

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ABATEMENT HEARING – WEDNESDAY JUNE 1, 2022
– 9:00 A.M. CARIBOU COURTHOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM–
CARIBOU

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chair, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Gary M. Picard, Town Manager Madawaska
Lewis Cousins, Assessor's Agent, Town of Madawaska
Sigrid Houellele, Assessor's Assistant, Town of Madawaska

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Adams called the abatement hearing to order at 9:00 a.m.

ART. 2. There was no public comment.

ART. 3. MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. Sobaje V. Town Of Madawaska

Chair Adams made note that the Appellant, Mr. Robert Sobaje was not present and the Commissioners continued to conduct the hearing. Mr. Pelletier performed Oaths of Testimony for those present that would be speaking. Chair Adams indicated that today's hearing would not be recorded and asked if anyone objected. There were no objections.

Mr. Lewis Cousins, Assessor's Agent for the Town of Madawaska presented tax data on the subject property and explained the methodology used by the Town in assessing residential property. Mr. Cousins provided the Commissioners with several comparable properties that were similar in size, age, and condition to the subject property. Mr. Cousins provided statutory references for the Board to review and explained that Maine assessing is different than other places in the Country that may use actual sales data at time of transfer. Maine does not do that.

Mr. Cousins concluded his testimony and the Board deliberated the facts of the case.

Mr. Pelletier will prepare a Draft Decision in the case and present it to the Board at their next regular meeting to take action on the Decision.

ART. 5. Other business

NONE

ART. 6. Adjourn

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m.
Motion voted and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator







AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: July 20, 2022

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2022
– 1:00 P.M. CARIBOU COURTHOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM–
CARIBOU

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chair, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Shawn Gillen, Sheriff
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator
Darren Woods, EMA Director
John Gibson, EMA Deputy Director
Craig Holder, Chief Deputy
Christina Theriault, HR Director
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Jerry Beaulieu, Martin's General Store
Jennie Beaulieu, Martin's General Store
Jon Rasmussen, Selectman, Town of Perham
Melissa Lizotte, Aroostook Republican/Bangor Daily News

A Public Hearing was held at 1:00 pm for a CDBG Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$30,000. The grant application will be filed on behalf of Martin's General Store in Sinclair to replace a gasoline tank and infrastructure to support job creation and provide working capital. The project will create one full time job for a low-to-moderate income individual and the business will match the balance of the project cost.

Commissioner Fournier commented that he totally supported the project and the grant application for the funding to assist the business.

Commissioner Adams felt the project was very worthwhile and that it would help the business and the community of Sinclair.

Jerry Beaulieu, the business owner states that the ability for the store to sell super octane gasoline is very important to the community that relies on the tourism and recreation industry from snowmobiles, boating and all terrain vehicles that need that type of gasoline product to operate.

Commissioner Fournier motioned to approve the CDBG application submission.

Commissioner Underwood seconded the motion.

The Vote was all in favor.

Commissioner Fournier motioned to adjourn the public hearing.

Commissioner Fournier seconded the motion.

The Vote was all in favor and the public hearing adjourned at 1:10 pm.

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Adams called the regular meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

ART. 2. There was no public comment.

ART. 3. **MOTION:**

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. Chair Paul J. Adams entertained a motion for approval of the May 18, 2022 County Commissioners' meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 County Commissioners' meetings.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

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

- A) Attendance record.
- B) Bills and warrants.
- C) Renewal of Liquor License for Homestead Lodge of Oxbow.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier to approve the renewal of a liquor license for Homestead Lodge of Oxbow. The motion was seconded by Paul Underwood.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Mr. Paul Bernier presented the Orders of Winter Road Closures for a period of 10 years to be filed with the Office of the County Clerk.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the Orders of Winter Road Closures as presented for a period of 10 years.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Mr. Bryan Jandreau included a memo regarding the fact that no bids were received for the back up generator and that he was in the process of negotiating with vendors.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to table the bid award.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. To see if the Aroostook County will vote to change its plan for its corrections employees and dispatchers effective July 1, 2022, for future service only.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to the following:

The County of Aroostook agrees to:

- a) Provide Special Plan 4C to its corrections officers and corrections sergeants and dispatchers effective July 1, 2022. Service rendered prior to July 1, 2022 remains under Regular Plan AC.
- b) Continue to provide Special Plan 3C to its law enforcement officers.
- c) Continue to provide Regular Plan AC to all other employees and elected/appointed officials.
- d) Acknowledge that all County employees are eligible to participate except for per diem (on call) only employees who are excluded from membership by MainePERS Rule Chapter 401.
- e) To authorize Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator to sign the Amended Agreement between the County and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Pelletier presented his recommendation to increase the mileage rate reimbursement for non-county owned vehicle usage to 62.5 cents per mile effective July 1, 2022. The rate will be reevaluated in the fall of 2022 when the 2023 rate is published by the Internal Revenue Service.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the County Administrator's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Sheriff Shawn Gillen presented the following individuals for renewals as Commissioned Deputies:

1. William Campbell, Presque Isle, Maine DEA
2. Jamie Pelletier, Madawaska PD, School Resource Officer
3. Daniel Robertson, Woodland, Civil Process Officer
4. Cyr Martin, Eagle Lake, Police Chief of Ashland and Washburn
5. Shanna Morrison, Oakfield, Sergeant in the Aroostook County Jail
6. Ryan Doughty, Ashland, Civil Process Officer

MOTION:

A motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the Sheriff's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Sheriff Gillen presented the names of Sean Montpetit of Masardis and Lauren Swimm of Presque Isle as full time correction officers at the Aroostook County Jail.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the Sheriff's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Mr. Steve Pelletier presented his recommendations for the first round of ARPA grant recipients. Mr. Jon Rasmussen of Perham addressed the Commissioners and thanked them for the ARPA program and commended the County of Aroostook for putting this program together and for Steve's help and guidance throughout the process. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Rasmussen for his words and also Mr. Pelletier for his hard work and dedication to this project.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the ARPA Program Administrator's recommendations.

VOTE:

Motion voted and passed.

ART. 13. Mr. Pelletier presented the Board with a letter from the attorney representing Cassidy Holdings and a letter from the County's legal counsel Peter Marchesi in regards to a request for an abatement hearing on a non residential property greater than \$1 Million.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to decline hearing the abatement request and to notify the appellant and respondents that they may appeal the decision to Superior Court as outlined under Rule 80B.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Mr. Woods presented the name of Matthew Russell of Caribou for the position of EMA Planning and Finance Associate.

MOTION:

Motion made by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the EMA Director's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Mr. Bernier presented his recommendations for snow removal of facilities and roads in the North Lake Region as follows:

Babin's Construction for Options 2B, 2D, 2E, and 2F
Martin's General Store for Options 2A and 2C

MOTION:

A motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the Community Service Director's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Mr. Bernier presented his recommendation for a fire protection contract for TA R5 with the Town of Medway for a 3 year period and reflects a 6% increase per year for the term of the contract.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the Community Service Director's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Bernier presented his recommendation for a fire protection contract for Td R2 and T9 R3 with the Town of Bridgewater for a 3 year period and reflects a 3% increase per year for the term of the contract.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the Community Service Director's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18. Mr. Bernier presented his recommendation for a solid waste contract for TD R2 with the Town of Bridgewater for a 3 year period and reflects a 3% increase per year for the term of the contact.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the Community Service Director's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 19. Ms. Dana Gendreau presented the 1st Quarter Financial Summary of 2022 for the General Fund, Unorganized Territory Fund, ARPA Fund, and the Jail Fund.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the First Quarter Financial Summary as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 20. Mr. Pelletier presented an asset forfeiture in the amount of \$22,210.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the asset forfeiture in the amount of \$22,210 and to authorize Chair Paul Adams to sign approval of transfer.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 21. Mr. Pelletier discussed the possibility of changing the County's fiscal year to coincide with a July/June time frame similar to the State budget, the jail budget and the unorganized territory budget. The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of such an idea and asked the County Administrator to schedule time on the next few agendas to invite town officials to participate in this discussion.

- ART. 22. Mr. Pelletier asked for a change in the salary admin policy to give him greater discretion when warranted to place new hires on a step higher than the policy would normally dictate. This would be reserved for situations where a potential hire is already earning more at a current job than what our salary step would provide.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the following language in the Salary Administration Policy and to revisit this language in June of 2023:

“When extenuating circumstances warrant, the County Administrator is authorized to place new hires on an appropriate pay step based on market conditions.”

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 23. The Board reviewed a draft decision in the matter of Sobaje v. Town of Madawaska.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Adams to approve the Decision as presented in the matter of Sobaje v. Town of Madawaska and deny the abatement application.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed. 2 in favor and 1 abstained (Underwood).

ART. 24. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier presented various issues and information regarding the MCCA Board Meeting and Risk Pool Meetings held earlier this month including potential legislative issues the Board is considering next legislative session. Also, an educational session for Commissioners and employees will be held in September at the Senator Inn in Augusta.

Commissioner Underwood provided information regarding changes in the WIOA Executive Director position and mentioned that Galan Williamson, the new Director will be touring Aroostook County in July and plans to meet individually with each Commissioner and other stakeholders while here in the County.

No motion necessary.

ART. 25. Other business

NONE

ART. 26. Adjourn

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 pm. Motion voted and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



Norman Fournier



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: July 20, 2022