

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
SPECIAL SESSION
APRIL 10, 2025**

PRESENT: Commissioners Betty Johnson (Chairman), Kevin Kelley, and Timothy Parker and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau took minutes.

Call to Order: Commissioner Johnson called the court session to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA CHANGES

****Motion: K. Kelley/T. Parker to add the Communications Proclamation, Public Comment, and a report on a grant opportunity to the agenda. Unanimous.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Bernacki of Belmont, Maine stated that he was present as an intertidal consultant and coordinator speaking for the Penobscot Nation. Now that the Nordic Aqua Farm's interest was expiring, the Penobscot Nation is interested in purchasing the neglected dams on the Little River in Belfast and is applying for a \$5,000,000.00 grant to take down and dispose of these dams. They are asking for formal support or intent of support from the Commissioners for the grant as a non-government project at the center of the County. P. Bernacki reported that the Belfast Water District trustees are writing a letter of intention and support. They have no funds to maintain the dams. He described the upper dam as 138' long and 30' tall, deemed unsatisfactory, and high risk. He briefly described the damage it could cause Herrick Road, State Rte. 1, and Little River/Northport boundary. The lower dam is about 225' long and 26' high. This project would involve no public funds. Studies have not been done yet but it is believed that it will cost about \$5,500,000.00 altogether as a rough estimate.

****Motion T. Parker/K. Kelley to support this cause with the following Stipulations: the Commissioners see a letter of support from both the City of Belfast and the Town of Northport so that the County would not unintentionally reduce their position and say on this project, and the Commissioners request that the Penobscot Nation come and speak to the Commissioners directly.** Discussion: P. Bernacki reported that the Town of Northport will be voting on Monday in support, and that the City of Belfast City Councilors and Mayor have been approached directly and are individually supporting this but are currently tied up with some legal matters. **Passed unanimously.** P. Bernacki said he would report back to the Penobscot Nation and the Penobscot Nation will respond to the Commissioners as soon as possible.

IT REPORT

It Director J-sun Bailey and Communications Director Michael Larrivee reported.

1. J. Bailey had drafted two letters of support for the Commissioners to sign for two grants from Congressional spending, similar to last year's grant for computers for law enforcement. One letter was for Senator King and one for Senator Collins.

****Motion: K. Kelley/T. Parker to sign the two letters of support for the 2026 Law Enforcement Equipment Modernization Project. Unanimous.**

2. M. Larrivee reported that he is applying for same grant as J. Bailey for APCO radios and explained how this would update the current system to transfer to the other building if the Communications Center suffered damage. He had prepared a letter of support from the Commissioners. When asked, he explained that this does not compete with the IT grant J. Bailey is submitting

3. PROCLAMATION FOR TELECOMMUNICATOR WEEK: M. Larrivee reported that Telecommunicators Week is April 13 -19, 2025.

****K. Kelley moved, T. Parker seconded to approve the Proclamation for Telecommunicators Week, April 13–19, 2025. Unanimous.**

COUNTY CLERK

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reported the following:

1. Matthew G. Sanderson has been selected to fill the full-time Patrol Deputy position in the Waldo County Sheriff's Office with a start date of April 3, 2025 at the fully burdened rate of pay of \$28.49 per hour and will receive 80 hours of vacation annually. This was approved April 3, 2025 in the Consent Agenda and should have been read in the minutes and voted on.

****K. Kelley moved, T. Parker seconded to approve the hire of Matthew G. Sanderson as full-time Patrol Deputy effective April 3, 2025 as read into the minutes. Unanimous.**

****K. Kelley moved, T. Parker seconded to go into executive session for discussion of duties and compensation as permitted in MRSA Title 1§405(A) at 11:58 a.m. Unanimous.**

****T. Parker moved, K. Kelley seconded to come out of executive session at 12:21 p.m. Unanimous**

Adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  Waldo County Clerk
Barbara L. Arseneau