

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
APRIL 21, 2022**

PRESENT: Commissioners Amy R. Fowler (Chairman), William D. Shorey, and Betty I. Johnson (via teleconference). Also present was Freedom Selectperson Elaine Higgins. County Clerk Barbara Arseneau took minutes.

Call to Order: Commissioner Fowler called the court session to order at 9:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

H.R. Director KelLee Gray filled in for the Finance Director, who was on vacation, and reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$28,212.27, and the Jail Checkbook balance is \$31,748.37.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

The total T.A.N. is \$5,500,000.00. \$1,745,000.00 has been borrowed; \$850,000.00 by the County and \$895,000.00 by Corrections.

County Appropriations/Revenue:

28% of the County 2022 budget has been expended and it could be 29%. 44.67% of the County revenue has been received at this time.

Corrections Appropriations/Revenue:

28% of Corrections 2022 budget has been expended and could be 29%. 1.35% of the Corrections revenue has been received at this time.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to file the Financial Report. Unanimous.**

B. Johnson authorized using her signature stamp on the warrants.

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the April 14, 2022 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant, and April 14, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$705,807.77. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize payment of the April 14, 2022 MCRRC (Corrections) Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant, and April 14, 2022 payroll in the amount of \$140,441.43. Unanimous.**

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Present was H.R. Director KelLee Gray.

1. Dispatch Supervisor Linda Wry-Remillard reached the 12-year pay step on March 28, 2022 and received a pay increase to \$29.40 per hour. Noted by the Commissioners.

2. Deputy Cassandra McDonald has submitted her resignation effective April 24, 2022.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Cassandra McDonald effective April 24, 2022. Unanimous.**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Present was J-sun Bailey who reported the following:

1. Yesterday Lincolnville Communication had an internet outage in the Belfast area, which was resolved.
2. J. Bailey is flying out to attend the Spillman/Motorola conference next week. A few departments have asked him to research some things while he is there, and he'll meet with Motorola regarding reimbursement of his time spent setting up vehicle cameras. He will ask what other agencies have for agreements with outside agencies using Motorola because some of the fire departments have asked for access to Spillman/Motorola system to track response times, etc.
3. Phone system – Commissioners/Finance/HR Offices: The Commissioners requested that the three offices answer the phones for each other when they are out of the office, as they used to before. Each of them will still have direct lines, but it will rollover to the other two people if not answered.
4. The Deeds kiosk will be set up for employees to log into the payroll company before he leaves, and he is still working with W. Shorey on issues with his iPad.
5. B. Johnson said she needs to speak with J. Bailey later about her county cell phone and iPad.

K9 AGREEMENT AND SHERIFF'S REPORT

Present was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton, and H.R. Director KelLee Gray.

1. J. Trafton stated that the resignation of Deputy Cassandra McDonald is a big loss for the County, as she has been an outstanding Deputy.
2. Scott Read is being presented for hire as full-time Certified Corrections Officer with 5 years' experience at \$21.13 per hour effective April 24, 2022. He was working for Knox County, and since Waldo still has a large number of inmates in Knox's jail and Waldo has been sending Corrections Officers to assist Knox, S. Read will be working for Waldo but will continue to work at Knox County until their 12 new employees are fully trained.
****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to hire Scott Read as full-time Certified Corrections Officer at the 5-year Certified rate of \$21.13 per hour effective Sunday, April 24, 2022. Unanimous.**

3. K9 Officer Compensation: J. Trafton said that when the latest union contract was negotiated, it did not address K9 handling compensation because Waldo didn't have a canine. Since then, the County has hired a K9 Officer and purchased the dog. The officer was hired at the Corporal level of pay. K. Gray explained that this meant he was going from Class II to Class III level of \$29.37. The union contacted the Sheriff because they felt this was not appropriate under FLSA. After speaking with the union, this position will be brought back to Class II, \$27.97, but with a stipend of one hour per day at the base rate of \$27.97 for the K9 unless the dog is kenneled (for the officer to go on

vacations, etc.) This is standard in many agencies, the union agreed, and there are enough funds in the Sheriff's budget to cover it.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded for the K9 Officer to be brought back to Class II, \$27.97 per hour, with a stipend of one hour per day at the base rate of \$27.97 unless the dog is kenneled. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reported that all correspondence had been sent to the Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. Arseneau had submitted draft minutes from the following court sessions: November 4, 2021, November 18, 2021, March 3, 2022, March 17, 2022, and April 7, 2022.

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to approve the Commissioners Court Session minutes from November 4 and 18, 2021, and from March 3, March 17, and April 7, 2022. Unanimous.**

SWANVILLE PROJECT UPDATE

Present was EMA Director Dale Rowley, who reported that they are still waiting for specs from the architects, are working on permits, and he is reaching out to the town to see if digging can start on the well because they technically don't need a permit. He is still looking for a foundation contractor. W. Shorey offered to make a few calls. The deadline for the town to respond is June 1st. Worst case scenario, they'll break ground June 1.

He researched office trailers, which would be about \$3,000.00 and, instead, Facilities Manager Keith Nealley worked it out that D. Rowley can use storage space on the Swanville property for a temporary office. The septic system is designed, and once all the specs are in, he will provide them to Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer.

Swanville and Frankfort Tower Updates: He has ordered the tower for Swanville and noted that this time there are no charges from any of the native American nations to set it up. He's arranged for a concrete foundation contractor and a crane contractor to stand up the tower. The small 100' tower will cost about \$21,000.00 and he and Brit Rothrock can install the antennae and wires from a manlift. He estimated this will cost about \$60,000.00.

COUNTY BOUNDARY DISCUSSION

Present was EMA Director Dale Rowley, and GIS Planner Rob Hoey participated via teleconference. D. Rowley submitted a copy of a draft water boundary between Waldo and Knox counties that was received from the LUPC. Waldo's proposal was in green dotted lines and Knox's input to the LUPC moved that line and was shown in pink squares. Knox had asked the LUPC to move the line so that Robinson Rock would be in Knox County. There was discussion regarding the history of the map cartography error some 80 years ago, and the need for the map to reflect the intent of the original law – that these islands are part of an archipelago in Waldo County. A. Fowler said that when Waldo and Knox counties met to discuss this, all agreed that the evidence showed the islands belonging to Waldo County. It was explained that Knox wanted the line moved to include Robinson Rock in Knox County because they thought it made more sense to map it that way. R. Hoey explained that including Robinson Rock in Knox County does not accomplish the assignment given to them by the legislature to clarify the lines and will actually create an additional legislative action to annex Robinson Rock to Knox County.

W. Shorey expressed that he didn't think it was worth arguing over , as there was no tax money being lost or gained with these small islands. D. Rowley said the same could be true of land boundaries, it may not matter who the taxes are being paid to, but both land and water boundaries should be correct.

R. Hoey summarized that the most important thing is that both counties go back to the legislation with a "clarification" of the boundary between Waldo and Knox, following the intent of the law.

****B. Johnson moved that the Waldo County Commissioners ask Dale Rowley and Rob Hoey to go back to the LUPC to continue to clarify and correct the lines to include Robinson Rock in Waldo County.** There was more discussion about Knox's proposal and Waldo's proposal. After a few minutes, Commissioner Johnson stated she had made a motion, and it either needed to be seconded or die for lack of a second. **A. Fowler seconded the motion.** There were several minutes more of discussion. **The motion passed by Commissioners Fowler and Johnson; W. Shorey opposed.**

The Commissioners thanked R. Hoey and D. Rowley for their work. R. Hoey said he will send a comment to the LUPC and will copy the Commissioners. He will take up other unrelated errors on the map separately with LUPC. LUPC will take the proposal to Knox County, and then both boards of Commissioners must meet because this is what the Legislature requested – that the two counties present a clarification.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Freedom Selectperson Elaine Higgins reported that the Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition is making progress and is getting ready to set up an interlocal agreement. She also stated that she spoke with the other Freedom Selectpersons about L.D. 1415 "An Act to Improve the Laws Regarding Discontinued and Abandoned Roads." If the Commissioners need them to do anything, please let them know.

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 10:20 a.m. for discussion of compensation as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(A). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to come out of executive session at 11:36 a.m. a.m. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to deny the employee's request to use sick time, and that vacation time must be used. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, B. Johnson seconded to adjourn at 11:37 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by  Waldo County Clerk
Barbara L. Arseneau