

**FY2020 WALDO COUNTY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND
FINAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2019**

PRESENT: Budget Committee Richard Desmarais (Chairman), Herb Harnden, Joshua Gerritsen, Peter Curley, Peter Rioux, and Penny Sampson, Bob Kurek, and Brian Jones, and Gabriel Pendleton. Also present were County Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson, Finance Director Karen Trussell, County Clerk Barbara Arseneau and Assistant County Clerk Nicole Hubbard. There were also several department heads and employees in the audience.

Call to order: Budget Committee Chairman Richard Desmarais called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Peter Sheff sent a letter that he greatly appreciated the County Commissioners and Finance Director Karen Trussell.

Introductions were made around the table.

PUBLIC HEARING:

MINUTES:

N. Hubbard submitted minutes from the November 15, 2019 Budget Committee Meeting.

****G. Pendleton moved, P. Curley seconded to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2019 Budget Meeting. Unanimous.**

****H. Harnden moved and G. Pendleton seconded to open the Public Hearing. Unanimous.**

Nobody from the public present.

R. Desmarais closed the Public Hearing.

FINAL 2020 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:

1010 – Emergency Management Agency

No discussion.

****P. Rioux moved, G. Pendleton seconded to fund the Emergency Management Agency at \$146,030.00. Unanimous.**

1015 – District Attorney

A couple of people from the state were supposed to come to discuss the state courthouse internet connections and using our own, but they were not able to attend. IT Consultant Jim Arseneau spoke to the board in regards to this to explain further. None of the information that Jim provided back in 2018 in regards to 100 x 100 internet connection was used. What the court has is very different and there was no opportunity to share. The County was told that it would be \$200.00 a

month for 100 x 100 at DA's satellite office. Internet was pulled out separately and the 3-year contract signed.

****H. Harnden moved, P. Rioux to change the amount of line 4401 to \$3000.00 from \$4,440.00. Unanimous.**

P. Sampson questioned the postage and K. Trussell stated a lot of the figures haven't come in yet on witness fees but she hasn't been able to figure out why the postage was coming in that low because they have spent more than what is specified.

****G. Pendleton moved, J. Gerritsen seconded to approve the District Attorney's budget as changed in the amount of \$287,890.00. Unanimous.**

1020 – Commissioners

D. Desmarais questioned the Professional Services line, as not much spent this year. The County Commissioners and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau explained that it was a very good year legally, and there were no union negotiations. Human Resources Director Lynn Patten reported that a 4th union is forming, the Corrections Officers union, so since that is new, it may require more legal assistance than the other three.

D. Desmarais questioned binding and rebinding and if that is still done. B. Arseneau stated sometimes there are new volumes needed, etc. and that would fall under that category.

****G. Pendleton moved, B. Jones seconded to approve the County Commissioners budget as presented in the amount of \$334,246. Unanimous.**

1025 – Treasurer

****G. Pendleton moved, H. Harnden seconded to fund the Treasurer's budget in the amount of \$77,808.00. Unanimous.**

1030 – Facilities Management

****P. Rioux moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the Facilities budget as presented in the amount of \$291,852.00. Unanimous.**

1035 – Technology

****G. Pendleton, J. Gerritsen moved, seconded to fund the Technology budget as presented in the amount of \$78,000.00. Unanimous.**

1065 - Registry of Deeds

****J. Gerritsen moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the Registry of Deeds budget as presented in the amount of \$238,050.00. Unanimous.**

1070 – Registry of Probate

****P. Rioux moved, G. Pendleton seconded to fund the Registry of Probate budget as presented in the amount of \$259,035.00. Unanimous.**

1075 – Office of the Sheriff

****R. Desmarais moved, B. Jones seconded to reduce one cruiser. 2 in favor, 7 opposed.**

Much discussion about how to fund a cruiser from the budget. P. Sampson asked if the Commissioners, since saving about \$300,000.00 on technology, could pay for one cruiser out of undesignated funds. W. Shorey explained that there needs to be funds left in the undesignated funds for unexpected circumstances. B. Jones agreed that undesignated funds and the balance should be left up to the discretion of the Commissioners.

J. Gerritsen stated he thought reducing the cruiser amount would be a bad idea. For example, as mentioned by Sheriff Trafton, one cruiser was already lost due to a recent accident so now they are down to 2 spares. They are trying to be as thrifty as possible but it's difficult when it puts the officer's lives at risk when they have to do high speed chases, etc. The other cars end up in maintenance so the spares are used often to cover those off-the-road vehicles.

****B. Jones moved, H. Harnden seconded to fund the Sheriff's budget as presented in the amount of \$1,841,147.00. Unanimous.**

1076 - Communications Center

J. Gerritsen asked if O. Smith was comfortable with the reduction in O/T to \$40,000.00. O. Smith replied that this has been the only year the center has been fully staffed. Right now the budget is O.K. but does he think that \$40,000.00 will ever be enough? No. A. Fowler said \$40,000.00 was wishful thinking for hoping to reduce the O/T to that amount, and O. Smith is right in deciding to increase the O/T budget to \$65,000.00. O. Smith stated that he is hoping to keep individuals instead of driving them away and this might help him keep some more. The Commissioners mentioned that they were thinking of 12-hour shifts and asked if O. Smith is in favor, and he said no. W. Shorey and B. Johnson thought it would save money and W. Shorey said hospitals do it all the time. R. Desmarais said sitting in a dark room with phones and cameras is exhausting and tiring and a hospital setting is different than working at a communications center.

****R. Desmarais moved, B. Jones seconded to increase the Overtime to \$70,000.00.**

Discussion about why not staying with \$65,000.00. It was noted that they already have \$87,000.00 spent. P. Sampson asked where the over-draw would come from and A. Fowler explained it came from the same budget. J. Gerritsen urged that the motion be amended.

****J. Gerritsen moved, B. Jones seconded to amend the motion to fund it at \$65,000.00. Unanimous.**

****B. Jones moved, B. Kurek seconded to fund the Communications budget in the amount of \$1,072,851.00. Unanimous.**

1080 – Advertising/Promotion:

G. Pendleton asked if the name could be changed from "Advertising & Promotion" to something else. P. Sampson suggested "Special Appropriations". All agreed.

****R. Desmarais moved, P. Rioux seconded to fund Advertising and Promotion in the amount of \$14,000.00, the same as the previous year.**

Discussion: P. Sampson felt that WCAP should get \$5,000.00 and EMDC and MCEDD not get any.

H. Harnden stated that he wasn't sure what any of the economic development companies provide for the county. B. Johnson said that when you help one town, you help others. All benefit.

W. Shorey said EMDC has helped start an ice cream place to hire 8 people in Searsport. Now it is working on things with Stockton, Brooks, etc. to start helping them out. P. Curley said Stockton didn't work with them originally but does now, so these programs do benefit them. B. Johnson stated that all you have to do is ask and they can help.

G. Pendleton said he felt B. Johnson was right in regards to everyone benefiting. The budget is over \$9 million and these organizations are only asking for \$15,000.00 total. P. Sampson said that MCEDD helps only Lincolnville. B. Johnson said that Searsport, Belmont and Northport also benefit. P. Sampson recommended cutting it down to \$500.00.

J. Gerritsen urged people to look at what was funded last year. In their wisdom they supported all three, and would like to see all act as partners instead of individual towns.

****Motion 3 in favor, 5 opposed.**

****B. Jones moved, J. Gerritsen seconded to fund 1080 Advertising and Promotion Budget at \$15,500.00. 5 in favor & 4 opposed. Passed.**

1090 – Audit

****B. Jones moved, G. Pendleton seconded to fund the Audit budget as presented in the amount of \$8,500.00. Unanimous.**

1095 – Debt Service

****G. Pendleton moved, B. Jones seconded to fund the Debt Service budget at \$0.00. Unanimous.**

2000 – Interest

K. Trussell said she had heard that interest may drop. She is not sure that \$20,000.00 will be enough.

Discussion about counties not being able to save enough in undesignated funds to not have to take out a T.A.N. Discussion of what would help – have towns pay sooner? Mandate a monthly bill? P. Sampson said they have to take out a T.A.N. every year and if the County does that, it's taking interest from the county and putting it on the town.

K. Trussell said she thought \$25,000.00, not knowing what the interest rate will be, would be sufficient.

****B. Jones moved, G. Pendleton seconded to fund the Interest budget in the amount of \$25,000.00. Unanimous.**

2005 – University of Maine Cooperative Extension

****J. Gerritsen moved, P. Rioux seconded to fund the University of Maine Cooperative Extension budget as presented in the amount of \$50,700.00. Unanimous.**

2025 – Employee Benefits

****B. Jones moved, P. Rioux seconded to fund the Employee Benefits budget as presented in the amount of \$1,668,250.00. Unanimous.**

2035 – W.C. Soil & Water

****G. Pendleton moved, J. Gerritsen seconded to fund the W. C. Soil & Water budget in the amount of \$26,000.00. Unanimous.**

2040 – Records Preservation

****R. Desmarais moved, B. Jones requested to have line 5340 reduced by \$1500.00, from \$9000.00 to \$7500.00.**

8 in favor, 1 opposed.

****R. Desmarais moved, B. Kurek seconded to fund the Records Preservation budget in the amount of \$23,700.00. Unanimous.**

2045 – Reserves

****R. Desmarais moved, B. Kurek seconded to fund the Reserves budget in the amount of \$25,000.00. Unanimous.**

2050 – Grant Writing

****J. Gerritsen moved, B. Jones seconded to fund the Grant Writing budget in the amount of \$0.00. Unanimous.**

1050 – Corrections

The Budget Committee acknowledged the Jail budget in the amount of \$508,257.00.


L.D. #1 CAP:

****D. Desmarais moved, J. Gerritsen seconded to increase the L.D. 1 CAP by \$236,823.00. Passed unanimously.**

****G. Pendleton moved, B. Jones seconded to approve the bottom line of the 2019 budget at \$9,558,770.00. Motion passed unanimously.**

****H. Harnden moved, B. Kurek seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by


Waldo County Assistant Clerk