

## 2015 Proposed Waldo County Budget Comparable to 2011 Budget

The Waldo County Commissioners have announced that they have submitted the proposed 2015 Waldo County Budget to the Budget Committee for review. The Commissioners are particularly pleased that the proposed budget is \$175,204.00 less than the 2014 budget. They also would like to mention that this budget is 3.39% less than the 2014 budget and every town in the county should see a reduction in their tax commitment due to the County. The County's portion of the 2015 proposed budget is \$4,986,634.00. The last time the County budget was under \$5,000,000.00 was way back in 2011.

This budget doesn't include any funds for reserve accounts, which are adequate at this point. In this period of ever-increasing costs, the Commissioners are very diligent in their quest for careful fiscal management. The Commissioners realize that they are able to take care of these monetary matters by having responsible and efficient department heads that are all on the same team.

The Commissioners are particularly happy to report that the health insurance costs for 2015 are down \$80,000.00 from the 2014 budget. This an important issue because health insurance costs are escalating at a very rapid rate across the country. Commissioner Betty Johnson, who sits on the Waldo County Wellness Committee, has consistently pushed to reduce costs over the last four years.

Commissioner Amy Fowler continues to serve on the Board of Corrections Committee and has to keep up with the ever-changing challenges of keeping the state-wide penal system operating with the many chaotic events taking place.

The Waldo County Garden, which Commissioner Shorey has worked hard on, has been a huge success again this year, supplying thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to soup kitchens and food pantries across the county. This, too, provides a cost-saving service to County citizens.

The three County Commissioners are extremely pleased with the strong financial condition that the County has remained in for the last four years and look forward to meeting the challenges of operating a lean and financially sound system as we go forward.

The Budget Committee received their copies of the proposed budget last week. Historically the Budget Committee has not increased the budget that is presented to them. The first Budget Committee meeting will be on October 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Maine District Courtroom, 103 Church Street in Belfast. To follow the 2015 County Budget process, please visit the County's website at [www.waldocountyme.gov](http://www.waldocountyme.gov) or contact the Waldo County Clerk at 338-3282.



Waldo County Commissioners (left to right):

Amy R. Fowler – District 3, William D. Shorey – District 2 and Betty I. Johnson – District 1 completing the 2015 Waldo County Budget during their September 11, 2014 court session.