

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
FEBRUARY 1, 2024
(There were technical issues, so there is no recording of this meeting.)**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler, and Betty I. Johnson. Also present was Winterport Council Chair Kevin Kelley; and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau took minutes.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Kari Hunt submitted the monthly County and Jail appropriations reports, a report of the Reserve balances, and the interest earned for September 2023.

The Commissioners received a spreadsheet with figures for what was borrowed on the tax anticipation note so far, and an updated Reserve Spreadsheet. K. Hunt is still working on reconciling each account and is referring to 2023 to compare to 2024 so she's comfortable with the numbers she's looking at.

A. Fowler inquired about the 11% expenditure in Professional Services in the Jail budget. K. Hunt said she would research it and report back. Jail Medical expenses were briefly discussed and noted that these are unpredictable.

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

WARRANTS

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the February 1, 2024 General Fund Accounts Payable and Reserve accounts payable warrant of \$135,832.39 and the February 1, 2024 payroll of \$219,385.47 for a total \$355,217.86. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the February 1, 2024 MCRRC/Corrections Accounts Payable and Reserve warrant of \$79,496.10 with the February 1, 2024 payroll of \$55,106.23 for a total of \$134,602.33 Unanimous.**

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

H.R. Director Annette McLaggan reported the following:

1. Patrol Deputy Brooke Harthorn has resigned effective February 10, 2024. Date of hire was August 4, 2023.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the resignation of Patrol Deputy Brooke Hartshorn effective February 10, 2024. Unanimous.**

2. Dispatcher David Kreutchic, hired January 16, 2023 at the certified level, has completed 1 year of employment and is due the 2nd installment of the Dispatch sign on bonus of \$5,000.00 The final \$5,000.00 bonus will be paid on the 3rd anniversary. So noted.

3. Patrol Deputies Trevor McCray, William Nichols, and Aaron Santana started BLETP Basic Law Enforcement Training Program in January. So noted by the Commissioners.
4. Deputy William Nichols, hired September 13, 2023, has completed field training and is now eligible for the first payment of \$1,000.00. So noted.
5. Three Patrol Deputies have started Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP) in January; Trevor McCray, William Nichols, and Aaron Santana.
6. Staff Performance Evaluations for the Registry of Probate have been submitted.

FACILITIES REPORT

Facilities Manager Christopher Bryant was not able to attend, so there was no report.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

IT Director J-sun Bailey reported the following:

1. He is working on office space that's being renovated for the District Attorney's Office and preparing to wire them.
3. The Spillman upgrade went well.
4. He has temporarily moved his IT Office to the former EMA space until his new office location has been renovated.
5. He is working with the Deeds Registry and Fox and Ginn moving company.
6. The new phone system is being worked on and signed on. Savings are \$10.00 per line per month. He had not known the contract expired, and then the County signed a temporary contract to reduce the costs before this most recent change.
7. When asked about the three unused phone lines at the Communications Center, he told the Commissioners that two lines were removed and the third is now used for Revision Energy because there has been a phone line at the Communications Center for them to run an analog line to check the solar equipment once a month. A dedicated line was briefly discussed.
8. The cell phones for the Patrol Deputies are being moved from U.S. Cellular to First Net because they have done away with the "hot spots". With signing the two-year contract, the phones are a penny each.
9. B. Johnson asked about a recent update on Microsoft 365 because she is having a lot of trouble with her personal computer. J. Bailey explained that the County is on the government plan and on the higher tier to level so those updates are sent to the County equipment sooner than personal equipment, and they update immediately when they are pushed out.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Communications Director Michael Larrivee presented the following:

1. Several employees have been out on medical leave.
2. Discussion of Knox County staffing since the County took on Knox's 911 calls. Knox is not necessarily satisfied that they are up to speed. It appears that the Rockland wants to take on Dispatching for Knox County. M. Larrivee discussed potential training for the staff. When asked, he said none of the Waldo County staff have complained about taking Knox's 911 calls. M. Larrivee is communicating through a Knox County Dispatch employee and the Knox County Commissioners since the Knox Administrator has resigned.

CORRESPONDENCE

County Clerk Barbara Arseneau reported:

1. The list of committees that the Commissioners serve on must be updated for 2024. Commissioners Johnson and Shorey provided their updates; Commissioners Fowler will do it later.
2. Register of Deeds Stacy Grant submitted a Records Disposition Form with records that had met their 6-year retention schedules and were destroyed. The list is permanent and will be kept digitally.
****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the Registry of Deeds Records Disposition as submitted. Unanimous.**
2. The Certificate of Incumbency for the Commissioners and Treasurer terms is completed, is no longer required to be sent to the State, and is only filed here.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. Arseneau submitted six (6) sets of older court session minutes to the Commissioners over the past few weeks:

January 19, 2023
February 16, 2023
March 2, 2023
March 23, 2023
April 25, 2023
August 17, 2023

Two of the Commissioners had not read them so they will wait until the next session.

SOLAR TAX CREDIT ON SOLAR PROJECTS

EMA Director Dale Rowley reported the following:

1. Things are going great at the Public Safety Office for the D.A.'s move - walls are going up, electricity is being run, etc. and he hopes things will be done by March 31st.
2. Discussion of solar credits. D. Rowley needs to meet with a tax preparer to do a 1040 and some other paperwork. If all the tax credits are realized, it would be about \$52,000.00 and \$74,000.00

at the highest. There are no guarantees, but it should do well in reducing costs. He knows a tax preparer and has asked for a quote to be provided. If she is too busy, she'll recommend another person.
****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to authorize D. Rowley to hire a tax preparer for the solar credits paperwork as requested. Unanimous.**

3. By the end of March, there may be some ARPA funds leftover from the current projects. He recommended that the Commissioners think about other needs for those funds.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to end the video conference part of the court session at this time. Unanimous.**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner-candidate Keven Kelley inquired about the phone system, VOIP, and noted that law enforcement needs to have a code. He asked about computer hardware, how many computers there are, and estimated probably about 95 as there are about that many employees.

He provided his background and career in the military. He helped medical financial centers get "turned around," he's been on 21 boards and chaired about 1/3 of them, and then got into politics by accident. He's currently serving as a Winterport Councilor and is on their Route 1A Broadband Coalition. He serves as Secretary of the Medal of Honor Committee for Veterans. He is a master electrician, has a blasting license, and a hyperbaric license. Technology is his background. He ran for State Representative but contracted COVID and decided to step back from running. He did eight courses in MIT Sloan and described himself as "a perpetual student." He has done diving and been involved in healthcare. He has eight grandkids, one great-grandchild, and two more are coming. He has visited the Communications Center and felt the ARPA funds expended there were well worth it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 10:25 a.m. for discussion of a personnel matter as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(A). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of executive session at 11:05 a.m. Unanimous.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to go into executive session at 11:06 a.m. for discussion of non-public information as permitted by MSRA Title 1§405(6)(F). Unanimous.**

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded, to transfer to \$128,000 from County savings, \$108,000 from the Opioid Reserve, and \$100,000.00 from the Technology Reserve to take care of a discrepancy in the past budget to be transferred to the Jail General Fund.**

Discussion: A. Fowler said she will be voting against this. There was a \$580,544.34 error in the 2024 budget, and as soon as it was discovered, they did everything in their power to notify the Budget

Committee because it was, indeed, an error. She felt that the Budget Committee has been invited to a meeting to discuss this and she feels that this transfer of funds won't fix the problem,

W. Shorey in favor, A. Fowler and B. Johnson opposed; motion failed.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded that the Deputy Director of the EMA salary increase to \$55,744.00 effective retroactive to January 1, 2024 because that position falls under the same pay scale parameters as other department Deputy Directors or Clerks in other similar positions. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn at 11:49 a.m.**

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