

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024 – 10:00 AM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
William Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Erica Pelletier, Chief Deputy
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator
Derrick Ouellette, Deputy Director EMA
Peter Johnson, Sheriff
Leo Trudel, LUPC via Zoom
Melissa Lizotte, Bangor Daily News

ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

ART. 3. Commissioner Underwood opened the floor for a public comment period.

No public comments.

ART. 4. **MOTION:**
Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the agenda for August 20, 2024.

VOTE:
Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Commissioner Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the July 17, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting minutes and the August 7, 2024 Grivois Road Public Hearing minutes.

MOTION:
Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the meeting minutes of July 17, 2024 and August 7, 2024.

VOTE:
Motion voted on and passed.

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

- A) Attendance record.
- B) Bills and warrants.
- C) BYOB Permit - Benedicta

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the BYOB permit for Benedicta.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Mr. Leo Trudel, LUPC Board Member, presented an update on LUPC activities.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration a recommendation to appoint 4 new members to the Jail Study Commission. Penny Thompson, Caribou City Manager; Jeremy Smith, Houlton Town Manager; Todd Collins, District Attorney; Heidi Rackliffe, ACAP Program Director. This will bring the commission to 13 members.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to appoint Penny Thompson, Jeremy Smith, Todd Collins and Heidi Rackliffe to the Jail Study Commission.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mrs. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the fiscal year-end vacation & sick accrual expense recommendation.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the fiscal year-end vacation & sick accrual expense.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Mrs. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the quarterly financials for period ending 06/30/2024.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the quarterly financial report for period ending 06/30/2024.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Mrs. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration to rollover FY24 General Fund balances for auditing expense and Registry of Deeds North to reserve accounts.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to the rollover of \$7,000 to an Auditing Reserve account.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to expense \$8,000 using the Capital budget 06/30/2024 to rollover to the Registry of Deeds North Capital Reserve account.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 12. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration a recommendation to rollover FY24 UT Fund balances to Capital accounts.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to rollover \$1,743.77 to the Connor Recreation Capital account and \$11,198.98 to the UT Roads & Bridges Capital account.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 13. On behalf of Darren Woods, Mr. Derrick Ouellette presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Justin Albert as North Lakes Firefighter.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the hiring of Justin Albert as North Lakes Firefighter.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommissions of Deputy Benjamin Boutilier, Deputy Andrew Tomah, and Commander Craig Clossey.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the recommissions of Benjamin Boutilier, Andrew Tomah, and Craig Clossey.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 15. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommendation for the sale of a surplus 2019 Ford Explorer with the highest bidder being Embelton Auto Sales for \$2,800.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the sale of a 2019 Ford Explorer to Embelton Auto Sales for \$2,800.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 16. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommendation to donate a surplus 2008 Ford Econoline van to the Town of Limestone.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the donation of a 2008 Ford Econoline van to the Town of Limestone.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed (2-0). Commissioner William Dobbins abstained.

ART. 17. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier reported that reserves are at about \$3 million for pending claims. Last month saw 14 claims closed and 9 new claims, with several very large claims where \$759,000 has been set aside. Car accidents are the most common claim. The board is looking at options to possibly set a high increase to the deductibles versus all counties paying a significant increase in premiums. Insurance could go up 25-30% for the renewal. The MCCA will be awarding their \$10,000 Safe Driver award. Aroostook County has not gotten an award in several years. The FOAA information requested by the ACLU is almost complete. There will be a workshop in October, fully paid by the MCCA for up to 3 members of the County. The workshop will cover trends, risks and laws.

There is a bill in congress to help support funding for ambulance service calls. Currently, if an ambulance is dispatched, but does not transport a patient the insurances/Medicaid does not reimburse for the service call.

Several years ago, a law went into effect that Counties have to submit their jail audit yearly and it cannot be a combined audit. We are working to complete the audits by October 15.

ART. 18. Other Business

No other business

ART. 19. Adjournment.

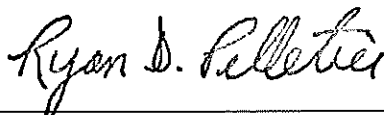
MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 am.

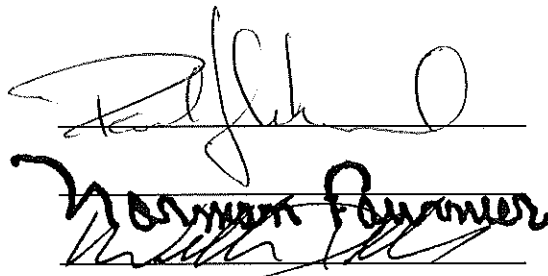
VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: September 18, 2024