

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022 –1:00 PM
REGISTRY OF DEEDS FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – FORT KENT

Present:

Paul J. Adams, Chair, County Commissioners via Zoom
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Darren Woods, Director EMA
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator
Craig Clossey, Jail Administrator
Leigh Smith, Treasurer
Leo Trudel, LUPC Board Member via Zoom
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant

ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ART. 2. No public comment.

ART. 3. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested the Jail Biennial Inspection be added to ART. 22 Other Business.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the agenda.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. Commissioner Paul Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the November 15, 2022 County Commissioners' meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022 County Commissioners' meeting.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

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

- A) Attendance record.
- B) Bills and warrants.

ART. 6. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented Michael San Antonio for consideration for appointment as a Sinclair Sanitary District Trustee.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the appointment.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Mr. Leo Trudel presented updates from the LUPC. Building permits are on trend for 2016-2019 numbers; there is a need for additional enforcement staff; several controversial large scale development projects involving ski resorts; need for additional definitions regarding solar generating facility classification; mineral mining has had no complaints during 5 year exploration phase; cannabis remains controversial in UT areas; LUPC has been instructing Commissioners on environmental impact models related to Global Warming.

No motion necessary.

ART. 8. Mr. Paul Bernier presented the Central Aroostook Ambulance contract for 2023 for E Plantation, TDR2, T9R3, T9R3, T9R4, T8R3, T10R3. Rates have increased in line with other increases for Ambulance services in other areas. Contract was signed by Administrator Ryan Pelletier as the contract period begins January 1, 2023 and there are currently no other options to provide services to those areas.

MOTION:

Motion to ratify the agreement by Paul Adams and seconded by Norman Fournier.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Darren Woods presented updates on the Homeland Security Strategy. Maine's priority areas include Cybersecurity, Addressing Emerging Threats, Combatting Violent Extremism, Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places, Enhancing Information and Intelligences Sharing and Analysis, Enhancing Border Protection, and Enhancing Interoperable Communications.

EMA is losing their Regional Response Team as of January 1, 2023 in the Madawaska area. EMA is diligently working on a solution to fill this need.

No motion was necessary.

ART. 10. Mr. Steve Pelletier presented the 2023 ARPA Program Summary Statement. Estimated budget for 2023 remains largely the same as 2022. Letter of Intent and Application deadlines will be February 17 and April 28, 2023, respectively. Broadband no longer has any deadlines. Applications will be accepted until funding has expired. The maximum award has also decreased to \$150,000 or 50% of the project amount, as compared to 2022 where the maximum was \$300,000.

No motion was necessary.

ART. 11. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented the Quarterly Financial report ending September 30, 2022 on behalf of Dana Gendreau.

No motion was necessary.

ART. 12. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented the recommendation of the hiring of Tammy Pelletier for the full-time Operation Assistant position with The County Commissioners' office on behalf of Dana Gendreau.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the hiring.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the final Jail Study Committee members. Southern Aroostook: Janet Bradbury; Kai Libby; Brian Harris; Central Aroostook: Matthew Cummings; Kevin Freeman; Shawn Gillen; Northern Aroostook: Norman Fournier; Carroll Theriault; Donald Guimond.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Adams and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the committee members.

VOTE:

Motions voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Mr. Craig Clossey presented the recommendation to hire Dustin Charette for the full-time Patrol Deputy position and the hiring of Brian Jewell as part-time Civil Service Deputy with the Aroostook County Sheriff's Department.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the hirings.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Mr. Craig Clossey presented the Commission Reappointments of Dpty R. Johnston, CMDR P. Johnson & Sgt E. Cummings, and the new Deputy Commissions for Dpty B. Jewell & Dpty E. Corbin. These were signed by the Commissioners' prior to the meeting being called to order.

MOTION:

Motion to ratify was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the appointments/reappointments.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the scheduling of a date and time for a Tax Abatement Hearing in the matter of Leonard Miragliuolo vs Perham. The Commissioners' Office has received the documentation from Perham, but has not received the required documentation from the applicant as of the date/time of this meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to table the scheduling until all paperwork has been received from the applicant.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration a request from Presque Isle regarding the Total Solar Eclipse in 2024. Kimberly Smith, Executive Director, Presque Isle Community Development Association, has made a request to ensure this is on The County's radar, inquire regarding funding, and to request a representative for their committee.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Adams and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve Paul Underwood as the Commissioner Representative for the Presque Isle Solar Eclipse Committee.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the hiring of Laura Adams as Post Conviction Advocate with the District Attorney's Office in Caribou on behalf of Todd Collins.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the hiring.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the MCCA Representative and Proxy.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Adams and seconded by Paul Underwood for Norman Fournier to be the MCCA Representative and for Paul Underwood to be the Proxy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. Commissioner Underwood presented for consideration the MCCA Risk Pool Representative, Proxy and Primary Point of Contact.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Adams and seconded by Norman Fournier for Norman Fournier to be the MCCA Risk Pool Representative, Paul Underwood to be the Proxy, and Ryan Pelletier to be the Point of Contact.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 21. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier provided an update that Franklin County has rejoined the Risk Pool effective January 1, 2023. All counties are now participants again. Claims are down overall from last year and last month there were only 5 claims. Budget was approved with an increase of 3.8%. Aroostook County had an overall increase of 4.59%.

Legislatively, closely monitoring bills and legislation related to Rural Patrol and reimbursements for those services; Registry of Deeds 500 free copy limit per user and fees; Sherriff Association recommendations; County Corrections Professional Standards Council; EMS Ambulance Services. Commissioner Fournier also reported out that there were 3 Opioid cases that have settled with the state and we are projected to receive \$4.5 million over a 17-year period. Ryan reported that we have already received several hundred thousand in settlement checks, with over \$200k being just received that day.

No motion necessary.

ART. 22. Other business

Mr. Ryan Pelletier read a letter commending the Aroostook County Jail staff on their professionalism and successful biennial inspection. Full Biennial Inspection Survey will be discussed at next meeting. There have been several meetings of the Abandoned Roads Commission as the issues surrounding the responsibility of maintenances/costs fall is increasing as more people move to these areas.

No motion necessary.


ART. 23. Adjournment

A motion was made by Paul Adams and seconded by Norman Fournier to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m. Motion voted and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: January 3, 2023