

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 1:00 PM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE - CARIBOU

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner - Zoom
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
William Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Peter Johnson, Sheriff
Erica Pelletier, Chief Deputy
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator
Darren Woods, Director EMA
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
John Gibson, Community Services Director
Cathy Goff, Registrar of Probate Elect
Bryan Jandreau, Facilities and IT Director
Roy Guidry, Facilities Director
Daniel Deveau, County Commissioner Elect-Zoom
Nathan Chisholm, Deputy Sheriff
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant

ART. 1. Commissioner Norman Fournier called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No public comments.

ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested that 2 items be added to the agenda under Article 17 as follows: A) To consider the 3-year contract (2025-2027) with Deschaine Sanitation for the operation of the Sinclair Transfer Station; B) To consider the 2025 animal control contract with AJ Thorne for services in Cary Township.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the agenda as amended for December 18, 2024.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Commissioner Fournier entertained a motion for approval of the November 20, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 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. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented a commendation to Deputy Nathan Chisholm regarding his actions in de-escalating a domestic violence incident that ensured the safety of all individuals involved and officers on the scene.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the appointment of the 2025 Finance Committee members to fill vacancies due to expired terms for District 1 Area 2 – Ryan Bushey, District 1 Area 3 – Michael Greenlaw, District 3 Area 7 – Scott Moir, District 3 Area 9, Michelle Raymond.

MOTION:

Pursuant to the Aroostook County Charter Article V Section E, Paul Underwood motioned, seconded by William Dobbins, to approve the appointment of the 2025 Finance Committee members; Ryan Bushey, Michael Greenlaw, Scott Moir, and Michelle Raymond.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the appointment of Bob Sowers as IT Director.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the appointment of Bob Sowers as IT Director.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the sale of a 1982 Ford Fire Engine to the highest bidder, Van Buren Fire Department, for \$5,000.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the sale of a 1982 Ford Fire Engine to Van Buren Fire Department.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the 2025 ambulance services agreement with Ambulance Services Inc. for services in Sinclair, Cross Lake, Square Lake, T15R6, T14R6, T16R6.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 2025 ambulance services agreement with Ambulance Services Inc. Commissioner Fournier abstained.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 12. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the 2025 ambulance services agreement with Central Aroostook Ambulance Service for services E Plantation, TDR2, T9R3, T9R4, T8R3, and T10R3.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 2025 ambulance services agreement with Central Aroostook Ambulance Service.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 13. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the 3 year (May 20256-Sept 2027) lawn maintenance agreement with Timothy Sides for Silver Ridge Cemetery and Memorial Park.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the 3 year contract with Timothy Sides for lawn maintenance for Silver Ridge Cemetery and Memorial Park.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the 3 year fire protection agreement with the Town of Van Buren for Van Buren Cove.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 3 year fire protection agreement with the Town of Van Buren for Van Buren Cove.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 15. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the 2025 animal control agreement with USDA APHIS.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 2025 animal control agreement with USDA APHIS.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 16. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the 2025 ambulance agreement with Patten Ambulance Service for Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T2R4, and T3R4.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the 2025 ambulance agreement with Patten Ambulance Service for Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T2R4, and T3R4.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17.

Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the 2025 ambulance services agreement with Southern Aroostook EMS for services in Cary Township and 7 other townships.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 2025 ambulance services agreement with Southern Aroostook EMS for services in Cary Township and 7 other townships.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- A) Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the 2025 agreement with Deschaine Sanitation for operation of the Sinclair Transfer Station.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 2025 agreement with Deschaine Sanitation for the operation of the Sinclair Transfer Station.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- B) Mr. Paul Bernier presented for the 2025 animal control agreement with AJ Thorne for services in Cary Township.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the 2025 animal control agreement with AJ Thorne for services in Cary Township.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18.

Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the 2025 MCCA representative and proxy.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins, to appoint William Dobbins as MCCA representative and Ryan Pelletier as proxy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the 2025 MCCA Risk Pool representative, proxy, and primary contact.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by William Dobbins to appoint William Dobbins as MCCA Risk Pool representative, and Ryan Pelletier as proxy and primary point of contact.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Norman Fournier provided an update from the Risk Pool. The Risk Pool paid out 1.1 million in claims this year, last year it was 1.3 million. An emergency meeting was held regarding insurance. There will be a minimum of a 15% increase. The annual meeting and training day will be January 8.

Jail expenses are currently at about 20% covered by the state. Working to get that increased to 30-35% with new legislation.

ART. 21. Other Business

A)Mr. Steve Pelletier presented for consideration a request to commit the remaining uncommitted ARPA fund balance to a surplus account for use for the Sheriff's radio communication systems project.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Paul Underwood to set aside \$50,000 for the Jail needs assessment and the remainder to be allocated to the Sheriff's radio communication project.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

B)Mr. Ryan Pelletier recognized retiring employees Paul Bernier and Bryan Jandreau, and outgoing Commissioner Fournier for their many years of dedicated service to the County. The meeting was briefly adjourned so attendees could enjoy cake.

ART. 22. At 2:20 pm, the following motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by William Dobbins:

"I move that we enter into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to 1)Discuss Probate Registrar Salary Scale; and 2)Discuss employee resignation."

Upon return from Executive Session at 2:50 pm, the following motion was made:

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Paul Underwood to set the salary for the Registrar of Probate at Step 6 effective January 1, 2025, and Step 7 effective July 1, 2025.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 23. Adjournment.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Paul Underwood to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 PM.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: January 7, 2025