

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 – 1:00 PM  
FORT KENT REGISTRY OF DEEDS – FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

**Present:**

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner  
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner  
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator  
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant  
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator-Zoom  
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director  
Peter Johnson, Sheriff  
Erica Pelletier, Chief Deputy

ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

ART. 3. No public comment.

ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested the following addition to Article 25 (C) Legislative Report: To consider a letter of opposition for the ARPA Interim Final Rule.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the agenda as amended.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Commissioner Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the April 17, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the meeting minutes of April 17, 2024.

**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 the appointments to the NMDC Board for general membership (2) and unorganized territory (1).

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approved the re-appointment of Martin Dionne for Unorganized Territory; and the re-appointment of Norman Fournier and William Dobbins for General Membership.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the ratification of the purchase of \$50 gift cards for the members of the Finance Committee.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to ratify the purchase of \$50 gift cards for the Finance Committee.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the rescheduling of the Tax Abatement hearing in the matter of Cassidy Holdings LLC v. City of Caribou. July 8 or July 9 were proposed dates. The date will be confirmed with Commissioner Dobbins and the parties will be notified of the rescheduled date.

No motion necessary.

ART. 10. Ms. Tammy Pelletier presented for consideration an update on the Spirit of America celebration for May 17. The event will be at the Northeastland with about 35 guests.

ART. 11. Mr. Ryan Pelletier and Mr. Steve Pelletier presented an update on the finalized ARPA allocations. Unobligated/available funds are being requested for 5 projects: 1) Rain Gutter Replacement – Sheriff Building; 2) Walk-in Freezer Replacement; 3) Exterior Brick Work Repairs – Sheriff Building; 4) Exterior Trim/white painting – Houlton Superior Court Building; 5) Condensate Tank Replacement – Jail.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the allocation of unobligated funds to the 5 projects as noted.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented, on behalf of Ms. Dana Gendreau, the 2024 first quarter financial reports.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the 2024 first quarter financial reports.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 13. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the 2024-2025 Tax Commitment, due date, and interest rate for the 2024-2025 County taxes.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the 2024-2025 Tax Commitment, due date, and interest rate for the 2024-2025 County taxes.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the municipality of Reed Plantation for services in Bancroft.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the municipality of Reed Plantation for services in Bancroft.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 15. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Eagle Lake for services in T15R6.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Eagle Lake for services in T15R6.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 16. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Madawaska for services in Baie Creuse.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Madawaska for services in Baie Creuse.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the one (1) year animal control agreement with the Town of Mapleton for services in T11R4 (Scopan).

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the one (1) year animal control agreement with the Town of Mapleton for services in T11R4 (Scopan).

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Masardis for T10R6, T8R5, T9R5, T8R4 Townships.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Masardis for T10R6, T8R5, T9R5, T8R4 Townships.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the three (3) fire protection agreement with the Town of Masardis for services in Oxbow North.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the three (3) fire protection agreement with the Town of Masardis for services in Oxbow North.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the three (3) year snow removal contract with the Town of New Canada for services in Cross Lake.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the three (3) year snow removal contract with the Town of New Canada for services in Cross Lake.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 21. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommissions of Deputy Adam Bouchard and Deputy Caleb Jandreau.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the recommissions of Deputy Adam Bouchard and Deputy Caleb Jandreau.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 22. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Forrest Dudley as full-time Patrol Commander.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the hiring of Forrest Dudley as full-time Patrol Commander.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 23. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Jacob True as full-time Deputy.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the hiring of Jacob True as full-time Deputy.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 24. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Cassandra Arledge as part-time Communications Specialist.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the hiring of Cassandra Arledge as part-time Communications Specialist.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 25. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier reported that claims were up for last month, bringing the total open cases to 203 within the last 3 years. Reserves are at \$500,000.

\$4 million was allocated to jail MAT funding. The Jail Professional Council is working out how the money will be distributed, either based on their application, or the # of prisoners in the jail. Some counties did not apply. Aroostook is estimated to receive \$125,000. 16 new State Trooper positions were approved with 2 being allocated to Aroostook. Governor Mills would not sign 35 bills.

Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration letters of opposition to Senator Susan Collins and Senator Angus King to oppose the Congressional Review Act joint resolution of disapproval of the Obligation Interim Final Rule published by the U.S. Department of Treasury in November 2023. This would change flexibilities that the counties have around the use and re-obligation of funds.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the letters of opposition to Senator Collins and Senator King regarding the ARPA Interim Final Rule.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 26. Other Business

No other business.

ART. 27. At 1:58pm, the following motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by Paul Underwood:

"I move that we enter Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(D) to discuss labor negotiations with the National Correction Employee's Union and Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to discuss employee resignations/retirements."

Upon return from Executive Session at 2:13pm, Norman Fournier moved to approve the three (3) year contract with the National Correction Employee's Union, seconded by Paul Underwood.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 28. Adjournment.

**MOTION:**



A motion was made by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to adjourn the meeting at 2:14 pm.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy  
of Commissioners' Meeting

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan D. Pelletier  
County Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman Fournier  
  
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AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DATE: June 18, 2024