

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
MARCH 20, 2025**

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

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Johnson called the court session to order at 9:09 a.m.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

Some changes may occur later.

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT CITY AIRPORT**

EMA Director Dale Rowley was present explained renewing use as property to state emergency supplies. Certain areas are noted in the agreement for the County to use. The Commissioners agreed to sign.

**\*\*Motion: T. Parker/K. Kelley to approve the mutual aid agreement with the City of Belfast Airport. Unanimous.**

**FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Director Kari Hunt was present to report.

1. Enterprise Fleet is charging \$180.09 for all vehicles not included in the lease and want the equity to be applied to the lease charges. Sheriff's Secretary Kelsey Hammond has asked if could be on a monthly basis. Enterprise cannot modify billing and recommended an ACH be set up for 20<sup>th</sup> of each month and can be set up as recurring debits out of the County account but K. Hunt stated that she was not comfortable with that. Enterprise does have an ACH option, which would allow K. Hunt to make the payment on behalf of the County at the appropriate due date. The explanation is that it is in the lease agreement to charge \$6.00 per month per vehicle. The Commissioners said invoicing is preferable to ACH, as K. Hunt wouldn't know when it was being deducted and would have to monitor it. K. Hunt will reach out to the Sheriff's Office to figure out how to proceed. The Commissioners agreed to pay Enterprise via ACH.

2. The County portion of MainePERS was not included in last warrant after Treasurer's audit. It is in today's warrant and has not been reviewed by a Commissioner. B. Johnson reviewed and signed.

**\*\*Motion: K. Kelley/T. Parker to file the financial report. Unanimous.**

**WARRANTS**

**\*\*Motion: T. Parker/K. Kelley to authorize payment of the March 20, 2025 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$340,306.26 and the March 13, 2025 payroll in the amount of \$178,619.37 for a total of \$518,925.63. Unanimous.**

**\*\*Motion: T. Parker/K. Kelley to authorize payment of the March 20, 2025 MCRRC/Corrections Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$287,288.23 with the March 13, 2025 payroll**

**in the amount of \$44,719.21, for a total of \$332,007.44 Unanimous.**

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

IT Director J-sun Bailey reported that he is working on the following:

1. Getting the new computers to the com center
2. Ordering new computers for the county.
3. Trying to determine if there are any other grants for law enforcement technology in case the CDS grant doesn't go through.
4. Has reached out to CGI Payroll. Penobscot County can use their existing account to assist Waldo County with a temporary payroll arrangement.
5. Obtained 5 laser printers yesterday at Maine Surplus for a total of \$50.00.
6. Performing a survey with all the counties regarding how they do their payroll. K. Kelley is trying to come up with figures on what the current costs. J. Bailey has been shocked at how long it actually takes for the counties who have responded so far. T. Parker asked if the County took on more 911 costs, if the infrastructure would change. The Commissioners decided to discuss this later.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\*Motion K. Kelley/T. Parker to go into executive session at 9:31 a.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MRSA Title1§405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

**\*\*K. Kelley/T. Parker decided for strict contract negotiations. Unanimous.**

**The Commissioners returned to public session at 10:18 a.m.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Penobscot County Commissioner Andre Cushing was present to introduce himself. He briefly discussed his background, including previously serving as member of legislature. At the January MCCA meeting, there was a vacancy in the President position, and he stepped into the gap and is willing to help MCCA grow and deliver services. His goal is to strengthen relationships and has been meeting with various partner associations such as the Sheriff's Association, MACCAM, etc. to improve communications and working well together. He is also collaborating with municipal government. There is a lack of workforce; in part due to money. The days of someone staying 20-30 years are gone. He may work on public safety, public-facing activities such as roads and animal control with the municipalities with a goal of finding those partnerships that want to work together rather than dictating as the State often does. Smaller communities are struggling to find auditing services and are trying to join forces with people who can do certain jobs. He is visiting all the counties and meeting all and would like, at the July MCCA meeting, the second Wednesday of the Month (July 9, 2025) to include a social event. He is looking for a place to host and hold a training session. About 1/3 of the county commissions have

changed. He wants to bring in the partner organizations such as Probate, Deeds, Treasurers, etc. All Commissioners, all administrators/managers and other key positions should feel part of that, clerks, registers, Justices of Peace. Various committees and meetings were briefly mentioned. (LEPC is Monday at 3:30 – via Zoom, also). All commissioners are welcome. The Sheriff's Office attends. The MCCA Administrator will send more information about this. All are invited to attend the April 9, 2025 MCCA Meeting.

#### **POTENTIAL PROBATE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

S. Peavey was present to provide information about two legislative bills. One going into effect April 1, 2025 is confidentiality with guardians and minors. All the probate courts are against it. There were many who spoke in opposition. Transparency is the issue. If nobody else has access to the information, it makes it very easy for someone to abuse someone. Assets are already hidden from the general public in current law. Probate doesn't see it as simple as those presenting these bills seem to understand. The existence of a proceeding are a public record and the documents are not. It has been delayed twice so far. They are hoping the Forms and Rules Committee will take steps to delay this further. The Commissioners asked for a summary to attach to the minutes. Brief discussion about guardianships – that they are time-consuming, relatively more-so than a simple estate that is filed and has no contest. Person being assigned guardian must be present either in person or by Zoom.

A second legislative bill is on that the Probate Registers are in favor of. Reports of abuse for limited capacity to these reports by DHS, etc. There are some things that need to be worked out and some work sessions coming up.

**FEES INCREASE:** There has been a \$20,000.00 increase over the years. S. Peavey said Waldo County is a poor county and the filing fee can be too much for some people. If they cannot pay, the Judge will put them on a payment plan. Usually it works out because the funds will eventually come from the person who has been put under guardianship. S. Peavey prefers to wait until the bill has reached an end-product stage and then reads up on it. She is involved with the Forms and Rules Committee.

S. Peavey requested an executive session for discussion of personnel matters.

**\*\*Motion: T. Parker/K. Kelley to go into executive session at 11:01 a.m. for discussion of personnel matters as permitted by M.R.S.A. Title 1§405(6)(A). Unanimous.**

**The Commissioners came back into public session at 11: 15 a.m.** No action taken.

#### **RESOLUTION AND APPOINTING COUNTY CLERK**

The Commissioners read and signed Resolution 2025-1, which was read aloud by Commissioner Timothy Parker. Appointment of Barbara L. Arseneau as Waldo County Clerk was read by Kevin Kelley. Dedimus Sharon Peavey swore in the County Clerk.

**\*\*Motion: K. Kelley/T. Parker for the County Clerk position to be changed from non-exempt to exempt at the start of the next payroll period. Unanimous.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE & MINUTES**

1. Corrections Officer Camryn Page has completed the Maine Criminal Justice Academy – Basics Corrections Training Program and moved from non-certified to certified status effective March 5, 2025 with a pay increase from \$20.12 to \$22.79 per hour. So noted by the Commissioners.
2. Corrections Officer Graham Jackson completed the 8-year step March 27, 2025 with a pay increase from \$26.67 to \$27.47 per hour. So noted by the Commissioners.
3. Patrol Corporal John Shirk was selected to fill the Patrol Sergeant position effective March 23, 2025. The Classification IV, 5 year step is \$40.88 per hour, the Educational Stipend is \$0.50 per hour, and the Specialty Stipend is \$0.50 per hour for a fully burdened rate of pay at \$41.88 per hour.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

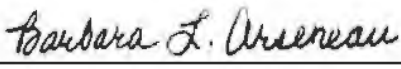
**\*\*Motion: K. Kelley/T. Parker to go into executive session 11:23 a.m. Unanimous.**

**The Commissioners resumed public session at 11:35 a.m.**

**\*\*Motion: K. Kelley/T. Parker to issue a proclamation from the County Commissioners that Barbara L. Arseneau is the last Maine County Clerk. Unanimous.**

It was noted that all the other 15 Maine Counties have a County Administrator or Manager.

**The Commissioners adjourned at 11:36 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by  Waldo County Clerk  
Barbara L. Arseneau