

**WALDO COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING
FINAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
& LD 1 TAX CAP MEETING FOR 2013 COUNTY BUDGET
DECEMBER 14, 2012**

(Due to the length of this meeting, it has been summarized.)

PRESENT: Budget Committee Members Bill Sneed (2013 Chairman), David Barrows, Roger Lee, Richard Desmarais, Peter Curley, James Bennett, Harry Dean Potter and Clement Blakney. Also present were County Commissioners William D. Shorey, Amy R. Fowler and Betty I. Johnson; Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, H.R. Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth, Various Elected County Officials, a number of County employees, members of the public, County Clerk Barbara Arseneau to take minutes and Deputy County Clerk Linda Kinney to track the budget numbers.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Commissioner Shorey requested that everyone bow their heads and have a moment of silence for the victims of today's shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, which is a terrible tragedy.

Chairman Bill Sneed started the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and asked all to introduce themselves.

1. Katharine Littlefield, Selectman from Waldo (asking questions department by department).
 - What are the increases in the EMA's Personnel budget? D. Rowley responded that the increases are from COLA raises and a slight increase in his Deputy's work hours. She asked if FEMA still picks up part of operating expenses to which D. Rowley responded 50%.
 - What are the additional wages for the D.A.'s office? Katie Sibley, Assistant D.A. responded that they still have the same number of employees. M. Wadsworth added an explanation of the restructuring of position titles that took place in the D.A.'s office in the past year and the new Prosecutorial Assistant position.
 - Concern was expressed about having two Treasurers in the Treasurer's Department.
 - D. Parkman responded that K. Trussell does all the work and he supervises.
 - Capital Outlay has a huge increase in the Commissioners budget. W. Shorey responded that they are going into the second year of a 3-year upgrade. This year will be the technology portion with outright purchases instead of entering into costly leases, resulting in savings for the County over time. J. Arseneau went into depth with an explanation of what the technology upgrade entails in terms of PC's, laptops, servers, software, etc. He explained the guidelines for timeframes of upgrades and what is recommended, pointing out that the County is past due for these upgrades and they are much needed.

B. Sneed added that the way this is structured, the savings will appear beginning 2014. Next year the County will be free of all leases, saving \$47,000.00 in interest over the next five years.

- K. Littlefield asked about how many school resource officers the County has. S. Story responded that there is one at Mt. View High and the City of Belfast has one at the high school as well. They both also travel to other area schools. K. Littlefield explained that a taxpayer had asked her if they were paying twice for that officer's patrol car and everything that comes with it. S. Story responded that the school reimburses the County for everything involved in his position as Resource Officer right down to the fuel costs. He is paid in a similar manner to what a schoolteacher is paid. He has the option of being paid 10 months, or spread his salary out over the whole year. It is the same dollar amount.
- Corrections – is this a set amount? S. Story responded that whatever the County taxes were assessed in 2007 were frozen and the Corrections Facility has to live within that assessment. Anything further has to come through the Legislature. Waldo County actually gives money back to the State right now. That amount given back is around \$890,000.00. As long as this law stays intact, the taxpayers will never pay more than the \$2.8 million dollar assessment.
- K. Littlefield asked what the reserves look like for this year, to which W. Shorey responded \$50,000.00. He explained that there are two accounts that the accountant pays particular attention to. One is Uncompensated Funds, which, because this hasn't been addressed for many years, he is suggesting strongly that the County add \$25,000.00 a year to it to raise it to at least \$125,000.00 to make it a viable entity. The other is the Unemployment Account. Those are the only ones asking for funding because it is already known that it will be a tough year.

2. Sandy George, citizen of Montville commented that western Waldo County has a very limited tax base. In her town, 30% of the land base is in current-use taxation, which shifts the property tax burden to their homes. There is also a very aggressive land trust adding more to that. She would like the Budget Committee to think about how the total budget affects homeowners and look more at the "needs" than the "wants".

1080 – Advertising & Promotion

Vance Wells of Time & Tide Resource Conservation & Development mentioned that at a previous budget meeting, Time & Tide was denied funding of \$6,325.00. He thought there may have been a misunderstanding. Four meetings that were held regarding agriculture resulted in Coastal Farms. He thought their taxes are more than the \$6,325.00.

B. Sneed clarified that the amount requested is actually \$3,625.00. Other members of the Budget Committee verified this.

V. Wells explained that historically, the income that Time & Tide has brought into Waldo County and the other five surrounding counties is usually double what their operating costs are. He explained that they are trying to connect schools with farmers that produce

fresh vegetables and that what the school kids consume in food is more than the \$3,625.00. It is their goal to have an agricultural institution connected with education.

R. Lee stated that Time & Tide received \$3,625.00 in this years' budget [2012], which ends the end of December. He asked where that money was spent. V. Wells answered that they sent two people to regional meetings, they publish publications, and that he has yet to be reimbursed for over \$500 worth of travel expenses.

R. Lee asked if the organization keeps books. V. Wells replied that they keep very strict USDA books and that the USDA has pulled out and Time & Tide is having trouble reorganizing. He mentioned that the committee might be interested to know that the Maine Association of Non-Profits is putting in a grant for \$500,000.00, matched by the USDA, to help Time & Tide as well as other non-profit organizations to take care of programs.

R. Lee explained that the difficulty he is having is that he does not see a budget for Time & Tide, he does not know where the money is spent, and he doesn't know how much is spent beyond the amount that is funded by Waldo County. He suggests that V. Wells come back in a year to show a budget. V. Wells responded that he was told that a budget was sent.

A. Fowler explained that all the information sent has been given to the Budget Committee members.

D. Parkman remarked that the County pays by invoice and that he noticed that Time & Tide has not sent in an invoice requesting their money this year and that they have about two weeks to get that submitted. V. Wells explained that he sent out an email just about an hour or two ago with this information but can only do his job, not everybody else's.

B. Sneed remarked that, as an alternative, if they do not get an invoice in by December 31, 2012, he suggested paying him next year what wasn't invoiced this year. He reiterated that the invoice had to be in by December 31.

W. Shorey stated that his good friend, Dick Desmaris, probably wouldn't be happy with him after his next comment. He explained that he had an opportunity to attend an incorporators meeting at EMDC (Eastern Maine Development Corporation) yesterday and after hearing the condition they are in, he does not know how sending dollars their way can be justified. He stated that he is not on board with supporting them.

R. Lee agreed that he shared those concerns.

R. Desmaris stated that he read the article on the front page of the paper and it goes back to times he remembers very well. He explained that although they showed a \$6,000.00 profit this year, he didn't know if they were going to sink or swim. He stated that he has no strong feelings either one way or the other right now.

W. Shorey thanked R. Desmaris for his comments.

****B. Sneed moved to reduce 1080 – Advertising & Promotion by \$5,000.00 to \$9,636.00, B. Sneed seconded. Passed with six in favor, R. Desmaris opposed, D. Barrows not yet present.**

(Dave Barrows arrived at this point)

2045 – Reserves

B. Sneed mentioned that Mr. Shorey has already spoken to this budget line in his comment earlier regarding the sale of County land.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 2045 – Reserves at \$50,000.00, R. Lee seconded. Unanimous.**

2035 – Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District

B. Sneed explained that there is an increase this year, but this is the first time in 12 years that these folks have asked for an increase, “so it’s not as if they are driving the County into the poorhouse. They do a lot of good work.”

****B. Bennett moved to fund 2035 – WCSWCD at \$25,000.00, P. Curley seconded. Unanimous.**

2025 – Employee Benefits

B. Sneed stated that this line has been reduced.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 2025 - Employee Benefits at \$1,290,150.00, R. Lee seconded.**

In discussion, J. Bennett asked if this amount is an estimate or actual figures. W. Shorey confirmed that these are the actual figures. He explained that with the new 2014 laws in the insurance industry, the [Searsport] Water District received a 2.2% increase, noting that they have to be sure that they keep climbing a bit each year to get to \$750,000.00. He explained that this doesn’t have to be tomorrow, but someday.

****Motion passed with seven in favor, P. Curley opposed.**

2005 – Waldo County Extension Office

B. Sneed remarked that this department is asking for less money this year than they did for 2011.

****J. Bennett moved to fund 2005 –WCEO at \$40,825.00, B. Sneed seconded. Unanimous.**

2000 – Interest

There were no comments or discussions.

****J. Bennett moved to fund 2000 – Interest at \$10,000.00, P. Curley seconded. Unanimous.**

1090 – Audit

B. Sneed explained that there is a bit of a change this year because the County has hired a new auditor.

****J. Bennett moved to fund 1090 – Audit at \$9,500.00, R. Desmaris seconded. Unanimous.**

1076 – Waldo County Regional Communications Center

There were no comments or discussions.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 1076 – WCRCC at \$841,869.00, J. Bennett seconded. Unanimous.**

1075 – Office of the Sheriff

There were no comments or discussions.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 1075 – Office of the Sheriff at \$1,328,524.00, R. Desmaris seconded. Unanimous.**

1070 – Registry of Probate

There were no comments or discussions.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 1070 – Registry of Probate at \$204,103.00, C. Blakney seconded. Unanimous.**

1065 – Registry of Deeds

There were no comments or discussions.

****J. Bennett moved to fund 1065 – Registry of Deeds at \$220,133.00, P. Curley seconded. Unanimous.**

1025 – Office of the Treasurer

There were no comments or discussions.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 1025 – Office of the Treasurer at \$67,467.00, C. Blakney seconded. Unanimous.**

1015 – Office of the District Attorney

B. Sneed noted that there is a slight change here. The District Attorney was asking to reduce line 4000 – Contractual Services from \$13,000.00 to \$11,500.00. This is a technology consulting fee.

****J. Bennett moved to reduce the Receptionist position amount because there is a 40% increase and he believed it should be the same 3% as everyone else. C. Blakney seconded.**

Discussion: W. Shorey explained that the current individual is educated at a completely different level than the rest of the staff. J. Bennett wanted to know why this person would

get a 40% increase. A. Fowler stated that this is a newly created position. R. Lee commented that he has trouble with the District Attorney not being at this meeting with such a change in staffing. Katie Sibley, Assistant District Attorney asked to speak to this position. She apologized for the absence of Mr. Rushlau and Mr. Walker not being able to attend due to an important retirement dinner for a 33-year Kennebec/Somerset Assistant D.A. She explained that the position in question is not a receptionist position. This position title has been changed to Prosecutorial Assistant. This individual has a Masters Degree and law enforcement experience. This position is not answering phones or filing; it is more integral than that. It is an investigative liaison between the D.A. office and the various police departments aiding in prosecution, giving out discovery, and clearing up cases. B. Sneed remarked that the wording in the budget binder should not say Receptionist/Prosecutorial Assistant. B. Arseneau apologized for the confusion. She stated that they were trying to show what happened the previous year and what was going on this year. They are two completely different positions. They were showing what the Receptionist was paid last year and what this different position is being paid. B. Sneed suggested that it read Receptionist for 2012 and leave the amount blank for 2013. B. Arseneau apologized and offered to see to it that it is changed for the final budget printing.

B. Sneed stated that J. Bennett's motion is "nonsensical" in that nobody is getting a raise, but creating a new position. C. Blakney stated that he seconded simply because of the wording. ****Motion and second withdrawn.**

B. Sneed noted that Contractual Services was reduced \$51,649.00 to \$50,149.00 because of the reduction in Consulting/Professional Services, line 4015.

****B. Sneed moved to fund the Office of the District Attorney at \$233,669.00, R. Desmaris seconded. Motion passed with seven in favor, J. Bennett opposed.**

1010- Emergency Management Agency

****J. Bennett moved to fund 1010 – Emergency Management Agency at \$103,783.00, R. Desmaris seconded. Unanimous.**

1030 – Facilities Management

B. Sneed explained that this department needed further clarification on certain amounts.

K. Nealley remarked that the amount in the line for the Electricity for the Sheriff's building was an estimate of \$3,000.00. Right now, he is overdrawn on that line by \$2,400.00 and would like to request that the line be increased by \$2,000.00. R. Lee stated that the budget request is already at \$5,000.00. K. Nealley clarified that the \$5,000.00 is the amount requested, but the Budget Committee, at the last meeting, cut that line to \$3,000.00. B. Sneed commented that those amounts were set in hopes that tonight's meeting would produce accurate numbers.

K. Nealley noted that the Cleaning line was also reduced at the last meeting but he can live with those numbers now that the cleaning contract bid numbers are in.

He apologized for not having the numbers for the fuel amounts last time. The numbers were based on a \$4.00 per gallon projection that was put together in July. He had no way of knowing what fuel costs would be. In talking to his supplier this week, he learned that if he were to go out to bid today he could expect to pay \$3.25/gallon for heating oil and \$2.00/gallon for propane. B. Sneed asked how much the lines would need to be adjusted. (At this point, County Clerk B. Arseneau handed out copies of spreadsheets provided by K. Nealley.) K. Nealley explained that this sheet is a history of average usage from 2008 per building. The Jail was omitted because that is a separate entity. The new figures from his supplier have been plugged into this, resulting in a shortfall for the District Court if the \$9,000.00 amount the Budget Committee stated is used. Following are the figures K. Nealley is requesting based on his new pricing:

- Line 5202 - \$9,600.00
- Line 5206 - \$3,000.00
- Line 5207 - \$15,550.00
- Line 5208 - \$3,250.00
- Line 5209 - \$3,000.00
- Line 5210 – remain at \$1,500.00
- Line 5211 - \$1,600.00

K. Nealley went on to say that, overall; it will be an increase of \$2,000.00 over his 2012 budget. It was the consensus that the bottom line figure for 5000 – Commodities is now at \$43,400.00. J. Bennett inquired as to much fuel was used last year between all of the buildings to which K. Nealley estimated about 17,000 gallons.

K. Nealley explained that he did some “squeezing” on the carpet amount for the Registry of Deeds. He talked to his supplier who said that he could save a bit by using carpet squares. That figured out to be a “wash.” J. Bennett had mentioned at the last meeting doing the upper and lower floors at different times. That would create a problem in matching dye lots and patterns are often discontinued. C. Blakney asked if matching is critical. K. Nealley replied that it is not critical, but would be nice to have uniformity.

B. Sneed clarified that the original request for 7000 - Capital Outlay was \$24,050.00 and asked if K. Nealley would prefer it to stay at that amount. K. Nealley replied that with the requested amount he could do everything he needs to do. In line 7003, the carpeting is \$12,000.00. When B. Sneed clarified that the amount in the budget book is \$15,000.00, K. Nealley reminded him that the lighting and ceiling painting estimates are included in that line. B. Sneed asked if he could live with a decrease of \$6,000.00, and K. Nealley agreed that he could find a way to do so. B. Sneed noted that the total for that line would be \$9,500.00, taking the bottom line for 7000 down to \$18,050.00.

B. Sneed noted that in Contractual Services, lines 4628 – 4633, cleaning, needed clarification. K. Nealley explained that the cleaning contracts had come in under \$41,000.00. The contract that the Commissioners accepted came in at \$40,000.00. He noted that if the Budget Committee were to keep his numbers at the same amounts as 2012, he would be happy. B. Sneed noted that the original amount of \$151,650.00 has been reduced by \$10,000.00, bringing the line-by-line amounts to:

- Personnel Services – \$76,578.00
- Contractual Services - \$141,650.00

- Commodities - \$43,400.00
- Capital Outlay - \$18,050.00

The grand total is now \$279,678.00.

**** B. Sneed moved to fund 1030 – Facilities Management at \$279,678.00, R. Lee seconded. Unanimous.**

1020 – Office of the Commissioners

B. Sneed noted that when last we left the Commissioners budget, the bottom line was \$625,077.00.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 1020 - Office of the Commissioners at \$625,077.00, P. Curley seconded. Unanimous.**

Discussion:

W. Shorey clarified that the Commissioners had asked for some adjustments. He suggested the following:

- Line 4110 – increase to \$1,450.00
- Line 4115 – increase to \$1,400.00
- Line 4730 – increase to \$1,800.00
- Line 4805 – increase to \$500.00
- Line 5335 – increase to \$5,000.00
- Line 5375 – increase to \$2,000.00

He suggested coming to a fair deal by splitting the difference between the amounts.

B. Sneed noted that the original bottom line for Contractual Services was \$137,088.00.

The way the Budget Committee left it at the last meeting was \$132,548.00. The difference is \$4,540.00. Dividing that by two would be an amount of \$2,270.00. He noted that in years past the Commissioners had always broken out the consulting (he referenced 2010, when it had payroll, bond consult, County Attorney, architect, etc.). He asked what is under Professional Services this year. B. Arseneau responded that it is the same and did not know why it changed, but that it could easily revert. She noted that the requested amounts are as follows:

- Payroll – \$1,2500.00
- Bond Counsel – \$3,000.00
- County Attorney – \$38,000.00
- Architect – \$1,500.00

He also asked what the Technology Consultant is paid. J. Arseneau commented that it is in Line 7100 – Contractual Services. The labor portion in that particular budget runs about \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00.

B. Sneed asked if Line 5335 – Office Supplies needed any discussion. W. Shorey replied that the account gets a lot of use and preferred that the amount be \$5,000.00, but to go along with meeting halfway on the difference, the Commissioners would ask for \$4,750.00.

B. Sneed noted that the big jump was in the Training line. The amount allotted last year wasn't spent. A. Fowler explained that the Commissioners Office is anticipating some extensive training for the Human Resources Director. Once Obama Care begins, there are multiple updates of which she will need to be aware. A great team of lawyers teaches every one of these, which is costly. Other than that, the expenditures for trainings are for small seminars that any of the staff or Commissioners would attend.

W. Shorey stated that if compromises need to be made, they would be agreeable. B. Sneed asked if \$1,800.00 would be agreeable to which W. Shorey replied that it would.

B. Sneed commented that, starting at the last page with Capital outlay, it was decided last week to fund it at \$316,190.00. Commodities is now \$8,550.00, Contractual Services is now \$134,818.00, Personnel Services is \$169,039.00; with a bottom line of \$628,597.00. The overall decrease in this budget is \$37,000.00 from the original request.

****B. Sneed moved to fund 1020 - Office of the Commissioner at \$628,597.00, P. Curley seconded. Unanimous.**

LD 1 CAP Joint Meeting:

B. Sneed noted that, not including the jail, the total figure for the County budget is \$5,342,754.00. That is the number that needs to be plugged in on the Budget Summary Sheet. That amount is almost \$60,000.00 under the cap.

****B. Sneed moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M., J. Bennett seconded. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by: 
Deputy County Clerk