

**Minutes of the Aroostook County Finance Meeting Held October 29, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the  
Administrative Conference Room, Caribou Courthouse, Caribou, ME**

**Present:**

**Finance Committee Members**

Ryan Bushey, Chair

Sue Powers, Vice Chair

Richard Fortier, Secretary

Donald Savage

Nelson Jandreau

Michelle Raymond

Kai Libby, via Zoom

Michael Greenlaw, via Zoom

**Commissioners**

Paul Adams, Chair

Norman Fournier

Paul Underwood

**Staff**

Ryan Pelletier, County Administrator

Dana Gendreau, Finance Director

Christina Theriault, Human Resources Director

Paul Bernier, Community Services Director

Darren Woods, EMA Director

**Public**

John Rasmussen, Selectman Town of Perham

**Article 1: Call to Order**

Chair Bushey called the meeting to order at 10 am and established a quorum. He welcomed all to the meeting and asked each person to introduce themselves. He also welcomed new committee members Michelle Raymond, Michael Greenlaw and Kai Libby.

**Article 2: Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bushey asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 14, 2021. A motion was made by Nelson Jandreau and seconded by Sue Powers to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

Mr. Bushey asked for consensus to allow for a public comment. No one objected.

Mr. Bushey asked for consensus to take Article 6 out of order and allow the Unorganized Territory budget to be deliberated before Article 4. No one objected.

Mr. Bushey introduced Mr. John Rasmussen, a selectman in the Town of Perham who provided public comments (attached as part of these minutes). Mr. Bushey thanked Mr. Rasmussen for his public comments.

### **Article 3: Overview of County Budgets**

Mr. Bushey introduced Mr. Pelletier. Mr. Pelletier provided a brief overview of each of the proposed budgets highlighting significant changes or increases and decreases in each budget. (A copy of Mr. Pelletier's overview is attached as part of these minutes).

### **Article 4: Deliberation of the 2022 County General Fund Budget**

Mr. Bushey opened the floor to any finance committee member who had questions or wanted information about any of the proposed department budgets in the General Fund. Mr. Fortier asked about the price of heating fuel and if the county contracted its heating fuel. Mr. Pelletier explained that the County does contract heating fuel using the "rack plus price" model and does not secure a "fixed price" contract. Sue Powers asked about the amounts requested versus recommended in the state, municipal programs. Mr. Pelletier explained the history of those requests and the past decisions that have been made in regards to the amounts recommended being capped at previous year levels. A motion was made by Michelle Raymond and seconded by Sue Powers to approve the general fund budget for public hearing as presented. All were in favor.

### **Article 5: Deliberation of Capital Budget**

Mr. Pelletier explained some of the proposed capital budgets highlighting the GIS Mapping program in the EMA budget as being a one-time expense for this year to finish that project with the local municipal governments. Mr. Pelletier also discussed the law enforcement capital line and the difficulty in securing police vehicles at the present time. Mr. Bushey asked about the RMS Software capital line and Mr. Pelletier explained that the funds for that have been approved over a period of three years to be in position to make the first of a 6 year lease payment beginning in 2022. A motion was made by Donald Savage and seconded by Nelson Jandreau to approve the capital budget for public hearing as presented. All were in favor.

### **Article 6: Deliberation of the Unorganized Territory Budget**

Mr. Bernier explained the various increases in the Unorganized Territory budget signifying that the major increases are all tied to contractual increase for ambulance service and snow removal contracts. He explained that some contracts are multi year while some are only one year because of some towns only willing to offer year to year contracts. A motion was made by Nelson Jandreau and seconded by Sue Powers to approve the Unorganized Territory Budget for public hearing as presented.

### **Article 7: Deliberation of the Jail Budget**

Mr. Pelletier explained the proposed changes in the jail budget as well as the statutory cap on the tax assessment for the jail budget. The budget proposes the utilization of jail reserve funds as well as a significant appropriation from the general fund undesignated fund balance to maintain jail operations at current levels. A motion was made by Richard Fortier and seconded by Donald Savage to approve the Jail Budget for public hearing as presented.


**Article 8: Other Business**

Mr. Bushey asked if there was any other business to be heard before the Finance Committee.. There was none.

**Article 9: Adjournment**

A motion was made by Nelson Jandreau and seconded by Michelle Raymond to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Richard Fortier, Secretary

