great deal of money on this program and also had some grant funding to put toward it.

M. Ulmer suggested that the County of Waldo could do what they had discussed about reimbursement of some funds for those who have signed up for gyms or workout equipment. There could be an employee-recognition day; a medical debit card could be set up for medical purchases only – such as two to five hundred dollars per employee for anything medical in nature, etc. In 2010, it might be possible to revisit prescription co pay amounts by possibly reducing the amounts. This would result in savings for employees. His recollection was that there were some ideas discussed but these ideas “sort of lost steam” during the renewal process for 2009.

A. Fowler wondered if this might be discussed to some degree during one of the MCCA Convention training sessions. Communicating with other counties had revealed a number of different approaches to these things such as planting a garden, going apple-picking, strawberry-picking, etc. M. Ulmer commented that Cumberland had acknowledged that some departments were responsive and others did not participate or attend.

O. Smith spoke of the health insurance committee that had been formed two years earlier that had been very involved during the seven-or-so months that they needed to meet. He suggested to the Commissioners that another group might be formed like that, to come back with suggestions for the Commissioners, and he noted that the Department Head/Safety Committee was also very active and that might be a forum.

M. Ulmer submitted an article on escalated retiree health insurance costs in the Town of Millinocket to the Commissioners. He recalled that Waldo County had struggled with whether or not to do this and he thought they might find this of interest.

M. Ulmer also submitted a PPO contract between the County and the GreatWest network spelling out the nature of the relationship between both sides.

M. Ulmer reported that there have been some issues related to changing to GreatWest. He stated that it has not been a failure on the part of GreatWest, as they have been working well with Hancock and Washington Counties. It has been a problem at the Meritain Health-end. Statements such as “resubmit to PPO provider” mean that invoices went to Meritain instead of GreatWest. He noted that he is working on getting claims sent properly. New cards will be issued that clarify that in-network claims are supposed to be sent to GreatWest and will hopefully cut down on claims being sent to the wrong places. M. Ulmer claimed that timely reviews and payments have resulted for Hancock and Washington Counties. He felt that there should be discussion in the fall about possibly reducing the networks to two or even, possibly, one. Currently there are about two employees who use the PHCS network, five or six on First Health and the rest are on GreatWest. M. Ulmer stated that GreatWest is the most expensive, but the discounts with them are excellent. He acknowledged that the networks

have been short on chiropractors and there has been a request put in to add chiropractors to the in-network list. There have been benefits in that all hospitals are now with GreatWest.

D. Berry asked how GreatWest compared with the other networks in terms of cost. M. Ulmer replied that it is about \$3.00 to \$4.00 more per person, but the discounts are much better and much bigger. The County pays a little more for the network, but saves “a ton” on the discount side. M. Ulmer said it is frustrating to get a statement and people feel that the claims have been denied. He acknowledged that it is taking a while for people to get their claims paid. Changing to the GreatWest network in January slowed things down, as well. M. Ulmer said that both Hancock and Washington started with GreatWest and only have GreatWest, so there have not been the transitional issues for them that Waldo County has experienced. M. Ulmer informed the Commissioners that 99% of the employees in Waldo County have been very patient and understanding and, overall, have been very decent. Nobody has been rude to him, but a few have been a bit agitated and then are fine once things have been explained. He said that these employees are exceptional in this regard.

M. Ulmer said that the Commissioners needed to have a discussion by this fall regarding out-of-network providers being treated as in-network. He did not believe there were any promises that this would continue forever and recommended that the Commissioners discuss this.

O. Smith said that he had been frustrated with claims not being paid in a timely fashion and this had caused a great deal of concern about threats of collections agencies for some of his invoices. He said he felt he was not the only one, and was probably more polite than some employees would be about the problems. He commented that he found the collections threats disturbing and disheartening. He also felt that it was somewhat “a big deal” to have to change health care providers that one has had for many years. He remarked that he did feel that the prescriptions were wonderful, however.

M. Ulmer noted that GreatWest does have electronic billing and hopefully will this will speed things up.

W. Shorey said that he realized that not everyone can be made happy. The best thing was to try and meet the needs of the majority.

M. Ulmer explained that Waldo County General Hospital had refused to join the networks under Meritain and when asked why they had signed with AETNA, M. Ulmer was told that the hospital had not signed on with AETNA but was operating under an old contract with New York Life, which had bought out AETNA.

Regarding the maximum age of coverage for dependent children being 19 if they were not full-time students in secondary education and 23 being the maximum age for dependant coverage on full-time students, M. Ulmer said that with AETNA, it had apparently been age 25 rather than 23. Hancock and Washington Counties have it ending at age 25. It would not change the maximum claims number, there are only a few and financially there was no impact to the county.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to increase the age of full-time student dependant coverage to age 25. Discussion: None. Passed by two. (W. Shorey was opposed.)**

O. Smith said that he felt that children cost more in terms of insurance than retirees. He suggested that the Commissioners consider what is done by the City of Belfast, which was to offer prescription cards to retirees. The retirees contributed toward it, but really appreciated it.

M. Ulmer said that it was not the cost of those over age 65 that increased the cost, because Medicare would be covering the individuals if the County sets 65 as the maximum age of coverage by the County. The pre-65-age group retirees are what would be of concern.

O. Smith commented that some employees “will be hanging on” and working longer for the health insurance coverage. If there were an option of a health insurance card, he would be interested in paying for it. He commented again the prescription rates with GreatWest were outstanding.

D. Berry asked if there were any additional questions for M. Ulmer. There were none. The Commissioners thanked M. Ulmer for always being available and for all his assistance.

### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Present for this report was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley, who reported the following:

1. K. Nealley thanked the County Commissioners for the purchase of the 2005 Dodge Caravan van for the Facilities Management department.
2. HANDCIAP RAMPS: Architect Robert Fenney is running behind on drafts for the handicap ramps, but the plan is to put the RFP out May 28, 2009. The Commissioners expressed their great concern and distress that this project was taking so long, and while they realized that this project had dragged on since long before K. Nealley was hired as Facilities Manager, it absolutely had to be addressed as soon as possible. K. Nealley said he would try to have bids due back on June 9, 2009.
3. K. Nealley said he had discussed some options regarding repairing the crumbling back stairs and measures to prevent salt/calcium erosion in the future.
4. K. Nealley reported that he has been in touch with DRG Specialty Services regarding energy conservation grants. There is not a lot out there that counties are eligible for, but possibly there may be some under the auspices of the State.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded recessing for lunch. Unanimous.**

### **(LUNCH BREAK)**

**\*\*D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded that the Commissioners come out of recess at 1:16 p.m. Unanimous.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau as follows:

1. Transportation Supervisor Corporal Michael Dudley has resigned his position at the Waldo County Correctional Center effective May 8, 2009.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Corporal Michael Dudley. Unanimous.**

2. Communications Director Owen Smith asked that the Commissioners confirm his promotion of Part-time Dispatcher Elena Donovan to Full-time Dispatcher to fill the vacancy left by Arthur Butler's retirement. Since Ms. Donovan has been with the Communications Center nearly a year and is a Certified Terminal Operator, is EMD Certified, licensed by the State EMS and is 9-1-1 certified, O. Smith recommended she be hired at the six-months rate of \$15.00 per hour effective May 17, 2009. He noted that she will rotate onto one of the overnight shifts starting in July of this year.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the Full-time hire of Dispatcher Elena Donovan at \$15.00 per hour effective May 17, 2009. Unanimous.**

3. The Commissioners noted that Corrections Officer Richard Roberts reached the sixteen-year pay step increase from \$17.02 to \$17.27 per hour effective May 15, 2009.

4. A Swanville citizen has sent two letters to the County Commissioners. In the first letter, dated May 5, 2009, the citizen complained about the re-assessment that had been requested "multiple times" regarding the 2007 and 2008 property taxes based on poverty. The citizen took issue with increased assessment that had been made by the Town Selectmen on the tar-papered shack listed as an "out building," and stated that this was confusing and that it had not lowered the taxes. In the second letter, dated May 11, 2009, the citizen stated that the attorney the Commissioner had hired to review this case had stated "that the law says the town "has to act immediately." The citizen asked the County Commissioners to contact the Selectmen of Swanville to immediately respond to these requests for abatement and "not wait for their so-called 60-day-prior-to-foreclosure rule."

After reading the letters, the Commissioners briefly discussed what their authority was in this matter. They recalled that legal council had informed them that they had no authority to direct municipal officers to obey the law in this regard. Commissioner Shorey directed the Clerk to draft a letter to the citizen explaining that the Commissioners had received the individual's letters, to remind the individual that it was important to refer to all of the material that the attorney sent, particularly that the Commissioners do not have authority to direct the municipal officers in this manner, and that there should be no further communication between the Commissioners and the citizen on this matter of 2007 and 2008 taxes. Commissioner Berry also instructed B. Arseneau to make sure to include the dates in September and October in which the citizen needs to make requests.

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

Commissioner Shorey asked B. Arseneau to send him some dates for continuing to work on the Personnel Policy with H.R. Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth. Otherwise, there was no Commissioners business.

#### **NEXT COURT SESSION:**

The next regularly scheduled Commissioners Court Session will be June 9, 2009, unless there are any emergencies requiring a session prior to this.

**\*\*W. Shorey moved, D. Berry seconded adjourning the meeting at 2:14 p.m. Unanimous.**

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