

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
OCTOBER 17, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioners Betty I. Johnson (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler, and William D. Shorey, Finance Director Kari Hunt, Commissioner Candidate Elise Brown, Commissioner Candidate Kevin Kelley, 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.

ENTERPRISE VEHICLE OPTION

Sheriff Jason Trundy was present to review the proposed Enterprise vehicle lease contract proposal and answer final questions from the Commissioners.

The updated year-one analysis is different from the original because Enterprise estimated that 8 vehicles would be traded in and the Sheriff and Chief thought it should only be 5 since this has worked well. Therefore, the lease is \$71,054.00. There is a \$400.00 difference in the original quoted price because the interest rate dropped and won't be locked in until the Sheriff's Office takes possession of the vehicles. As stated during a previous court session, once the County signs the lease, the commitment is through the last year of that lease. Each time a set of vehicles is leased, the contract runs five years until the vehicles are paid. If the Commissioners don't want to continue with this program, the Sheriff's budget would still have to pay the lease for those vehicles until they are paid. As also discussed, Enterprise averages the maintenance and fuel based on experience. Enterprise would handle paying WEX, vehicle repairs, etc. and send a monthly bill to the Sheriff's Office which would be coded and broken out among the budget lines by lease, fuel, and repairs which are already in the 2025 budget. J. Trundy recommended not altering the budget during the first year of the contract to see how it goes. It is understood that the whole fleet, including non-leased vehicles, will be managed by Enterprise. Regarding whether at the end of the lease any vehicles could be transferred to Facilities, as done previously, the County owns the leased vehicles and can choose to keep, sell, or roll back to Enterprise as equity toward the next lease cycle. There is no mileage limit. Each year that the County leases new vehicles, Enterprise will determine how much that will be. There will be savings over the course of 10 years and won't show up until over the course of the first five years. Enterprise will handle contacting, purchasing, maintenance set up, etc. which will free the Lieutenant to do his other work and create stability in the fleet. The Commissioners will need to have a conversation in the future about the vehicle equity.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to sign the lease with Enterprise.** Discussion regarding whether the vehicle budget line of \$290,000.00 could be reduced since the projected cost of the lease is around \$71,054.00. Discussion of the cost of upfitting being included in that price, and vehicles being delivered ready to use. Cameras are not included. With new leases each year for vehicles, there will be a savings of about \$700,000.00 over 10 years. Discussion of whether it is a fixed or variable interest rate, and if the technology piece of the equipment would be depreciated. The current fleet is mixed as a way to save on the least expensive vehicle, and current cost to outfit each vehicle is about \$24,000.00. They try to run vehicles for 100,000 miles, which takes roughly an average of 5 years.

Unanimous.

J. Trundy will share all the Enterprise information with the Budget Committee and stated that even though there will be extensive savings, the County is currently in union negotiations with the Deputy Sheriff's Association and wage lines will need to be reworked based on the resulting contract.

UPDATED SHELTER FEEDING AGREEMENT

D. Rowley was present and the following was discussed:

1. He was asked to provide grant information to the Budget Committee.
2. The Commissioners congratulated D. Rowley for receiving recognition from the International Association of Emergency Managers for maintaining the Certified Emergency Manager designation, currently held by 2,493 individuals. He is recertified to January 2030.
3. D. Rowley submitted an updated agreement with the Belfast Soup Kitchen to provide meals for the Community Emergency Shelter when activated during a storm.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to sign the agreement with Belfast Soup Kitchen. Unanimous.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Kari Hunt reported the following:

1. 39.8% of County taxes has been collected in the amount of \$642,592.58. 11 of the 12 towns in District 3 have paid. There has been no TAN payment made to date. The due date for payment is November 30, 2024. The interest rate is 8.5% and starts December 1, 2024. No more of the TAN has been used and she will start to pay it down. A TAN account was created at First National Bank in early 2023 and has a balance of \$4,052.37, which she requested be applied toward the current TAN balance.

****A. Fowler moved, W. Shorey seconded to close the former TAN account with First National Bank and put the funds toward the current TAN. Unanimous.**

2. TAN bids will be requested for 2025, and K. Hunt asked if she should widen her search. The Commissioners stated they preferred to stay with a local bank.

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

3. Audits: K. Hunt met with the auditor yesterday, who said he is wrapping up 2021, working on 2022 and 2023, and will be coming on site again in December to try to get these done.

4. K. Hunt will be attending a cash management training on November 21, 2024.

5. The Technology Reserve balance is \$2,951.00, and the Future Technology Reserve has a balance of \$75,522.00. The account will need to be replenished, so she recommended transferring \$20,000.00 from 0266 to 0265.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to move funds as recommended from Future Technology Reserve 0266 to Technology Reserve 0265. Unanimous.**

6. The Health fund balance is \$195,166.64 and does not include the October Health funds from the County and Jail.
7. The Commissioners were given the most updated Reserve Sheet, and the description of the Active and Capital Reserves. K. Hunt had found another spreadsheet that was confusing and wanted the Commissioners to see it to make sure they were all clear on the Reserves.
8. The County balance is \$2,313,786.61. The County budget is 74% expended and could be at 83%.
9. The Jail balance is \$1,250,877.78. The Jail budget is 68% expended and could be 83%. It is low because the Commissioners voted to use Community Corrections Act (CCA) funds to pay some of the invoices for Volunteers of America (VOA) and Maine Pretrial. The balances remaining in those lines will be used to open a restricted reserve voted on in early September.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to file/accept the financial report. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 10, 2024 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$134,927.77 and the October 10, 2024 payroll of \$193,615.57 for a total \$328,543.34. Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the October 17, 2024 MCRRC/Corrections Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant in the amount of \$175,730.75 with the October 10, 2024 payroll of \$46,918.34, for a total of \$222,649.09. Unanimous.**

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Cancelled as H.R. Director Annette McLaggan could not be present.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. Arseneau asked the Commissioners to consider approving the minutes from September 19, 2024 which was tabled to October 3, 2024.

****B. Johnson moved, W. Shorey seconded to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2024 Waldo County Commissioners Court Session. Passed by two; A. Fowler abstained.**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Commissioners, without going into detail, discussed concerns about the current health care plan account and recent recommendations by health insurance administrator Malcolm Ulmer. Ideas and questions have been sent for consideration. The County's self-insured plan has been in place for 15 years, and at the beginning, the Commissioners were told there should be \$1.2 million in the account to operate the plan. It has been very tight in recent years, and it only takes one or two catastrophic cases to drain the account. Every year the Commissioners meet with M. Ulmer to discuss how to

manage and maintain this excellent plan. Employees pay 15% of the premium, which is transferred into the health account by the Finance Director. The County implemented wellness-related programs to help reduce health-related costs. Over the years, comparisons have been done with other self-insured Maine Counties and businesses, and Waldo County's plan has been far superior. Because of the confidential nature of this planning, the Commissioners will wait until December to provide more detailed information to the newly elected County Commissioners and will discuss any recommended changes in the health plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

IT Director J-sun Bailey reported the following:

1. New firewalls are in place and all agencies are updated, with only Islesboro left to be completed.
2. The wireless needs to be replaced at the Sheriff's Office. It was purchased in 2014 and no longer supported by 2022, so it must be replaced.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 10:45 a.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of executive session at 11:32 a.m. Unanimous. No action was taken.**

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. Unanimous.**

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