

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016 - 4:30 P.M. -
CARIBOU COURTHOUSE, ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM - CARIBOU**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner (by teleconference)
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Darrell Crandall, Sheriff
Shawn Gillen, Chief Deputy
Darren Woods, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director
Todd Collins, District Attorney
Darleen Guy, Register of Probate

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 4:32 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 January 5, 2016 County Commissioners' Organizational Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2016 County Commissioners' Organizational 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 Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier.

“I move to grant a partial abatement pursuant to Title 36, M.R.S.A., §841(2) in the sum of \$357.74 for tax year 2015.”

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- D) Approval of Teamsters’ Local Union No. 340 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the Teamsters’ Local Union No. 340 Collective Bargaining Agreement from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Overview of Restitution Account. (Todd Collins, District Attorney)

District Attorney Todd Collins was introduced and provided an overview of the Restitution account. The statutory responsibility of this account was transferred from the Court System to the District Attorney’s Office in the mid 1990s. Mr. Collins explained how the account has collected more than it has paid out over the years. This is a product of the victims’ whereabouts unknown. Mr. Collins also answered various questions by the County Commissioners. The Restitution account is under the final authority of the District Attorney. The financial liability of the account, however, is less clear. Mr. Collins suggested a reconciliation of the account to help overcome audit findings and to make determinations regarding transferring funds to unclaimed property. That cost is estimated at \$1,600.00. Mr. Collins was thanked by the County Commissioners and staff for his presentation.

At this time, the County Commissioners moved to Article 9.

ART. 9. Approval of one (1) full-time victim witness advocate.

District Attorney Todd Collins recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Amy Jandreau of Presque Isle as full-time victim witness advocate for the District Attorney’s Office.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the hiring of Amy Jandreau of Presque Isle as full-time victim witness advocate.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Contracts:

- A) One (1) year (1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016) Ambulance Service Contract for the Unorganized Townships of Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T1R4, T2R4, T3R4 and T1R5 with the Town of Patten.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the one (1) year (1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016) Ambulance Service Contract for the Unorganized Townships of Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T1R4, T2R4, T3R4 and T1R5 with the Town of Patten and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- B) Three (3) year (1/1/2016 - 12/31/2018) Fire Protection Agreement for T17R3 (Van Buren Cove) with the Town of Van Buren.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the three (3) year (1/1/2016 - 12/31/2018) Fire Protection Agreement for T17R3 (Van Buren Cove) with the Town of Van Buren and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Approval of one (1) part-time probate clerk.

Probate Register Darleen Guy recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Donna M. Rockwell of New Limerick as part-time probate clerk.

Commissioner Paul Underwood indicated that he would be voting against the pending motion. He indicated it was absolutely no reflection on the integrity of the candidate. He indicated he did not believe this appointment would fix a structural problem in the office. Commissioner Norman Fournier said his motion was predicated on the supposition that the appointment would eliminate backlog complaints the commissioners have received regarding the Probate Office. He also indicated that he expected quarterly progress reports. After a subsequent discussion, it was determined that the quarterly reports would be provided in writing (in advance of scheduled meetings) to the County Administrator and they would be presented by the Register of Probate at future County Commissioners' Meetings.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to approve the hiring of Donna M. Rockwell of New Limerick as part-time probate clerk.

VOTE:

Motion voted two (2) in favor and one (1) opposed.

ART. 10. Recommissioning of one (1) full-time and three (3) part-time deputy sheriffs.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the recommissioning of Dan Robertson as full-time deputy sheriff and Carroll Theriault of Madawaska, Stacey Mahan of Limestone and Michael Bresett of Van Buren as part-time deputy sheriffs.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the recommissioning of Dan Robertson as full-time deputy sheriff and Carroll Theriault of Madawaska, Stacey Mahan of Limestone and Michael Bresett of Van Buren as part-time deputy sheriffs.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Approval of three (3) paid-call volunteer firefighters for North Lakes Fire & Rescue Department.

Fire Chief Darren Woods recommended the approval of Steve Babin of Caribou, Kaleb Boulet of Greene and Andrew Muller of Fort Kent as paid-call volunteer firefighters.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the hiring of Steve Babin of Caribou, Kaleb Boulet of Greene and Andrew Muller of Fort Kent as paid-call volunteer firefighters.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. County Emergency Operations Continuity of Government Annex Plan. (Darren Woods, EMA Director)

EMA Director Darren Woods provided a quick overview of the Continuity of Government Annex Plan and recommended that the County Commissioners approve this plan as presented.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the Continuity of Government Annex Plan, with an amendment to reflect that County Commissioners are elected by registered voters from their district.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. County Administrator's Report:

A) MCCA/RISK Pool Meeting Update.

Risk Pool Meeting – Commissioner Norman L. Fournier reported that the Risk Pool officers were elected and are the same as last year; \$20,000.00 was saved in the cost of reinsurance, which will be applied to

reserves; no pending Risk Pool claims are from Aroostook; and, training by Attorney Peter Marchesi will be provided for subpoenas and provision of proper notice.

MCCA Meeting – Commissioner Norman L. Fournier advised that Commissioner Baldacci was appointed President, Commissioner Coward Vice President, Commissioner Cote Secretary/Treasurer; the MCCA Budget increased by 2.3%, with no increase in membership dues; and, the new, proposed by-law changes were adopted by an overwhelming vote.

B) Town of Ashland Ambulance Purchase Plan.

Public Works Director Paul Bernier explained the Town of Ashland Ambulance Purchase Plan. The County Commissioners are firmly behind the concept of paying our share of the new ambulance acquisition up front, to avoid finance charges.

C) Other items of interest.

Commissioner Paul J. Underwood provided an update on the most recent Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) Meeting he attended. Executive Director Jason Parent is doing a lot of community outreach. He is exploring a feasibility study for low income housing in the Presque Isle/Caribou region. He is also exploring the feasibility of having his agency administer the TANF Program.

ART. 14. Other Business.

None.

ART. 15. Executive Session.

None.

ART. 16. Adjournment.

MOTION:


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

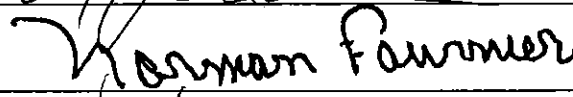
Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

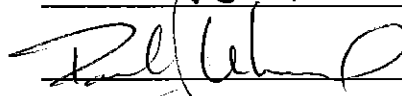
ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator







AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: February 3, 2016