

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioners Betty I. Johnson (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler, and William D. Shorey (Via Zoom Teleconference); Commissioner Candidate Kevin Kelley, Belfast Citizen Eric Buch, and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take the minutes.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

H.R. Director Annette McLaggan presented the Finance Report in the absence of Finance Director Kari Hunt.

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the November 21, 2024 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$1,134,712.24 and the November 15, 2024 special payroll and November 21, 2024 payroll of \$227,907.10 for a total of \$1,362,619.34. Unanimous.**
(This included retro payment for the Communications Center employees per recent union negotiations.)

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the November 21, 2024 MCRRC/Corrections Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$603,163.93 and the November 21, 2024 payroll of \$51,784.36 for a total of \$654,948.29. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to file the Financial Report. Unanimous.**

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

H.R. Director Annette McLaggan reported the following:

1. Matthew Holmes has been selected for the position of full-time Corrections Officer at the 11-year certified pay step of \$27.74, and vacation accruals at the 10-year level of 0.08 minutes per hour, or 166.4 hours of vacation per year, and 13.8667 hours per month. M. Holmes is currently Sergeant at the Downeast Correctional Facility. If approved, the start date of hire would be December 8, 2024.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to hire Matthew Holmes as fulltime Corrections Officer with the aforementioned rate of pay and vacation accruals effective December 8, 2024. Unanimous.**

2. MainePERS issued their 2026 Participating Local District – Employer/Employee plan rates based on plan type effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. So noted.

3. The Health Insurance plan processed payment in the amount of \$76,228.90 for the week of November 12, 2024 and \$9,071.15 for the week of November 19, 2024. So noted.

4. The Harold Alfond Foundation has extended its grant for frontline workers through June 2030. Funding continues to allow receiving up to a \$1,200.00 match per frontline worker per year for training. So noted.
5. The District Attorney's Office has brought on an inter/volunteer, Samuel Jagger, to assist their office. An intern has been brought on to assist the Assistant District Attorneys. He started a few weeks ago, is a law student, and this is a volunteer internship.
6. Payroll was processed for retroactive pay per a 2024 collective bargaining agreement for just the base hourly rate in the amount of \$40,319.28. The shift differential will be processed separately due to the complexity. So noted.
7. The Sheriff's Office has one Deputy vacancy and recruitment is pending.
8. The Communications Center has one vacancy and is not actively recruiting due to training the new hire who started in September.
9. P/T Office Associate position to assist Finance Director, H.R. Director, and County Commissioners Office: The first job interview was conducted November 20, 2024.
10. The Registry of Probate will have one vacant clerk position starting in January with the pending retirement of Deputy Register of Probate.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

IT Director J-sun Bailey reported the following:

1. He attended the APCO conference earlier this week, and it was informative.
2. He submitted documents for the Spillman subscription and antivirus with Sophos. The current antivirus expires mid-December of 2024. He researched Microsoft, which was three times the price of Sophos, and only for one year versus 3 years, so he recommended going with Sophos at \$27,000 for a three-year contract.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to sign the Sophos 3-year renewal for \$27,792.25.**

Unanimous.

3. The Motorola price quote for Spillman/Flex expires by December 20, 2024 so a decision will need to be made at the next Commissioners Court Session.

CORRESPONDENCE

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau submitted a list of County records that had met their retention schedule for disposal during the months of August through October 2024.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the records disposition list for August through October 2024. Unanimous.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None ready at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Present was Eric Buch, resident of Belfast for 17 years and present to bring up two issues:

1. Lack of information due to County Commissioners' court session minutes not being completed and posted in a timely manner on the County website. He brought it up last fall, was told there was a short-staffing situation, and heard it is still that way.
2. Disposition of ARPA funds: He had wanted to learn what Waldo County had received in ARPA funds, how they were expended, and had received a spreadsheet from the County. After reading it, he said stated that the County used all the funds on itself, turned away groups seeking funding for broadband, that the Commissioners had not engaged with the communities, and felt it was unethical.

The Commissioners explained that they had hired an attorney to be certain they handled the funds appropriately, had given each town \$20,000.00 to use as the town wished, and all information was available as early as 2021.

Also present was Commissioner-elect Kevin Kelley of Winterport who spoke briefly about E. Buch's concerns, stating that broadband is very expensive and even if the County had given all \$7.1 million dollars, it wouldn't have covered the \$10 million for one broadband coalition. K. Kelley said personally knows the man from Bangor who wrote the broadband part of the ARPA regulations and that ARPA was written with a partnering piece in mind and was a loosely written set of guidelines. He felt the way the County expended the funds was done well and acknowledged that minutes can be a struggle to get completed and onto a website.

The Commissioners thanked both speakers for their comments and information.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 9:47 a.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

The Commissioners came out of executive session at 10:35 a.m.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve and sign the MOU with NCEU and the County of Waldo crafted with the County's legal counsel. Unanimous.** Commissioner Shorey authorized use of his signature stamp.

****B. Johnson, to W. Shorey sign and agree to accept funds as part of the Target Master Settlement agreement. 2 in favor, one opposed (A. Fowler).** A. Fowler stated for the record that she did not support continuing the class action because she is concerned that the Commissioners would not be able to defend use of the funds once received.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn at 10:43 a.m. Unanimous.**

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