

**WALDO COUNTY 2017 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2016
Maine District Courtroom
39B Spring Street
9:00 a.m.**

PRESENT: Budget Committee Members Harry Dean Potter, Herbert Harnden, Jr., Peter Curley and Richard Desmarais. Also present were County Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth, County Clerk Barbara Arseneau and Deputy County Clerk Marilyn Saucier.

Call to order: Budget Committee Chairman Bill Sneed called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and all made introductions.

B. Sneed stated that the first order of business was to elect a chairman for 2017.

****R. Desmarais nominated Bill Sneed to be 2017 Budget Committee Chairman. Nominations closed. Passed with one abstention (B. Sneed).**

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to elect Penny Sampson of Unity to serve as District 3 Budget Committee member. Passed with one abstention (P. Sampson).**

B. Sneed gave a brief overview of the County budget layout, the appropriations sheets, revenue, etc.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS BUDGET - 1065:

Present was Register of Deeds Stacy Grant. B. Sneed briefly reviewed the Deeds budget and then asked if there were any questions. R. Desmarais inquired about the 20% wage increase for the Register of Deeds. The Commissioners explained that it was an equity matter.

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to accept the Registry of Deeds Budget as presented at \$231,301.00. Unanimous.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY BUDGET - 1010:

Present was Emergency Management Agency Director Dale Rowley. D. Rowley reviewed his request for a new part-time position. He went over the figures, including savings that would be achieved by the person - who does planning and GIS mapping. Ultimately, it would cost the County about \$3,500.00 as grant funding has been found at this time. He explained the types of maps that are needed, maps for the municipalities, as well as radio work that has been done for municipalities. The EMA does not charge labor costs for these services to the towns. The benefit cost ratio is 7.5 to 1. He also brought copies of the job description in case any on the Budget Committee were interested.

P. Curley noted that this cost would only be for this year and that grant funds could not be counted on for following years. D. Rowley explained that Homeland Security grant funds have

been around since 2001, although the funding has shrunk considerably in recent years. Some of the other grants, such as the 50/50 reimbursement for EMA, have been around for decades.

R. Desmarais said he enjoyed looking at the page that lists the base stations.

D. Rowley said that EMA also programs radio frequencies, etc. The cost per program is easily \$20.00 or more and EMA does this free of charge.

R. Desmarais asked if anyone had thought about regionalization for calls rather than by town border. D. Rowley responded that it has been thought of, and everything that can be regionalized on the firefighter side has been done, including training, etc. There are far more qualified firefighters now than there ever were. They have consolidated purchasing, S.O.P.s, and now with the Spillman Response Plan, this allows for regionalized calls. There is still a lot of work to do. He noted that Swanville does not have a fire department or EMS. Belfast currently serves them. Winterport has divided itself in sections and bordering towns will help in the section closest to them.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to approve EMA budget at \$121,145.00 as presented. Unanimous.**

REGISTRY OF PROBATE BUDGET - 1070:

Present were Register of Probate Sharon Peavey and Probate Judge Susan Longley. None of the Budget Committee had any questions and when asked if they cared to comment, both S. Peavey and S. Longley declined.

B. Sneed said it appeared that court appointments line is being spent more in recent years. S. Peavey noted that the budgeted amount has been \$12,000.00 for several years and they never have exceeded that amount.

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded approving Registry of Probate budget as presented \$239,119.00. Unanimous.**

FACILITIES BUDGET – 1030:

Present was Facilities Manager Keith Nealley. K. Nealley reported that last year's budget was under budget due to a good fuel year weather-wise. He explained that fuel prices are locked in until June of next year at \$2.00 per gallon.

Work has been performed in the buildings. The District Courthouse needed some roof caulking to take care of leaks.

Lights have been changed in the District Courthouse on the upper floor with LED tubes under \$10.00 each and their life is much longer. They run cooler, as well. There will be some savings, including not having as much heat in the buildings during the warmer months.

A handicap-accessible door was installed at the Communications Center, as well as at the lower part of the University Extension building. K. Nealley said he believed now that all County buildings are 100% compliant with handicap accessibility.

The chair lift at the Superior Courthouse has been replaced. It was the type that road up the side of the metal stairwell and was damaged last year. The electric wheelchairs alone weigh so much now that this machine could not handle it. A lift has been installed and the State of Maine supplied half of the funds for that project. There has been a great working relationship with the State up to this point. He explained that the State is actively working toward building a new consolidated courthouse and this will leave the upper floor of the District Courthouse vacant. He noted that change as being “challenging and exciting.”

The generator at the Communications Center is 15 years old, and is a critical component. He explained that it is time to change it out before there is a problem. It should cost about \$12,500.00 to do so. It runs on propane and can run about 7 days at a time. He has run it 24 hours straight since he has been here during electricity outages.

W. Shorey added that yesterday there was a conversation with the YMCA and they will house people in their building as a shelter, so the County is selling the generator to the YMCA for \$3,000.00.

K. Nealley explained that there will be minor changes at the Sheriff’s Office. Once they had been settled into the new building for a few years, the Sheriff’s Office realized some changes needed to be made, so K. Nealley used some of the Facilities Budget funds at the recommendation of the Commissioners.

The service window at the Sheriff’s Office will be replaced with a half door rather than the window that is there. One of the interview rooms will be changed and a one-way mirror will be installed. The funding will come from appropriate reserves.

The Jail elevator needs to be replaced. K. Nealley is trying to get an elevator that fits within the constraints of the current elevator shaft. The current situation involves an upside down piston that leaks. A pump was installed in the pit to recycle the oil that drips. He believes that there will be a solution that fits in the current shaft.

B. Sneed asked about the personnel pay. K. Nealley referenced the FLSA-act changes that will take effect December 1, 2016 that will affect his current exempt status. The minimum income threshold has changed to \$47,476.00. This additional funding in the budget covers any overtime because his position is changing.

K. Nealley noted that Facilities Budget is \$2,500.00 lower than the 2016 budget.

****H. Harnden, Jr. moved, P. Curley seconded funding the Facilities Budget as presented at \$277,093.00. Unanimous.**

SHERIFF’S BUDGET – 1075:

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Present were Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton and Chief Deputy Jason Trundy. J. Trafton stated that in last 12 months there have been 8,937 complaints, which amounts to between 600 and 800 complaints per deputy. Last year he had told the Committee that he would need two additional deputies for 2017 and the Budget Committee permitted one additional for 2016 and one additional for 2017. He expressed his gratitude for that.

J. Trafton told the Budget Committee that the Sheriff's Office had applied for a grant for a Domestic Violence Detective in the amount of \$80,000.00 and it was awarded.

B. Sneed inquired about the abbreviations for SRO and CCTF. J. Trafton explained that SRO is School Resource Officer and CCTF is Computer Crimes Task Force for the State of Maine. That deputy remains on the County's roster, but the State reimburses the entire salary. The school reimburses 75% of the SRO salary.

K. Trussell noted that those amounts have been deducted from the personnel line in the 2017 budget.

R. Desmarais mentioned that officers end up spending a lot of time sitting and waiting for court.

J. Trafton said he met with the District Attorney's Office, that both offices have worked together and it has improved greatly. The bills have been reduced.

R. Desmarais asked to talk about the Jail. He spoke about inmates being boarded out and wondered if some of the people could be given a summons. J. Trafton explained that some violations have to result in arrests and some don't. There have been very few problems with the other police agencies who arrest, so he hasn't had to bring it up with any of the agencies. Most of the time, if somebody is pretrial sitting at Two Bridges Jail, it is because of the type of charges. He further explained that the State commissioned a study and one of the former public safety commissioners did that study on pretrial, because it has been a big problem for many other counties. Most of it is out of the control of the Sheriff's Office. The people at the State and Court level are aware of and are working on it.

P. Sampson asked about response time related to State Police when the County is not on duty.

J. Trafton explained that the Sheriff's Office partners with the State Police. As a former State Police officer, he knows they were and still are often spread very thin. Even as a Lieutenant, he had to be on the road because they were so short staffed. They do work with each other if the State Police is short-handed or the Sheriff's Office is short-handed. He believes the Sheriff's Office cannot ask the taxpayers to pay any more money for resources if the current resources aren't being used as efficiently as possible. Many factors play into it – how close a deputy is to the location, whether or not it warrants a speedy response, etc.

P. Sampson acknowledged that people "complain when law enforcement is there and also complain when they aren't there."

J. Trafton stated that the public's view of law enforcement is often different. The most complaints he hears are about speeders. The Sheriff's Office tries to move the speed monitors around to different areas. He volunteered to meet with any municipal officers who had any questions for him.

P. Curley mentioned the graph on the Patrol Budget and asked about new hires. J. Trafton explained that he replaced Ben Seekins with one officer who decided not to stay in law enforcement. He has since hired another officer.

P. Curley asked about the two new secretaries. J. Trafton explained that the two previous secretaries retired on the same day this past summer.

H. Harnden, Jr. observed that the cost difference in what the Commissioners approved from the Sheriff's request was the equivalent of one vehicle. He asked how this would affect the fleet and repair bills. J. Trafton remarked that the fleet is in very good shape as the trucks are still fairly new. When asked if he missed the Crown Victoria's, he replied "No. The days of the rear-wheeled drive are gone."

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to approve the Sheriff's Office Budget as presented at \$1,529,984.00. Unanimous.**

A. Fowler asked if they wished to review and pass the Jail budget. B. Sneed said that since they are well ahead of schedule, he would like a history and update on the Jail situation.

A. Fowler noted that Waldo County has been in a uniquely great situation. Nobody knew the Jails were going to be consolidated in 2008. In 2007, Waldo had large bills and had to budget to pay them off in 2008, so the 2008 budget was higher than normal. This ended up helpful because this is what the State capped the budget at. Things are still going well. W. Shorey has negotiated a good contract with Two Bridges for housing Waldo County's inmates. It will never be a full-service Jail again, now that it has changed in 2008 to a reentry center. Technically the Jail belongs to Waldo County now but there is still a budget CAP set by the State. The State allowed a 3% increase in Jail CAPs in 2016. Waldo did not increase that CAP in 2016. For 2017, the Jail/reentry budget will increase by 2.96%. She explained the former Community Corrections funds come from the State.

J. Trafton said he met with the State Commissioner to find out if they wished to continue to use the MCRRC as a reentry, since they will be building their own reentry. The State Commissioner assured J. Trafton that MCRRC is an integral part of the system and will continue to be used for many years. They are modeling their reentry centers after Waldo's.

Because there was still time, B. Sneed inquired about the new courthouse.

A. Fowler stated that Chief Justice Saufley had done a study 12 years ago. Waldo is now on the roster for a new courthouse. There are three courthouse projects running concurrently – Waldo, Oxford and York. A. Fowler said they have hired an architect to be ready and currently several sites are being looked at. She explained that she could not comment on those locations.

She noted that Waldo County Facilities Manager Keith Nealley has had a great working relationship with the State and much of the recent costs have been shared.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER BUDGET – 1076:

Present was Communications Director Owen Smith. B. Sneed said he could not find any questions to ask.

O. Smith said it had been a busy year, listed the new Google Earth program, and noted that there has been some recognition of the center. He was nominated Communications Center Director of the year and he acknowledged that this was due to the great people he works with. WCRCC was recently featured in a magazine for their programs such as the “Friendly Caller” and “Wanderer” programs.

A new tower was installed this year that should help with some of the repeater problems.

B. Sneed asked about “IamResponding”. O. Smith explained that this is a tool that replaces pagers. It is done by the CAD system and sends messages to cell phones. It has cut down on radio traffic. There are limitations in poor cell service areas. It has 25 features – 5 are for Dispatch and the others are for them.

R. Desmarais asked why overtime was exceeded. O. Smith explained that the Center has been down two dispatchers most of the year and now they are down three so new trainees are coming on. R. Desmarais asked if these were terminations or resignations. O. Smith said two were resignations and one was a termination.

B. Sneed mentioned that the Departments can transfer funds from one line to another within their individual departmental budget. So the overage in the Overtime line can be covered by the other lines.

P. Curley inquired about the Travel line. O. Smith said it is related to travel expenses for sending people for training, but does not include the training itself.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to approve the Communications Center Budget as presented at \$962,621.00. Unanimous.**

JAIL BUDGET:

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to fund the Jail Budget at \$1,189,004.00. Unanimous.**

TREASURER’S BUDGET – 1025:

Present was Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Budget as presented at \$77,696.00. Unanimous.**

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BUDGET – 2005:

Present was Vina Lindley and Anne Rothrock.

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to approve the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Budget as presented at \$42,085.00. Unanimous.**

AUDIT BUDGET – 1090:

Present was Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

P. Curley asked if this was the same auditor as before. The Commissioners responded yes, but it will be changed in the future. Usually the auditor is hired for no more than three years.

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to accept the Audit Budget as presented at \$9,000.00. Unanimous.**

DEBT SERVICE BUDGET – 1095:

Present was Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell who reported that the County had no debt.

INTEREST BUDGET – 2000:

Present was Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell.

This is for the Tax Anticipation Note. The question was raised as to whether or not this could be avoided. There was brief explanation of having to change to a fiscal year and that would not necessarily solve anything as the town budget years vary.

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to approve the Interest Budget as presented at \$10,000.00.**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S BUDGET – 1015:

Present was District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau. He stated that he was happy to report stable staffing in the past year. Prior, it was tumultuous. Offices across the State has combined technical services with two employees who work for all the D.A.’s. They are overwhelmed with work. All D.A.’s offices have been asked to fund another position.

Regarding Justiceware, the funds have not been spent yet. They are waiting to see how Cumberland County does with it and if it is successful with them first and that it’s worthwhile before spending the money. There was brief discussion of whether or not money can be rolled over from one year to the next. The answer is no.

G. Rushlau noted that attorneys want to receive things digitally and want Waldo County to join that world.

At a meeting in Bar Harbor, their executive director said that new firewalls need to be installed in all the counties for 2017. He was now asking for an additional \$800.00 for new firewalls in the 7011 Capital Outlay budget.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley second to pass the District Attorney Budget at new request of \$262,872.00. Unanimous. (It increased the budget by .01 %.)**

COMMISSIONERS BUDGET – 1020:

B. Sneed asked if Technology Consultant James Arseneau, seated in the audience, wanted to speak about the Technology needs. J. Arseneau said he went through a list and an upgrade

schedule. Most manufacturers don't want to support equipment over five years old. J. Arseneau has looked ahead at what needs to be replaced and when. There is a movement among the departments, such as in all the Probate Registries, for a web base and that company didn't inform the County well. He is working on trying to be sure the data is also in-house. While it is a good cost-savings, if it goes down, the data can't be accessed. The data needs to be accessible in-house. He added that the Commissioners are working on virtualizing servers to speed this up.

B. Sneed noted Registry of Deeds data is also scanned and sent electronically. It is still in-house so people can access it locally. Internet speed in rural areas are very expensive and makes it very difficult in those areas because of the bandwidth.

A. Fowler pointed out the new Overtime line in the Commissioners budget due to the FLSA status changing for two employees.

When asked about technology needs, A. Fowler explained that there were no leases. W. Shorey added that the Commissioners have been trying to put money in the Reserve accounts and in 2020 there will be some funds to request, but not as much as some years. A. Fowler added that it is good to see the reserves being funded and not having to ask for funds. B. Johnson said a few years ago, the public had expressed concern over the low reserves and the Commissioners have slowly been building those up.

W. Shorey explained that some projects were removed from the Facilities Budget for the Sheriff's Office and were funded from the Sheriff's Reserve.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the Commissioners Budget as presented at \$333,359.00. Unanimous.**

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BUDGET – 2025:

Present for this discussion were the Commissioners, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

A. Fowler explained that the self-funded health insurance has saved the County a great deal of money. She noted it was "a scary step off the cliff" but 8 years later, it is much lower in cost than it was.

W. Shorey noted that it was nearly \$1,000,000.00 for 2007 and now the County is funding employees' insurance at \$500,000.00.

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to fund the Employee Benefits Budget as presented at \$1,131,000.00 Unanimous.**

(Recessed at 10:50 a.m.)

(Reconvened at 11:05 a.m.)

TIME & TIDE RC & D BUDGET – 1080-4718:

Present was Tish Carr along with Vance Wells, a board member. She noted they have not spoken with the Budget Committee for some time. The main focus is to help farmers and small entrepreneurs in Waldo County. A huge success is the school garden grant. They started six of them in 2013 and now have 12 schools participating. Leroy Smith School was funded through grants. She presented some pictures of students. She explained that it impacted over 150 students at the six schools. They are looking at another program in January and submitting grant applications. The Unique Maine Farms book is now in all County libraries. They'd like to get it into school libraries, as well. They are also working on micro loans and are hoping they are available in January for individuals or small farmers to get themselves up and going. Funds for loans serve as a bridge to help them get going. The budget request is \$3,750.00. She stated that she felt it ties in well with the County's Garden Project and would love to work with the County Garden through the school program as a "good dovetail."

B. Sneed informed T. Carr that the County Farm is operated by inmates and it would likely not dovetail with the school programs for that reason.

T. Carr compared the two in that students gave food to the food banks and to Town Offices.

W. Shorey stated that the County Garden produced over 78,000 lbs. of produce.

T. Carr explained that the end product is to get students to be farmers. W. Shorey said that the program started with schools. He understood that they plant and then school is out for the summer and someone has to be running it in the summer time.

T. Carr said they thought the same thing but everyone had a core group in the summer – students, parents were involved and it has worked very well. The way the maintenance plan was structured, it has worked very well. The schools and students are really passionate about it. Watering was tough this year but they got it done. She explained that they have a good setup and very enthusiastic people.

V. Wells asked if he could add something and was told that the time allotted for Time and Tide was nearly done.

T. Carr noted that Kym Sanderson had arrived in the room, and Waldo County Soil and Water District looks to work with Time & Tide. She also mentioned that the Time and tide web site is updated and there. She encouraged them to read it.

B. Sneed said that the Committee hasn't funded Time & Tide in some time.

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to fund Time & Tide at \$750.00 for the books to be put in the school libraries.**

Discussion: P. Sampson said that she felt that the book idea was great idea. P. Curley said that Stockton Springs Girl Scouts asked if they could have a plot of land to grow vegetables. They did a good job. Different towns have different versions of this.

Passed unanimously.

WALDO COUNTY SOIL & WATER DISTRICT BUDGET – 2035:

Present was Kym Sanderson. Kym made up some informational packets for the new members and submitted 12 to all present. She explained that they try to make what money that they do get stretch as far as possible. They do a lot of partnering with different organizations and groups and do some fundraising. She said it was hard to sell trees now because Walmart and Hannaford sell trees also. Waldo County Soil and Water try to use a local producer in Waldo County for the trees and use a nursery in Searsport for shrubs and flowers. Berries are still purchased out of state. They don't make a lot of money. It is an outreach project as much as a fundraiser. They still partner with federal government and Little River. She stated that they are very frugal. She concluded by expressing her hope that they will continue to receive support from the County.

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to approve the WCSWD Budget at \$25,000.00 as presented. Unanimous.**

WALDO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERS BUDGET – 1080-4715

Present with the Commissioners was Keith Small, show submitted a document and some informational brochures.

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to approve that WCAP Budget be funded at \$3,500.00 as presented.**

Discussion: P. Sampson asked where these brochures could be obtained, as she would like to put some in the Town Office lobby. She also commented that just looking quickly at the information, she already had learned of some programs she wasn't familiar with. **Passed unanimously.**

EASTERN MAINE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BUDGET – 1080-4716:

M. Saucier explained that she had just looked at her email messages and Vicki Rusbult was ill and would not be able to attend.

B. Sneed commented that "there are some who promise the world and don't deliver and this group was one of them."

W. Shorey said he is a Corporator and now believes someone has been assigned to Waldo County and thought it would be good to try to assist them for a few years since they are trying to get on their feet.

A. Fowler said she wasn't impressed with the fact that she heard that they have 50 employees. She checked and they actually only have 25. She said she didn't feel like advocating for them because they are always saying they are reconfiguring.

P. Sampson said she was trying to figure out what they had done for Unity.

R. Desmarais said they have interacted with them and don't want to see them thrown under the bus.

B. Johnson stated that this is why the Commissioners felt they should allocated at least \$2,000.00.

P. Sampson said she hadn't seen them set foot in Unity and doesn't know how she could justify it to Unity taxpayers.

B. Sneed said it has been about 20 years since Prospect was assisted by them.

P. Curley said they came to Stockton Springs and at the end of the 1 hour meeting, they said they could provide updated statistics but there would be a fee if there was any more work done. When asked about the fee structure, the man said he had to ask his boss. That was two months ago. He felt apparently they do something, but charge a fee.

P. Sampson said Unity spent \$20,000 toward updating the comp plan so they sent it to KVCOG to finish it. Unity did most of the work and the DOT part is funded by the state. It is being put together by KVCOG will cost \$13,000.00.

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to fund the Eastern Maine Development Corporation Budget at \$2,000.00. Motion passed by three; opposed by B. Sneed and P. Curley.**

R. Desmarais said EMDC has a presence and it is tied up with the Penobscot River area.

WALDO COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION BUDGET – 1080-4719:

Present was Liberty Fire Chief Bill Gillespie.

A. Fowler said that three or four years ago, the Firefighters Association came before the County Commissioners because town budgets are so tight.

B. Gillespie said they just finished training, with well over 2000 hours of training. Graduation is tomorrow with about 80 joining with them. He listed all the different training that is conducted. They have done programs with Waldo County EMA, etc. They work hard to train. He added that they have moved to another building that has two burn rooms. He listed all the improvements made to training facilities and the success they have had in their endeavors.

P. Sampson asked about high angle rescue.

B. Gillespie explained that this involves repelling. There might be a need on a tower or bridge. Waldo County now has a Confined Spaces Team. They are trying to make sure the basic training is completed. He commented that there is a revolving door with people. They move, find other jobs, etc. There is really no incentive, and that is an argument that he is taking to Augusta.

R. Desmarais said when he first moved here in 1998, there was no Firefighter 1.

There was discussion by R. Desmarais and B. Gillespie about training and how long people last.

****B. Sneed moved, R. Desmarais seconded to fund the Waldo County Firefighters Association budget as presented at \$5,000.00. Unanimous.**

BELFAST CREATIVE COALITION BUDGET – 1080-4721:

Because the agenda had moved so quickly, the staff had not been able to reach Ms. Baer to see if she could come in earlier.

A Fowler explained that they promote all local farms. W. Shorey also said that Belfast Creative Coalition had done a lot.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the Belfast Creative Coalition budget as presented at \$1,000.00. Unanimous.**

(Ms. Baer arrived moments later and was told that the budget had been approved at this point. She thanked the committee.)

MIDCOAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT BUDGET - 1080-4720:

Commissioner Johnson spoke to this as she had told the committee not to bother attending. She stated that a lot of funding has been put into Lincolnville sewage. The Northern Border Grant is kind of unknown. MCEDD also assisted Northport with bulky waste issues. They consulted with Robbins Lumber. They also did a lot with the solar program in Lincolnville. They had about 95 applications. She expressed that MCEDD has done a lot more and have a lot more contact with the towns than Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to fund the Midcoast Economic Development District budget at \$2,000.00.**

Discussion: P. Sampson asked if the Town pays a fee. B. Johnson explained that the Town pays a portion of that. This is how it's structured with all the towns that have MCEDD. It helps the taxpayers of these four towns. **Unanimous.**

RESERVES – 2045

Regarding the Reserve Accounts, W. Shorey said the Commissioners had not requested anything but they would now like to ask if \$25,000.00 could be funded in the Severance Reserve and \$25,000.00 in Employment Compensation. He wondered if the Budget Committee would consider that, since the Budget is so low.

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to add \$25,000.00 to the Severance line 0154. Unanimous.**

****B. Sneed moved, H. Harnden, Jr. seconded to approve \$5,291,525.00 as the new bottom line for the County Total. Unanimous.**

****B. Sneed moved, P. Curley seconded to approve \$8,174,469.14 as the Grand Total, with the Jail budget included. Unanimous.**

It was noted that this is a 4.13% increase over the 2016 County Budget, and a 3.29% increase over the Grand Total 2016 Budget, including the Jail budget.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be the Public Hearing/Final Budget Committee Meeting on December 2, 2016 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Maine District Courtroom.

****B. Sneed moved, P. Sampson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Unanimous.**

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