

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING-WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023 1:00 PM SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUILDING SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM-HOULTON

PRESENT

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Christina Theriault, HR Director
Darren Woods, Director EMA
Todd Collins, District Attorney – Zoom
Shawn Gillen, Sheriff
Joyce Findlen, HR Specialist
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator – Zoom
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Joey Seeley, Deputy Sheriff
Peter Johnson, Commander
Meaghan Maloney, President, Maine Prosecutor's Association - Zoom
Shawn Little, Corrections Officer & friends/family
Kenneth Spittle, Dispatcher & friends/family
Patty Dube, Resident of Perham – Zoom
Deborah Black-Doebener, Resident of Perham – Zoom
Brian Bouchard, WAGM TV
Kathleen Tomaselli, Bangor Daily News

- ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
- ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.
- ART. 3. There was no public comment.
- ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested that Article 17 (A) & (B) be moved to Article 5 (A) and Article 17 (C) be removed from the agenda.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

A) Sheriff Shawn Gillen presented the following awards:

Life Saving Award – Shawn Little, Corrections Officer
Dispatcher of the Year Award – Kenneth Spittle, Dispatcher

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

- A) Attendance record.
- B) Bills and warrants.
- C) BYOB Permit – Lisa Martin/Benedicta

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the BYOB Permit for Lisa Martin.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the following Transfers for Asset Forfeitures:

- A) State v. Keaton

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the transfers of Assets for State v. Keaton.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- B) State v. Collagan

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the transfers of Assets for State v. Collagan.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the draft final decision for the Tax Abatement Appeal Request of Watts v. Perham granting the appeal.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the draft as the final decision.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration a change in the County's fiscal year to be July-June.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the fiscal year change to July-June, with the option for towns to pay the January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024 tax bill over a 3-year period and the July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 tax bill due on September 30, 2024.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for ratification the National Opioid Settlement Agreement with TEVA, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and WalMart.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to ratify the National Opioid Settlement Agreement with TEVA, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and WalMart.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration a donation request from the Marine Corps Toys for Tots. The request is outside of the established funding request process for outside agencies.

No action taken.

ART. 12. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for ratification the following letters of support:

A) Maine State Police's Community Project Funding

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to ratify the letter of support for the Maine State Police Community Project Funding.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

B) Van Buren's Citizen's Institute on Rural Design

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to ratify the letter of support for the town of Van Buren's application to the Citizen's Institute on Rural Design program.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. Mr. Todd Collins presented for consideration an extension with the MEDATS/Maine Prosecutors Association information technology services with Aroostook County ending June 30, 2024.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to extend the MEDATS/Maine Prosecutors Association agreement to June 30, 2024.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Mr. Steve Pelletier presented an update on the ARPA funding amounts that will be reallocated to the 2024 ARPA funding total in the amounts of \$127,170.99 for Public Health projects and \$3,000.00 for Public Infrastructure projects.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to reallocate funds not used by ARPA project recipients in the amounts of \$127,170.99 for Public Health projects and \$3,000.00 for Public Infrastructure projects to the ARPA funds available for 2024.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Mrs. Christina Theriault presented for consideration the County's participation in the Worker's Compensation Incentive Program with an estimated savings to the County of between \$11,000 and \$23,000.

MOTION

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve participation in Worker's Compensation Incentive Program.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 16. Chief Deputy Joey Seeley presented a recommendation to accept the bid for the purchase of a UTV side-by-side from Houlton Power Sports for \$28,497.00. A Stone Garden Grant of \$26,699.00 will go towards the purchase price, leaving \$1,798.00, which will be covered by the sale of an older UTV and Trailer.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the bid for the purchase of a UTV side-by-side from Houlton Power Sports.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 17. See Article 5 (A).

- ART. 18. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration an agreement between the County of Aroostook Unorganized Territories and the County of Aroostook Sheriff's office for UT Deputy Patrol Services for 2023-2026.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the agreement between the County of Aroostook UT and County of Aroostook Sheriff's Office for services for 2023-2026.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 19. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration a supplemental agreement and contract extension to December 31, 2032 between the County of Aroostook Unorganized Territories and Aroostook Waste Solutions.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the supplemental agreement and contract extension to December 31, 2032 between the County of Aroostook UT and Aroostook Waste Solutions.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the ARPA funding project for the Sinclair Senior Center Upgrades.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the submission of the application for ARPA funding for the Sinclair Senior Center upgrades.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 21. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier provided updates on the Risk Pool where claims and claim amounts are generally low for the year. MCCA will be holding an educational session in September at Poland Spring. Legislatively, Commissioner Fournier shared that MCCA had provided testimony in support of the bill regarding an exemption for inmates with Medicaid to retain benefits while incarcerated. Research regarding County Jail expenses from all counties was provided to Governor Mills in support of a request for increased funding for jails which have had only flat funding over the last few years. The goal is to maintain 20% statewide in support from the State.

ART. 22. Other Business

Commissioner Dobbins inquired about an accurate road map for Southern Aroostook. Paul Bernier will look into this. Commissioner Dobbins asked for an update on the Spirit of America award presentation event. Date and location are yet to be determined. This will be added to the agenda for the May Commissioners' meeting to provide an update.

Commissioner Fournier requested to change the date of the June Commissioners' meeting in Caribou from June 21 to June 20.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the new meeting date of June 20 in Caribou.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 23. At 2:29 pm, the following motion was made by and seconded by:

MOTION:

"I move that we enter Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(C)."

VOTE:

Motion voted and passed.

Upon return from Executive Session at 2:55 pm, a motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the Land Sale Purchase Agreement for a piece of property in Sinclair Township as amended. A copy of the agreement is on file with the County Commissioners' Office.

ART. 24. Adjournment.

MOTION:

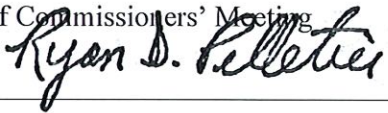
A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 pm.

VOTE:

Motion voted and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy

of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier

Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator





Norman Fournier

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: May 17, 2023