

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
(SPECIAL SESSION)
MARCH 29, 2010**

PRESENT: Commissioners Amy R. Fowler, Donald P. Berry and William D. Shorey. Also present County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS:

1. W. Shorey asked which Commissioners planned to attend the City of Belfast Planning Board Meeting on April 14, 2010 regarding the proposed EMA/Sheriff's Building project. D. Berry explained that he will be away so he will not be able to attend. A. Fowler and W. Shorey agreed to attend and listen. The planning meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 2. W. Shorey asked where things were in terms of planning for the EMA/Sheriff's Building Project. B. Arseneau submitted to the Commissioners a CD that EMA Director Dale Rowley had provided containing electronic versions of everything that has been sent to the City of Belfast Planning Committee so far. The Commissioners briefly opened the documents and reviewed the contents, including specs, drawings, etc.
 3. W. Shorey asked if there had been any recent contact by the neighbors abutting the Jail property. B. Arseneau said that the office had had visits and inquiries from two of the neighbors and D. Berry reported that he had received a nice telephone call from the City of Belfast Manager Joseph Slocum making inquiries about the proposed project.
 4. W. Shorey brought up the subject of a County garden. He informed the other Commissioners that that he has been doing a little exploratory work on getting this project started. He had thought about purchasing a tractor but then decided it might work better to hire someone who has the equipment and the knowledge to use it. He spoke with a local gentleman who has a \$35,000.00 tractor/rototiller machine and inquired about how much it would cost to rototill a couple of acres. To do this a few times would be about \$200.00 to \$300.00. He had also been considering land possibilities but said he had not made much progress on that yet. He noted that there are a few pieces of property; one is on the Back Searsport Road with a few front acres. He spoke with the owner about a possible lease arrangement. This gentleman would need to speak with the son-in-law he had just sold to. W. Shorey commented that it seemed to him that if the County had a piece of land like that to lease and had a metal shed to keep farm tools and rototiller, the County could likely get going with this for roughly \$5,000.00. He noted that the first year it might not be really successful but by having inmates working in this garden, he thought there might be some interest and enthusiasm.
- A. Fowler described the success of Kennebec County's garden. They supply vegetables for their Jail and even supply food to local food pantries. A. Fowler wondered if 100 acres owned by Waldo County could be used, in part, for this purpose. B. Arseneau said that she recalled that when she walked the property, there was some fairly level land when you first came onto the property, but trees would need to be cut down and she noted that not too far behind that, there was a fairly large ravine. She recommended that the Commissioners walk the property and perhaps they would have a better idea of the layout.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the Community Corrections money currently in the account and the possibility of purchasing machinery and tools, and a vehicle to transport fertilizer, etc. W. Shorey said that with tractors, you need trucks large enough to haul them. He added that this was why he was thinking of

starting this, he had thought of doing so in a more conservative manner by renting and leasing. A. Fowler suggested that the Commissioners speak with Kennebec Administrator Robert Devlin for ideas and W. Shorey asked her to do so specifically. D. Berry reminded the others that the County has the untapped resource of the University of Maine Extension Service. A. Fowler also wondered about somehow tying inmates in with the Extension Office to gain skills in horticulture and possibly the Waldo County Technical School for automotive courses, etc. W. Shorey stated that the public relations value of this would be huge. The benefit of learning new skills was emphasized. The Commissioners discussed the need for someone who knows what they're doing to head it up and train the inmates. Soil types would need to be determined in order to know what could successfully be grown, and the person would need to be able to recognize blight and other issues. D. Berry noted that there are master gardeners and farmers in the area that have this knowledge. The Commissioners agreed to focus on a garden "rather aggressively" to try and get it started this year.

5. LD 1554 An Act Regarding Document Fees at County Registries of Deeds' final enactment came through the House and Senate on Friday March 26, 2010 without debate and is on its way to the Governor, as reported by MCCA Executive Director Robert Howe. R. Howe also sent a document that showed how the changes fit into two current sections of law. W. Shorey wondered if anything had been accomplished for the Counties in this legislation. A. Fowler felt that there had been some benefit. She explained that the bulk rate is "still up in the air," and now a portal needs to be created, which she conceded probably should have been done before now. D. Berry noted that the County would need to set its fees fairly soon. D. Berry expressed concern that this had not gone through emergency legislation. There was discussion of how a portal system has successfully been implemented for the Registries of Probate throughout the State. The Commissioners noted that the State had not been willing to set uniform fees for the Registries of Deeds. D. Berry said he has spoken with Waldo County Register of Deeds Deloris Page about the fee schedule she has suggested, and she is standing behind her recommendation at this point. D. Berry instructed B. Arseneau to put this on the agenda for the April 13, 2010 Commissioners Court Session for the Commissioners to vote on.

6. W. Shorey said he had promised the Budget Committee that he would organize a day trip to walk the County 100-acre property. B. Arseneau was instructed to send out a request for who would be interested in walking the property and to obtain their telephone numbers. W. Shorey would arrange a date and time and would notify those interested parties.

7. D. Berry read a memo from Deputy District Attorney Eric Walker requesting that Victim/Witness Advocate Deborah McAllian be allowed to extend 44.5 hours of unused 2009 vacation leave until June 30, 2010, as she will not be able to use it before March 31, 2010.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded approving the request to extend Victim/Witness Advocate Deborah McAllian's 44.5 hours of unused 2009 vacation leave until June 0, 2010. Unanimous.**

8. D. Berry noted that he, Michelle Wadsworth and Barbara Arseneau will be regrouping to continue working on the Technology Policy and furthermore, he recommended that Technology Consultant James Arseneau meet with the Department Heads Association and review proper use of internet and what happens when viruses are brought into the County machines because people are on non-work related sites. D. Berry explained that he had received permission from Cumberland County to use their Technology Policy format as a template for Waldo County's Technology Policy. A. Fowler informed the Commissioners that the Cumberland County IT person is being sent to Washington for a special training session, particularly related

to electronic communication and use and has agreed to contact Waldo County to share information. A. Fowler gave the contact information to the County Clerk and requested that she forward it to J. Arseneau.

9. B. Arseneau notified the Commissioners that the County received a check for \$18,000.00 reimbursing the County for C. Glenn Graef's law enforcement training as he has now been hired by the Town of Lincoln within five years of receiving training through the County. There was brief discussion of where to put these funds. K. Trussell submitted the Sheriff's suggestion of putting these funds in one of the reserve accounts that will be drained for the new EMA/Sheriff's Office building project. The Commissioners agreed to accept the check, but will decide during the April 13, 2010 Commissioners Court Session where to place this money.

MINUTES APPROVED:

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the following Commissioners Court Sessions Minutes: March 9, 2010, May 19, 2009, May 29, 2009, June 15, 2009, July 9, 2009 and July 14, 2009 Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to enter Executive Session for M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (D) for Labor Discussion at 10:29 a.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:49 a.m.**

No action was taken.

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session will be April 13, 2010. The Commissioners asked that Malcolm Ulmer be added to the agenda to discuss the health insurance plan. They will also consider where to place the \$18,000.00 reimbursement check received from the Town of Lincoln.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to adjourn the Commissioners Court Session at 11:49 a.m. Unanimous.**

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