

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015 - 5:30 P.M. - SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - HOULTON

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Shawn Gillen, Chief Deputy
Tyler Clark, Register of Deeds, South

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ART. 2. Public Comment Period.

There was no public comment.

ART. 3. Approval of agenda.

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2015 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. The Commissioners approved and signed the following:

A) Attendance Record.

B) Bills and Warrants.

C) Tax Abatement Decision.

MOTION:

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

“I move to grant an abatement request pursuant to Title 36, MRSA, Section 841(2) in the sum of \$3,200.00 on a 2014 tax bill, which should be credited to Champion Mortgage Company”.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Contracts:

- A) Three (3) year (7/1/2015 - 6/30/2018) Snow Removal Contract for Connor Township with the City of Caribou.
- B) Three (3) year (7/1/2015 - 6/30/2018) Fire Protection Agreement for T10R6, T8R5, T9R5, and T8R4 with the Town of Masardis.
- C) Five (5) year (7/1/2015 - 6/30/2020) Solid Waste Agreement for E-Plantation with Pine Tree Waste Services.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve all three (3) contracts as recommended by Public Works Director Paul Bernier, and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreements.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Recommissioning of two (2) full-time deputy sheriffs and one (1) part-time deputy sheriff.

Chief Deputy Shawn Gillen, on behalf of Sheriff Darrell Crandall, recommended that the County Commissioners approve the recommissioning of Captain Craig Clossey and Sergeant Craig Holder as full-time deputy sheriffs and Kenna Prue as part-time deputy sheriff.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the recommissioning of Captain Craig Clossey and Sergeant Craig Holder as full-time deputy sheriffs and Kenna Prue as part-time deputy sheriff.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Approval to appoint Erin LaBonte as deputy register for the Registry of Deeds North.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu, on behalf of Register of Deeds Louise Caron, indicated that he was delighted to recommend that the County Commissioners approve the appointment of Erin LaBonte as deputy

register effective June 1, 2015. Ms. LaBonte will replace long-time employee Donna Madore who retires after 42 years of dedicated service to the County of Aroostook at the end of May.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the appointment of Erin LaBonte as Deputy Register of Deeds (North).

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 9. Approval for Registry of Deeds South to become an authorized passport acceptance facility to issue and renew United States Passports. (Tyler Clark)

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu indicated that he supported this agenda item and praised Tyler Clark for demonstrating such initiative in looking for ways to make county government more viable to the public we serve.

Register of Deeds (South) Tyler Clark reviewed his request to pursue the application process in order to issue and renew U.S. passports in his registry. He briefly reviewed the documents which were included in the County Commissioners' packets and answered their questions.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to allow the Register of Deeds (South) to apply to become an authorized passport acceptance facility to issue and renew United States Passports.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 10. Budget Review:

A) YTD FY 15 County Budget.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu reviewed this budget with the County Commissioners noting that revenues and expenditures were what is normally expected at this point and time in the year. The only caveat relates to Registry of Deeds revenues, which seems to be lagging behind at this time. However, the bigger revenue months are ahead of us, and we expect we will close the revenue gap by year end.

B) YTD FY 15 Unorganized Territory Budget.

Revenues and expenditures for this budget meet or exceed expectations. There were no noted deficiencies.

C) YTD FY 15 Jail Budget.

Jail Budget spending is consistent with the agreement the county has with the former Board of Corrections (BOC). A brief review of our supplemental budget request was reviewed with the County Commissioners. We are hopeful that the Administration will release \$782,000.00 to the County to fund the deficit. To date, we have received a financial commitment from the Administration of \$258,000.00, which is approximately one-third of our anticipated year-end need.

ART. 11. County Administrator's Report.

A) LD 186 Update.

This legislation is a product of a divided committee report. The majority report would provide \$14.6 M to the county jails in FY 16 and beyond. The minority report would reestablish the BOC with a new membership dynamic.

B) MCCA/Risk Pool Update.

MCCA Meeting – Commissioner Fournier indicated that several motions were made regarding the county jail situation. Ultimately, on a vote of 12-3, MCCA decided to support the Ricky Long/Democratic amendment, with the addition of \$17.2M annual funding and removal of language referencing the Flannigan Report.

In 2016, Penobscot County will host the MCCA Convention at a new hotel near the Cross Center; also, Senator Thibodeau has introduced a place holder bill in the event that LD 186 fails enactment.

Risk Pool Meeting – Commissioner Fournier advised that most of the meeting was spent reviewing the audit report.

C) LD 967 Municipal Cost Components Legislation.

This legislation received a unanimous OTP as amended report from the Taxation Committee. The amendment relates to a fiscal note that is required to implement the legislation.

D) 2015 CDBG Micro-Enterprise Assistance Grant Program Application.

\$125,000.00 was set aside by the Department of Economic and Community Development (CDBG) for this grant project in the Unorganized Territory. Public Works Director Paul Bernier deserves kudos for his initiative and success in this grant application. Mr. Bernier is a competent grant writer.

E) Other Items of Interest.

1) WIA Update.

Commissioner Norman L. Fournier indicated that the State of Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) and the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) are essentially at a stalemate on the financial monitoring of the program. MDOL wants the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO) to appoint a new fiscal agent. The CLEOs are waiting for a final audit report. This issue is unresolved.

ART. 12. Other Business.

A) Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) Update.

Commissioner Paul J. Underwood provided a brief overview of LUPC issues relating to wind energy, mining and subdivision rules. Also, LUPC staff is continuing to review the Irving Concept Plan.

ART. 13. Executive Session.

There were no items to discuss in executive session.

ART. 14. Adjournment.

MOTION:

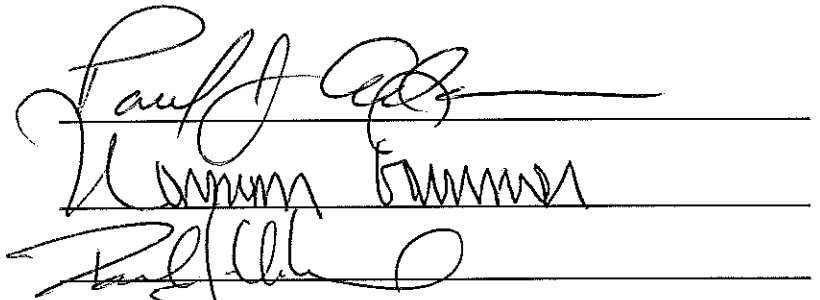
Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: May 20, 2015