

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – DECEMBER 20, 2023  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM-CARIBOU COURTHOUSE

**Present:**

Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner-Zoom  
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner  
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner  
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator  
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator  
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director  
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director  
Peter Johnson, Sheriff  
Erica Pelletier, Commander  
Joey Seeley, Chief Deputy  
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant  
Darren Woods, EMA Director  
Melissa Lizotte, Bangor Daily News  
Christina Alley, Community member  
Naylea Beltran-Mendoza, Intern, EMA

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

ART. 3. No Public Comment.

ART. 4. **MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the agenda.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Chair Paul Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the November 15, 2023 County Commissioners' meeting minutes.

**MOTION:**

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023 County Commissioners' meeting.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. The County Commissioners approved and signed the following:

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

ART. 7. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration a Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance for all Unorganized Territories in Aroostook County.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance for all Unorganized Territories.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Mr. Steve Pelletier presented for consideration the 2024 ARPA Program Statement Summary. Mr. Pelletier recommended that we not include grants under the new category of Surface Transportation. A Public Hearing will be held on January 10th to inform the communities and organizations of the 2024 ARPA Program.

**Motion:**

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the 2024 ARPA Program Statement Summary, which includes not offering grants in the Surface Transportation category and amending the application deadline to be April 1, 2024.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9 Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the ambulance contract with Southern Aroostook EMS for services in Cary & 7 other townships.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the ambulance contract with Southern Aroostook EMS for Cary & 7 other townships.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the ambulance contract with the Town of East Millinocket for services in Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T1R4-T3R4.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by William Dobbins and Norman Fournier to approve the ambulance contract with the Town of East Millinocket for services in Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T1R4-T3R4.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration an update on the excise tax and voting services for Benedicta and Silver Ridge townships. The Town of Sherman will no longer

be able to provide these services as of January 1, 2024. The Town of Stacyville has agreed to take over these services at the same rates as were being paid to the Town of Sherman.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the Town of Stacyville providing excise tax and voting services to Benedicta and Silver Ridge.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 12. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the EMA Extreme Temperature Plan. Once approved, the plan will be distributed online and directly to municipalities.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the EMA Extreme Temperature Plan with updates to Page 4 to remove Eagle Lake Hospital and Page 14, under Extreme Heat, 7<sup>th</sup> bullet point, to update the power companies to be Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Houlton Water Company, Versant, and Van Buren Light & Power.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 13. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the hiring recommendation for two firefighters (Sean Cerveny/Robert Mockler).

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and William Dobbins to approve the hiring recommendations for Sean Cerveny and Robert Mockler as firefighters.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Mr. Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommission of Deputy Sheriff for Ryan Rackliffe.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the recommission of Deputy Sheriff to Ryan Rackliffe.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Mr. Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendations for 2 part-time correctional officers (Devon Orr/Daniel Bowman) and 1 full-time correctional officer (Jeremy Keating).

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the hiring recommendations of Devon Orr and Daniel Bowman as part-time correctional officers and Jeremy Keating as full-time correctional officer.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Mr. Peter Johnson presented for consideration a contract addendum to the Alternative Correctional Healthcare, LLC contract to provide crisis mental health services in the jail January 1-June 20, 2024.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the contract with Alternative Correctional Healthcare, LLC for crisis mental health services for January 1-June 30, 2024.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the appointment of the MCCA  
ART. 18. representative and proxy; and Article 18. the MCCA Risk Pool representative, proxy and primary contact.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman Fournier to appoint Norman Fournier as MCCA Representative and MCCA Risk Pool Representative; William Dobbins as MCCA Proxy and MCCA Risk Pool Proxy; and Ryan Pelletier as the MCCA Risk Pool primary contact.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier provided an update on the MCCA Risk Pool. Reinsurance increased, in part due to all the building improvements made over the last year which saw an increase from \$431 million to \$450 million in building valuations. Estimated average increase is expected to be between 7-12% for each County. Aroostook County's increase was 8.2%. November was a high claim month with 26 new claims and \$185,000 put in reserves. The draft budget was approved with an increase of 4%.

Legislatively, anxiously awaiting the special session in January to follow the request for additional jail funding; and the Rural Patrol bill which would allow funds allocated to the

State Police to be diverted to the County Sheriff's departments when the state is not able to cover an area and thus, the responsibility falls to the Counties.

ART. 20. Other Business.

Commissioner Dobbins introduced Christina Alley, who was attending the meeting to observe governmental process. She is a student interested in going into the public service field.

ART. 21. Adjournment.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to adjourn the meeting at 2:31 pm.

**VOTE:**

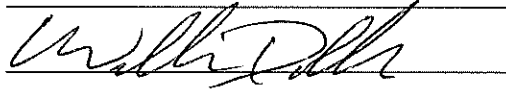
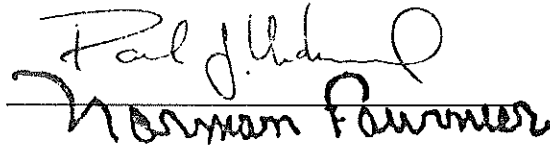
Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy

of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier  
County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DATE: January 2, 2024