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Washington County Development Authority

ANNUAL REPORT October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

Introduction

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 5 of Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Chapter 383, Subchapter 3, Article 2-A, the Washington County Development Authority is required to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business and economic development matters. The report must be submitted no later than 120 days after the close of the authority's fiscal year. The Authority's fiscal year ended on September 30, 2018.

Section 13083-F of 5 MRSA requires that the annual report of the Authority include:

- A. A description of the authority's operations and activities;
- B. An accounting of the authority's receipts and expenditures and assets and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year;
- C. A listing of all property transactions pursuant to section 13083-D;
- D. A statement of the authority's proposed and projected activities for the ensuing year; and
- E. Recommendations regarding further actions that may be suitable for achieving the purposes of this article.

History of the Authority

The Washington County Development Authority was established by the Second Regular Session of the 120th Maine Legislature as Chapter 568 of the Laws of Maine 2001. The Authority was established in response to the need to create a state entity that could take title to the former Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station in Cutler, Maine from the United States Navy. Since that time, the legislation was amended to broaden the scope of the authority's mission to allow the authority to provide financial and technical assistance to any governmental entity and nonprofit located within Washington County in support of community and economic development projects. Representation was expanded to include all municipalities in Washington County, including the unorganized territories.

For the reporting period, the Authority was comprised of the following members: Josh Bragg (East Machias), Elizabeth "Betsy" Fitzgerald (Machiasport), Renee Gray (Addison), Julie Jordan (Baileyville), Ron McAlpine (Crawford), Marianne Moore (Calais), Lewis Pinkham (Milbridge), Lani Smith-McNabb (East Machias), Heron

Weston (Eastport), and Brian Mulligan (DECD Appointee). For this time period, the following officers were elected: Betsy Fitzgerald (Chair), Lewis Pinkham (Vice Chair), and Marianne Moore (Treasurer). In December, Marianne Moore resigned from the Board upon her election to the Legislature (State Senator, District 6). An Interim Treasurer is in place. For this reporting period, the WCDA set monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month at 1:00pm at Sunrise County Economic Council.

The Authority can have up to 13 voting members. At this point, there are 9 Trustees. We had invited additional members to join the Board, but the nominees were tabled until the new gubernatorial administration is in place.

Operations and Activities

The WCDA Trustees scheduled eleven (11) regular meetings from October 2017 to September 2018. Major items of discussion during the course of the report period included the following subjects:

The Washington County Development Authority continues to contract with Sunrise County Economic Council to provide administrative services.

The Authority continues to use support from the Washington County Council of Governments Brownfields Program to evaluate the structures hazardous materials and degradation to the buildings under previous ownership. On behalf of the Authority, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has submitted an application for clean-up funds for work on the Recreation Building.

The Authority has leased the remodeled garage to a local mechanic, and it has also leased space in one of the buildings to an aquaculture farmer who is cultivating oysters. It has improved lighting, installed heating, and has re-sided parts of the warehouse. LED lighting has been installed around buildings, roadways and parking lots.

The Authority is communicating with a private party interested in opening an outdoor hockey rink and renovating the Recreation Building. The success of this project will, in part, be impacted by the success of receiving remedial assistance from the US Navy, who left the building in 2002. Subsequent studies have revealed the presence of PCBs in areas of the facility. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has communicated with the Department of Defense regarding this Navy responsibility. No word has been received to date.

Receipts and Expenditures

See attached Financial Statement

Property Transactions:

The WCDA obtained no new property this year.

Proposed and Projected Activities

The Authority intends to continue its work to redevelop the former Cutler Navy Base despite the lack of available resources. The Authority receives no direct funding from the State or Federal Government. Sunrise County Economic Council and Washington County Government have provided what staff support they can but the Authority's Trustees are handling much of the day to day management of the property as volunteers. The Authority's sole source of income is rent, which has been entirely used for the maintenance and repair of the property. In short, the redevelopment effort is hobbled by the lack of resources.

With continued support from the Washington County Council of Governments' Brownfield Program, the Authority plans to attempt to raise funds to pay for needed clean up and renovation to some of its property.

The Authority is seeking new tenants to fill vacant commercial space in the base and continues to look for funding to repair former structures.

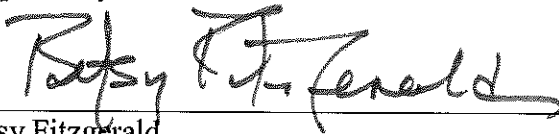
Recommendations

1. The Authority has no requests or recommendations from the Legislature at this time.

Attachments:

- ❖ Financial reports: WCDA Annual Income Statement

Respectfully submitted:



Betsy Fitzgerald
Chair

WASHINGTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Financial Report								
09/30/18								
Marianne Moore – Treasurer								
Account No.	Description	Transaction Date	Debits	Credits	Balance	Date of Balance	Interest Rate	Maturation Date
8011575930	Non-Profit Organization Checking Account				\$95,025.73	08/31/18	n/a	n/a
	Check #405 (Quoddy Tides)	08/30/18	\$87.50					
	Check #406 (Machias Valley Observer)	09/04/18	\$216.00					
	Check #407 (Jill C. Holmes)	09/04/18	\$225.00					
	Check #408 (SCEC)	09/09/18	\$112.55					
	Check #409 (EMERA)	09/13/18	\$82.46					
					94302.22	09/28/18		
12001268	91-Day Certificate Passbook Account				\$0.00	Transferred	0.35%	04/12/11
	(NOTE: CD was closed out and funds transferred to Money Fund Account)							
8012412920	Money Fund Business Account				\$0.00	Transferred	0.05%	08/28/15
	(NOTE: Account was closed out and funds transferred to Checking Account)							
	Total				\$94,302.22			