

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015 -
4:30 P.M. – REGISTRY OF DEEDS OFFICE – CONFERENCE ROOM (FIRST FLOOR) –
FORT KENT**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner (participated by teleconference)
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Darrell Crandall, Sheriff
Shawn Gillen, Chief Deputy
Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director
Erik Stumpf, Attorney, Rudman Winchell
Noreen Norton, Economic Development Consultant, Rudman Winchell
Jonathan Pottle, Attorney, EDP Renewables
John "JT" Taylor, Tax Manager, EDP Renewables
Erin Bowser, Director Project Management, EDP Renewables

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 4:24 p.m.

ART. 2. Approval of agenda.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the agenda.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 3. Executive session to discuss an Economic Development Initiative with EDP Renewables.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to go into executive session.

MOTION:

The following motion was made by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams:

"I move we go into executive session pursuant to Title 1, M.R.S.A., §405, sub-section 6, paragraph (C) to discuss an Economic Development Initiative with EDP Renewables."

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, the following motion was made:

Moved by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to approve the Resolution between the Aroostook County Commissioners and Number Nine Wind Farm LLC, as read. (Attachment I)

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Noreen Norton, Economic Development Consultant, Rudman Winchell, provided an overview of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) requirements and reviewed two (2) handouts (Attachment II and III), which are appended to the minutes. At the appropriate time, Ms. Norton will contact the County Administrator and Public Works Director to discuss proposed TIF projects within the district.

ART. 4. Public Comment Period.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Paul J. Underwood recused himself from the executive session because of a potential conflict of interest and joined the meeting by teleconference at this point in time.

ART. 5. Approval of minutes of the January 6, 2015 County Commissioners' Organizational Meeting.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 County Commissioners' Organizational Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 County Commissioners' Organizational Meeting.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6 The County Commissioners approved and signed the following:

- A) Attendance Record.
- B) Bills and Warrants.
- C) Tax Abatement Decision.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the tax abatement decision regarding Donovan vs. City of Caribou.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7 Executive session to discuss a Collective Bargaining Issue regarding New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA).

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to go into executive session.

The following motion was made by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood:

“I move we go into executive session pursuant to Title 1, M.R.S.A., §405, sub-section 6, paragraph (D) to discuss a proposed staffing change which may have an impact on New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA).”

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, the following motion was made:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the reorganization of command staff within the Sheriff's Office as articulated in the January 14, 2015 memorandum to the County Administrator from Sheriff Crandall.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Approval to hire two (2) sergeants to fill open positions.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the promotions of Deputy Sheriffs Erica Pelletier and Matthew Cummings to the rank of sergeant.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the promotions of Deputy Sheriffs Erica Pelletier and Matthew Cummings to the rank of sergeant as recommended by Sheriff Crandall.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Approval to hire full-time deputy sheriff.

Sheriff Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Reid Clark of Easton as full-time deputy sheriff.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Reid Clark of Easton as full-time deputy sheriff.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Approval to hire full-time clerk for Registry of Deeds, South.

On behalf of Tyler Clark, Register of Deeds, South, County Administrator Doug Beaulieu recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Susan McAfee of Houlton as full-time clerk for the Registry of Deeds in Houlton.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Susan McAfee of Houlton as full-time clerk for the Registry of Deeds in Houlton.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Approval of parking lot project request for Caribou Courthouse.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu and Facilities Manager Bryan Jandreau provided an overview of a request from the State of Maine Judicial Branch to construct two (2) parking spaces to be used exclusively for the judges. The court has agreed to provide the necessary funding for this project. Both the County Administrator and Facilities Manager recommend the approval of this project.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the request from the State of Maine Judicial Branch to construct two (2) parking spaces as recommended by the County Administrator and Facilities Manager.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Approval to hire full-time custodian for the Houlton Building Complex.

Facilities Manager Bryan Jandreau recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Joan McAfee of Houlton as full-time custodian for the Houlton Building Complex.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the hiring of Joan McAfee of Houlton as full-time custodian for the Houlton Building Complex.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. County Administrator's Report:

A) MCCA/Risk Pool Meeting update.

Risk Pool Meeting – Commissioner Fournier reported that the renewal for insurance was \$100,000 less than anticipated; 82% of loss funds are in reserves; another overview of Knox County case was provided; and, all counties have received the Marchesi training, except for York County.

MCCA Meeting – Commissioner Fournier advised that \$5,600.00 was cut from the MCCA budget. Because of this reduction, there will be no increase in dues for 2015. The MCCA approved the same slate of officers as 2014. There was extensive discussion regarding county jails. Commissioner Underwood is being nominated to serve on the Board of Corrections (BOC). At this point, the MCCA has not formulated a plan for the future of the county jails. Also, legislation increasing county borrowing limits is being advanced by MCCA, as is a bill encouraging regionalization of services.

B) North Lakes Fire Department Grant Application.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu advised that North Lakes Fire Department received \$1,728.03 in matching grant funds through Maine Forest Service for fire equipment.

C) Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust (MMEHT) Health Claims Experience report.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu reported that the loss ratio for the first three (3) quarters of the 2014 calendar year was 61%, which is excellent.

D) Discussion regarding Jail Funding.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu indicated that the Governor is recommending nearly \$24.7 million for the FY 16/17 biennial budget for Board of Corrections (BOC), which is down 4.69% from FY 14/15.

County of Aroostook

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DOUGLAS F. BEAULIEU



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PAUL J. ADAMS
HOULTON

NORMAN L. FOURNIER
WALLAGRASS

PAUL J. UNDERWOOD
PRESQUE ISLE

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RESOLUTION


BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commissioners of Aroostook County, that:

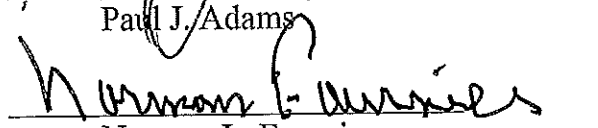
(1) Aroostook County agrees to accept funds from Number Nine Wind Farm LLC in an amount not less than \$4,000 per turbine per year consistent with 35-A M.R.S. § 3454; and

(2) While Aroostook County is still negotiating the details of a Community Benefit Agreement with Number Nine Wind Farm LLC, Aroostook County is committed to accepting the tangible benefit funds from Number Nine Wind Farm LLC for the proposed wind energy project.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2015, in Fort Kent, Maine.

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Paul J. Adams


Norman L. Fournier

(Note: Commissioner Paul J. Underwood has abstained from voting on this Resolution)

Project Description	Statutory Citation	Cost Estimate
INVESTMENTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT		
<p>1. Capital Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital costs for road and water system improvements and recreational access infrastructure construction and/or improvements and maintenance thereof to support recreational use and economic development in key recreational areas by improving access to trails and waterways; including, but not limited to, bridges and dams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>See Exhibit A for a list of roads</i> 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1)(A)(1), (1)(A)(1)(a)(ii) and (ii), (1)(b), (c) and (d)</p>	<p>\$ 5,000,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>2. Capital Costs, Property Assembly Costs and Professional Service Costs Related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition and/or Construction of a Visitors' and Training Center. Also to be used for tourist related events, workshops and training. Rent will be charged for use of space not related to this Development Program or if used by not-for-profit entities from outside of the UT. • Acquisition including but not limited to roads or easements over roads that provide access to recreational areas and trails. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1) (A)(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) (1)(A)(3) (1)(A)(4)</p>	<p>\$2,500,000</p>
<p>3. Professional, Administrative and Organizational Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional service costs including, but not limited to licensing, architectural, planning, engineering, consulting and legal expenses. • Reasonable charges for time spent by County officials and employees in connection with the implementation of the development program—includes reasonable pro-ration of salaries directly related to district implementation. • Organizational costs associated with the establishment and any amendment of the TIF district. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225(1)(A) (4) (1) (A) (5) (1) (A) (7)</p>	<p>\$ 500,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>

Project Description	Statutory Citation	Cost Estimate
INVESTMENTS MADE NECESSARY BY THE DISTRICT		
<p>4. Public Safety Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital costs to enhance County emergency radio communications and cell service to support the District. Investment may need to be outside of the UT. If investments benefit areas outside the UT, costs paid with TIF revenues will be pro-rated. • Public safety services made necessary by anticipated development within the County UT Tract. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225(1)(B)(2)</p>	<p>\$ 500,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>5. Adverse Impact Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of funding to mitigate adverse impact of the district, if any; may include, but is not limited to, noise barriers, wildlife habitat or environmental impacts of either the Project or anticipated development within the County UT Tract. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1) (B) (3)</p>	<p>\$ 300,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>

Project Description	Statutory Citation	Cost Estimate
INVESTMENTS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
<p>6. Costs of funding economic development programs, events and marketing of the UT as a business location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such funding will be limited to costs related to the UT. In the case of county-wide expenditures costs will be limited to an UT pro-rated share of expenditure. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1)(C)(1)</p>	<p>\$ 500,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>7. Economic Development Program Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dues to organizations that provide economic development support to the UT, such as the Somerset Economic Development Corporation and the Council of Governments. Such funding will be limited to costs related to the UT and may include additional economic development services and contracts. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1)(C)(1)</p>	<p>\$ 100,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>8. Costs related to Environmental Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milfoil and/or other invasive species mitigation to protect water quality of recreational waterways. Mitigation and remediation of septic waste or other contaminants affecting water quality of recreational waterways. Erosion control as appropriate to protect integrity of recreational waterways and other recreational trails. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1)(C)(2)</p>	<p>\$ 500,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>9. Costs related to Funding Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and capitalization of a permanent revolving loan program and/or investment funds and/or grants to support commercial activities. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1) (C) (3)</p>	<p>\$ 1,000,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>10. Costs related to Education and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support education and training funds through a scholarship program for UT residents to attend Maine institutions of higher learning or to online learning entities when in-state options are not available. Provide skills development training programs for hospitality or other industry for jobs created or retained within the UT. Expand Rural Broadband Access to UT residents to improve access to training and educational opportunities 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1)(C)(4)</p>	<p>\$ 1,000,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>

Project Description	Statutory Citation	Cost Estimate
<p>11. Costs related to Recreational Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs related to planning, design, construction, maintenance, grooming and improvements to new or existing recreational trails designed to enhance the tourism visits to recreational areas located within the County's UT, including bridges that are part of the trail corridor, used wholly or in part for snowmobiling, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or other related uses. The UT portions of the County are a tourist destination for outdoor activities that center around the quality and accessibility of the recreational trail systems in the County. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1)(C)(6)</p>	<p>\$ 2,000,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>12. Costs related to Transit Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital and Annual Costs to provide transit services to UT residents, by adding bus or other transportation service, signage and shelters. 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 (1)(C)(7A)</p>	<p>\$ 500,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
<p>13. TIF revenues to be used as match for applicable State and Federal Economic Development Grant Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be used for purposes identified as authorized project costs in 30-A M.R.S.A. § 5225 	<p>30-A M.R.S.A. § 5230</p>	<p>\$ 500,000 (over 30 yrs)</p>
	<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>\$ 14,900,000</p>

AUTHORIZED COSTS IN TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS

MRS TITLE 30-A, CH. 206 §5225	PROPOSED MUNICIPAL ACTIVITY?	PROPOSED BUDGET
COSTS OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE WITHIN THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT		
1. <u>Capital costs</u> , such as a. the acquisition or construction of land, improvements, public ways, buildings, structures, fixtures and equipment, arts district, new or existing recreational trail, commercial or transit-oriented development district; b. Demolition, alteration, remodeling, repair or re-construction of existing buildings, structures and fixtures; c. Site preparation and finishing work; d. All fees and expenses that are eligible to be included in the capital cost of such improvements;		
2. <u>Financing costs</u> , such as closing costs, interest paid, and premiums for early redemption;		
3. <u>Real property assembly costs</u> ;		
4. <u>Professional services costs</u> ; including licensing, architectural, planning, engineering, legal;		
5. <u>Administrative costs</u> (including reasonable time spent by municipal employees to implement the TIF program);		
6. <u>Relocation costs</u> ; including relocation payments made following condemnation;		
7. <u>Organizational costs</u> relating to the establishment of the district;		
8. <u>Ongoing costs</u> in a transit-oriented district for new portion of the system and limited to operator salaries and fuel and vehicle parts replacements.		

COSTS OF IMPROVEMENTS MADE OUTSIDE DISTRICT BUT DIRECTLY RELATED TO OR MADE NECESSARY BY THE DISTRICT

<p>1. Portion of the costs related to construction, alteration or expansion of <u>any facilities not located in the district that are required due to improvements or activities within the district</u>, such as public infrastructure improvements;</p>		
<p>2. Costs of <u>public safety improvements</u> made necessary by the district;</p>		
<p>3. Costs of funding to <u>mitigate any adverse impact of the district</u> on the municipality and its constituents. This funding may be may be used for public facilities and improvements if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The public facilities are located in a downtown TIF district and b. The entire tax increment of the downtown district is committed to that district. 		
<p><u>This space left blank intentionally</u></p>		

COSTS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE OR MARINE RESOURCES PROJECTS, RECREATIONAL TRAILS OR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY

1. <u>Economic development programs or events</u> developed by the municipality, or the <u>marketing of the municipality</u> as a business location;		
2. <u>Environmental improvement projects</u> developed by the municipality for commercial or for arts district use or related to such activities;		
3. Establishment of <u>permanent economic development revolving loan funds, investment funds and grants</u> ;		
4. <u>Skills development and training services</u> for residents of the municipality;		
5. <u>Quality child care services</u> , including financing costs and construction, staffing, training, certification and accreditation costs related to child care;		
6. <u>New or existing recreational trails</u> determined by DECD to have significant potential to promote economic development.		
7. <u>New or expanded transit service, limited to:</u> a. Capital costs including vehicles conveyances and related equipment, related structures, benches signs, b. Ongoing costs of adding to or creating a new transit service (limited to transit operator salaries, vehicle fuel and parts replacements;		
8. <u>Development of fisheries or marine resources projects</u>		
9. <u>TIF revenues to be used as match for applicable State and Federal Economic Development Grant Programs</u>		