

WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
November 16, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler, and Betty I. Johnson
Office Assistant Susan Prisco

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Finance Director Kari Hunt reported the following:

TAN letters have been sent to Bangor Savings, First National, Key Bank and Camden National. She has contacted Dan Pitman.

The County has received payments from the City of Belfast, Unorganized Territory, Frankfort and Winterport. The funds have been placed in the TAN account to make a payment. A total of \$5,751,538.76 has been received; waiting to collect \$3,954,519.72. Kari will be making a payment towards TAN.

Jail:

Accounts Payable:	\$68,715.80	Payroll:	\$60,128.63	Total:	\$128,844.43
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County:

Accounts Payable:	\$121,808.32	Payroll:	\$178,367.83	Total:	\$300,176.15
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W.Shorey moved, B.Johnson seconded to accept the Financial Report.. Unanimous.

WARRANTS:

****B.Johnson moved, W.Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the November 16, 2023**

General Fund Accounts Payable & Reserve warrant including the October 26, 2023 payroll in the amount of \$300,176.15. Unanimous.

****B. Johnson moved, W.Shorey seconded to authorize payment of the November 16, 2023**

MCRRC Accounts Payable & Reserve warrant including the October 26,2023 payroll in the amount of \$128,844.43. Unanimous.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

IT Manager J-sun Bailey reported that the quote for a warranty submitted to Commissioners is needing to renew. There is a one-, two- or three-year plan for the storage that runs all the servers. The one-year plan is \$2,533; two year plan is \$4,444 and three year plan is \$5,000. The two-year plan would save \$331.00 per year/or total savings of \$662.00. The three-year plan would save \$625.00 per year/or total savings of \$1,075.00. This covers all the servers in the County departments that run the emails, etc. A.Fowler inquired what departments have been upgraded and when was the last time computers were purchased in other departments. J-sun is working on updating equipment for next year and also on the inventory list.

Consolidated Communications has a new 3 yr. contract that would cut the costs and there would be \$900.00 savings per month. W. Shorey stated that J-sun Bailey would sign the contract for the County. On the third sheet of the contract is an overview of what the new phone service would cost. It is @ \$100.00 a month more and covers all IT phones, etc. A.Fowler was concerned about being locked into two different contracts for 3 years. J.Bailey indicated that the current contract will be null and void once the new contract is signed. J. Bailey will get it in writing that the new contract would be in effect once it is signed.

New quarters for Registry of Deeds is all wired up for cables, etc. They are working on getting things ready for the future move.

A Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to have J-sun Bailey sign the new three year contract for Consolidated Communications. Unanimous.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT:

HR Director Annette McLaggan was present to make her report. W. Shorey opened up the discussion regarding change to employee's insurance to include coverage for domestic partner of employee. Details will be discussed further in executive session.

A.Fowler moved; B.Johnson seconded to add domestic partners of employees to health insurance plan; unanimous.

A.Fowler requested an executive session after today's meeting to discuss the plan further.

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FACILITIES REPORT:

Facilities Manager Chris Bryant reports that things are going well at the Jail air duct project. \$8,500 total cost remains the same. Dryer vent needs to be done on the roof. The solar panel project at the Sheriff's Office is also progressing well.

Chris said that extra gutters are just sitting there at the County Extension Building and suggests that they be used elsewhere. If the Communications Center needs gutters, Chris will contact Michael Larrivee.

W. Shorey asked about the heating oil at the Superior Court Building. Chris informed him that in October, the tank was filled as it was low. Oil has been budgeted for next year, just in case. W.Shorey requested that no more deliveries be made to the building.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS REPORT:

Register of Deeds Stacy Grant reported on the upcoming move of the Registry of Deeds. S. Grant has been in contact with Record Solutions. But it is very costly to store records with that company. There is no sense in keeping records that are digitalized. S. Grant will have the records destroyed. Surcharge

money of \$7,000.00 can be instead of paying \$1,400. per month; a total of \$20,000.00 to pick records up and store. S. Grant has been in contact with Fox & Ginn Movers; no quote yet. S. Grant asked if she can access storage in the chambers of Commissioners Court Room in regard to confidential records. A.Fowler suggested Stacy talk with Chris Bryant. S.Grant indicated that when it comes time to move, WB Mason will move furniture and she will be using Fox & Ginn. As long as notice is given, it should take about 10 working days to move out of the building. A.Fowler suggested that the Deeds be closed for a week. S. Grant will have Records Solutions take the books to be shredded. The move will be all at once and they will store items in chambers at Commissioners Court Room. Dale Rowley reported that the new offices for Registry of Deeds should be ready in mid to late January, 2024.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Chief Deputy Curtis informed the Commissioners that the Sheriff's Office had been awarded the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for FY 2021 in the amount of \$7,384.00 for the purpose of upgrading some of the office's firearms. The grant requires the purchase to be made by the County and then re-imbursed. The amount awarded should cover six (6) new pistols and associated equipment. The Commissioners agreed to have Chief Deputy Curtis work with the Finance Director to purchase three (3) pistols and associated equipment now for the upcoming BLETP cadets and purchase the remaining three (3) after the first of the new year using the Detail Account. The Glock Pistols are @ \$1,167.69 per unit (includes the associated equipment that will be needed, i.e. holsters). The County will purchase the firearms out of the Detail Account. When the County is re-imbursed from the Grant, the funds will go back into the Detail Account.

A.Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to purchase three (3) Glock firearms and the equipment to go with them now (to be used by the three new cadets when they graduate from the academy). Unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Office Assistant Susan Prisco reported that the County received a Tax Abatement Request from Roger Martin vs. the Town of Frankfort. A copy of the Application for Abatement of Property Taxes was given to each Commissioner. A hearing date was agreed upon; scheduled for December 7, 2023.

The Commissioners were informed that Jim Leonard, Editor of the Republican Journal has requested by email where can he find prior agendas and minutes on the County website. Mr. Leonard was advised by S.Prisco that the County website is currently in the process of being updated. Jim Leonard also asked if he could do a brief story on the new website. W.Shorey stated that Mr. Leonard could speak with IT Director J-sun Bailey about the website.

EMA REPORT

EMA Director Dale Rowley was present should the Belfast officials have any questions about the Superior Court building. Director Rowley stated that he just obtained the building permit this morning for that building.

D. Rowley reported that a small building will be built outback of the EMA building. Most of the needed materials are already on the premises. It will be used to store a portable oil tank. If the tank were to be stationary, a lot more permits would be needed. The tank will hold 390 gallons.

Director Rowley brought in concrete for a new slab for a woodshed. D. Rowley donated ½ cord of wood for the woodstove which was split up yesterday. Next summer D. Rowley will look to purchase firewood.

The blacktop paving at EMA building was completed. A second layer of pavement will be done next spring. Several towns and Midcoast Council of Governments have asked Waldo County to be the fiduciary agent for a Hazard Mitigation Planning grant. The grant request will be \$30,000.00. The County will have to fund the work up front and get reimbursed by the Feds. The EMA Director asked that the working funds come from the EMA Equipment Account and the reimbursement would go back into that account.

CITY OF BELFAST MANAGER

Belfast City Manager Erin Herbig attended the Court Session to sign purchase and sale agreement in order to purchase the Waldo County Superior Court building.

A. Fowler motioned; B. Johnson seconded to accept the purchase agreement crafted by the City of Belfast and the County's attorneys, collectively. Unanimous.

A. Fowler requested a work session to discuss the employee health insurance plan with Commissioners, HR Director Annette McLaggan and Malcolm Ulmer after the Commissioners Court Session. Work session changed to Executive Session (see below).

B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:27 a.m. Unanimous.

B. Johnson moved; A. Fowler seconded to go into Executive Session MSRA Title 1 §405 (6)(F) at 11:15 a.m. Unanimous.

A. Fowler moved; W. Shorey seconded to come out of Executive Session at 12:00 p.m.

A. Fowler moved; B. Johnson seconded to direct Malcolm Ulmer and Derek Odell to continue working on health insurance renewal. Unanimous.

B. Johnson moved; A. Fowler seconded to go into Executive Session MSRA Title 1 §405 (6)(F) at 12:05 p.m. Unanimous.

A. Fowler moved; W. Shorey seconded to come out of Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. Unanimous.

No action was taken.

Respectfully submitted by  Office Assistant
Susan Prisco

***** For more details, please view the video.**

Waldo County Commissioners Court Session Minutes

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