

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
JULY 1, 2020**

PRESENT: Commissioners William D. Shorey (Chairman), Amy R. Fowler, and Betty I. Johnson. County Clerk Barbara Arseneau took minutes. The court session was conducted via teleconference due to COVID-10 restrictions.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell reported the following:

The County Checkbook balance is \$49,763.76.

The Jail Checkbook balance is \$46,782.80.

County Appropriations:

45% of the 2020 budget has been expended and it could be 50% at this time.

County Revenue:

44.74% of the 2020 County revenue has been received.

Corrections Appropriations:

51% of 2020 budget has been expended and should be 50% expended.

Corrections Revenue:

8.73% of the 2020 Corrections revenue has been received.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

\$2,200,000.00 has been borrowed from the TAN by the County and \$1,700,000.00 has been borrowed by Corrections.

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

WARRANTS:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 29, 2020 General Fund Accounts Payable warrant including the June 25, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$280,592.00. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 29, 2020 Capital, Active & Restricted Reserve warrant in the amount of \$20,151.55. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 29, 2020 Reentry Accounts Payable warrant including the June 25, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$304,087.78. Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to authorize payment of the June 29, 2020 MCRRC Restricted Reserve in the amount of \$15,449.83. Unanimous.**

PAY SCALE CHANGE

As of July 1, 2020, Correctional Administrator Raymond Porter's pay scale will be changed to reflect working only for Waldo County rather than as a shared Correctional Administrator with Knox County. This is at the 16-year level of \$68,638.52.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the revised Reentry Center Administration Pay Scale with the updated Correctional Administrator salary as presented.** Discussion: A. Fowler asked why the Detention Manager's salary was so different between the 2019 and 2020 pay scales. Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton explained that it was increased to reflect the Detention Manager's additional duties in the County Garden. **Motion passed unanimously**

AFSCME GENERAL UNION JOB REVISED JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

Prosecutorial Assistant Eric Harvey was present by telephone. Both he and the Commissioners confirmed receipt of the AFSCME Council's letter stating the Union's agreement with the revisions to the two Victim Witness Advocate positions, and with the Legal Secretary position becoming part-time.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to approve the revisions to the Victim Witness Advocate (Property Crimes and Restitution) Position and the second Victim Witness Advocate position as presented.** Discussion: E. Harvey noted that the District Attorney's Office is still down a half-time position with the formerly full-time Legal Secretary going to part-time. He stated that they will likely need to revisit that becoming full-time in the future to keep up with the work load. **Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT:

Present was IT Manager J-sun Bailey, who reported the following:

1. He is still working on getting quotes for Spillman server, and still working on issues with the remote access that the Sheriff's Deputies use.
2. He is in the process of moving over from Google to Barracuda, making sure there are no issues before the transition is final.
3. He briefly reviewed Jail video arraignments and equipment purchases, port, wiring, and cabling issues, and the temporary fix that is in place until new cable is run in the future.
4. He is working on research for the Spillman application and CJIS audits going forward. A. Fowler asked about the Spillman status with other municipalities. J. Bailey said that he is not sure of everyone's thoughts, and there needs to be more discussion and clarification. No decisions were made. A. Fowler stated that Spillman is owned by County. W. Shorey requested an executive session, possibly later in the court session.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Present was Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton. He reported that there is a new Deputy who has been in the Academy since late December. The Academy closed in March due to COVID-19. Some training was offered online, but the Deputy is still trying to become certified and he only needs to take the emergency vehicle operators course. As soon as that can worked out, the Deputy will be put on patrol.

W. Shorey stated that the Commissioners and Sheriff need to go into executive session for discussion of the Corrections Union contract negotiations.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into executive session at 9:19 a.m. for discussion of Corrections Union negotiations as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(D). Unanimous.**

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to come out of executive session at 10:11 a.m. Unanimous.** No action was taken.

FURLOUGH DISCUSSION:

Present was Register of Probate Sharon Peavey to discuss the furlough situation with Clerk Cari Emrich and needing to call her back into work. S. Peavey reported the numbers for last year. There were 7,800 dockets in June 2019, and only \$500.00 less in revenue this June. She explained that Probate has opened 4 more new dockets this past month than in June 2019. The Registry has been working short-handed for the past few months. Work isn't being done as quickly. The staff hasn't been able to do back-scanning. They have to be online, and the equipment to do that is at the Registry. S. Peavey requested to call back Cari Emrich in mid-July. There are busy court days coming up. One is in the courtroom with the Judge all day and that leaves only one or two people to deal with public. There have been a lot of walk-ins. There is a sign that says two people may be in the lobby, and the rest must stay outside until one of those two leaves. A. Fowler asked about employee vacation schedules, and S. Peavey related those to the Commissioners, stating that she didn't want to take away employees' vacations because they are short-handed. She would like to bring Cari back full-time. There was brief discussion of the workload returning to normal, how long Probate was closed during the first part of the pandemic, and that even when the office was closed to the public, S. Peavey came in for short periods to perform some of the necessary work. The Commissioners discussed bringing furloughed employees back slowly, because they believe COVID-19 may ramp up in the near future. S. Peavey said there is enough work space to keep safe. The Commissioners recommended bringing the furloughed employee back on court days July and August. S. Peavey explained that she recently had one employee out sick for 1.5 weeks, and with upcoming vacations, she asked for flexibility to bring C. Emrich back on additional days as needed. There was discussion of allowing the employee to be brought back two days a week.

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to allow Probate to bring back the employee from furlough two days per week in July and August, and to reevaluate later. Unanimous.**

(Break)

DISCUSSION: NAME "WALDO":

A. Fowler referenced an email from woman in Bremen, Maine who expressed concern about the name "Waldo" for Waldo County. The Commissioners were also approached by news reporter Alex Haskell of NEWSCENTER regarding this topic. A. Fowler stated that these matters are not discussed

by the Commissioners privately. She has mentioned it to people in the public and all whom she spoke with said they were not interested in changing the name. Her personal opinion is that everyone has history, and there are lessons to come away with. Not all history is positive and people learn from that. If history can be erased, ignored, and people get beyond it, than people won't advance. Changing the name of someone she hadn't researched who did things she may not have agreed with, especially after speaking with those in the public who did not want to change it, was something she was not in favor of.

B. Johnson explained that she is not from Maine, and had been unaware of the history of the name "Waldo". Someone has sent her info to read, and she was interviewed by Bangor Daily News reporter Abby Curtis. To change the name would cost a great deal of money as lawyers would be needed, and statutes and laws would need to be changed, etc. She agreed that history is valuable and hopefully there will be change for all people who are looked down upon. Work would need to be done with legislation and leaders. She thought most people don't research the history of a town or place before moving there. There are historical family connections between the names Knox and Waldo that would also need to be considered. The suggestion to change the name of Waldo County didn't come from a Waldo County citizen, but from elsewhere in the State. She hasn't heard any concern from any residents in Waldo County and stated that she has mixed feelings about this matter. She said that with the current pandemic making food, money, housing, etc. difficult for people, she believed spending a lot of money changing a name would not be practical at this time.

W. Shorey stated that he is happy to represent Waldo County. Waldo County raises and gives away produce to charity and people of any race – it makes no difference. He's had some calls and spoken with people and all were adamant to keep the name Waldo County. He said he is in favor of tabling this topic indefinitely, and go from there. B. Johnson felt that there was no reason to take a motion. Discussion was important and any motions would be premature. A. Fowler agreed with B. Johnson and said that the purpose was to have a discussion and for each of the Commissioners to make their thoughts known. If the residents of Waldo County wish to pursue this, it can be dealt with in the future. She would continue to talk with people and get their feelings, but believes the Commissioners have done what was asked of them by holding this discussion.

DISCUSSION: 2021 COST OF LIVING INCREASE:

W. Shorey reported that one union appears to be settling at a 1% COLA for 2021, so he recommended doing the same for non-union employees.

****W. Shorey moved, A. Fowler seconded to set the 2021 COLA at 1% for non-union employees.**

Discussion. B. Johnson said the way things are going, she thought it was a safe thing to do. She had thought 1.5% might be good, but in an effort to be reasonable, she would agree with a 1% COLA for 2021. W. Shorey stated that he believed it was important for there to be continuity in COLAs between the union and non-union employees. **Unanimous.**

COMMISSIONERS MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

CONTAMINATED RECORDS: W. Shorey reported that it was suggested that the Commissioners purchase a sealed storage container, put the moldy Sheriff's records in there, and set it on the County Garden property until they can be dealt with in the future. To modify a room in an existing building would cost \$1,500.00 and this storage unit would cost more, but it can be done immediately and won't

risk contaminating another shared building. He recommended using funds saved on recent reductions in business contracts. The Commissioners briefly discussed when to do this project, which could be done immediately. Then the current contaminated space could be sanitized, and the archive records could be moved from the Superior Courthouse to the cleaned space as originally planned. The goal is complete all this by Labor Day.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to proceed with purchasing a small storage unit to put on County property and to fund it from the 0269 (Facilities All Other) Reserve. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Present to report correspondence was County Clerk Barbara Arseneau as follows:

1. The time period for Detective Dale Brown to fill the temporary Sergeant position at the Waldo County Sheriff's Office will be extended from July 6th to July 10, 2020 instead.

****A. Fowler moved, B. Johnson seconded to extend the period Detective Dale Brown will serve as temporary Sergeant from July 6, 2020 to July 10, 2020. Unanimous.**

2. The Commissioners noted a 6-months pay step increase for Deputy Lucas Potts at the non-certified level of \$21.57 per hour.

3. B. Arseneau reviewed the Invitation to Caucus for the 2021 Budget on August 5, 2020. The Commissioners approved sending it by email with instructions for attending via videoconference.

4. B. Arseneau briefly reviewed the status of a recent application for tax abatement review, and the Commissioners instructed her to follow-up with the attorney they have requested to review the case.

5. B. Arseneau asked if there had been changes in her role as point of contact with the Health Insurance Plan as she has seen no emails for a few weeks. The Commissioners told her that the County Clerk position was removed from this role since it no longer works with Human Resources. Human Resources will handle all benefits and insurances.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Arseneau requested that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the June 17, 2020 Waldo County Commissioners Court Sessions as submitted. Commissioners Johnson and Fowler had not read them, so the minutes will be moved to the next court session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****B. Johnson moved, A. Fowler seconded to go into executive session at 10:54 a.m. for discussion of compensation as permitted by MRSA Title 1§405(6)(a). Unanimous.**

Afterward, Commissioner William Shorey reported the following:

The executive session ended with no action taken. The Commissioners Court adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

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