

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 1:00PM  
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – FORT KENT REGISTRY OF DEEDS – FORT KENT

**Present:**

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner - Zoom  
William Dobbins, County Commissioner  
Daniel Deveau, County Commissioner  
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator - Zoom  
Peter Johnson, Sheriff  
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator - Zoom  
Darren Woods, Director EMA  
John Gibson, Community Services Director  
Joy Baressi Saucier, Aroostook Agency on Aging  
Christopher Bouchard, The County, Bangor Daily News  
Lt. Brian Harris, Maine State Police – Zoom  
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant

ART. 1. Commissioner William Dobbins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No public comments.

ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested an addition to the agenda under Article 18: Other Business-To consider an amendment to the Unorganized Territories Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance to include Community Social Events.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the agenda of February 19, 2025 as revised.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Commissioner Dobbins entertained a motion for approval of the January 7, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Danny Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the meeting minutes of January 7, 2025.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

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

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

C) Long Lake Sporting Club Liquor License Renewal – Sinclair

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the liquor license renewal for Long Lake Sporting Club – Sinclair.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Ms. Joy Baressi Saucier, Executive Director, Aroostook Agency on Aging provided an update on aging communities, programs, and resources within Aroostook County, including future projections and needs as our communities age.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the Opioid Task Force Review Committee's recommendation for 2025 funding awards.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the committee recommendation of awarding funding to ACAP (\$75,000); AMHC (\$50,000); Michael's Active Recovery (\$75,000); Mi'kmaq Nation (\$50,000); Northern Maine Wellness Clinic (\$50,000).

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the January – June 2025 dispatch contracts with Allagash, Bridgewater, CAEMS, Frenchville, Grand Isle, Haynesville, Hodgdon, Linneus, Littleton, Mars Hill, Monticello, St. Agatha, Sinclair/Cross Lake, SAEMS and Van Buren.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Daniel Deveau, and seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the January – June 2025 dispatch contracts with Allagash, Bridgewater, CAEMS, Frenchville, Grand Isle, Haynesville, Hodgdon, Linneus, Littleton, Mars Hill, Monticello, St. Agatha, Sinclair/Cross Lake, SAEMS and Van Buren.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. On behalf of MS. Dana Gendreau, Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the quarterly financial reports.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to accept the quarterly financial reports.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Ms. Tammy Pelletier presented for consideration the 2025 Spirit of America celebration proposal.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the 2025 Spirit of America celebration proposal.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the USDA grant for the construction of the North Lakes Fire Station.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the County of Aroostook approves and accepts in all respects, a proposed grant of \$2,250,000 from the USDA Rural Development for the **construction of the fire station in Sinclair, ME for North Lakes Fire and Rescue** in accordance with *Form RD 3570-3, Community Facilities Grant Agreement,* and authorizes the Administrator and Secretary of the Board to execute and deliver all documents, and to take any and all actions necessary to carry into effect such grant funding, including, but not limited to, Form RD 400-1, Equal Opportunity Agreement, and Form RD 400-4, Assurance Agreement.

*Form RD 3570-3, Community Facilities Grant Agreement* was presented and voted upon as follows:

Yeas   3   Nays   0   Absent   0  

ART. 13. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the 2024 Sheriff's Office Annual Report.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to accept the 2024 Sheriff's Office Annual Report.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Alessandro Marroquin as full-time patrol deputy.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring of Alessandro Marroquin as full-time patrol deputy.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Erica Murdock as full-time dispatcher.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Erica Murdock as full-time dispatcher.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the fire protection agreement for Cary Plantation with the Town of Houlton.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul Underwood, and seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the fire protection agreement for Cary Plantation with the Town of Houlton.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. County Commissioners Report

Commissioner Deveau reported that the MCCA LPC is meeting every Monday to review legislative bills. Two bills of interest include the sale of tax acquired properties by municipalities and rural patrol.

Commissioner Dobbins reported that he and Commissioner Deveau attended the MCCA Annual Meeting in January and found it very beneficial. Jail funding is being looked at for all counties, and it was suggested that a lobbyist be engaged to help pursue a bill to allow for jail funding to be part of capital improvement. MCCA is monitoring legislative bills that affect the Counties and their highest priorities such as jail funding, and rural patrol. Risk Pool claims were down last month.

ART. 18. Other Business

Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration an amendment to the Unorganized Territories Food Sovereignty Ordinance to include a definition for community social events. Commissioner Dobbins was invited to explain the request further.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to accept the amendment to the Unorganized Territory Food Sovereignty Ordinance to include a definition for community social events.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. At 2:31 pm, the following motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by Daniel Deveau:

"I move that we enter into the Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to discuss the terms of employment for the Sheriff's Office Administrative Assistant."

Upon return from executive session at 2:49 pm, the following motion was made by Paul Underwood, and seconded by Daniel Deveau:

"I move that we enter into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(D) to discuss the ratification of the July 2025-June 2027 agreement between the NEPBA, Local 601 and the County of Aroostook."

Upon return from executive session at 3:10 pm, a motion was made by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood, to ratify the agreement between the NEPBA, Local 601 and the County of Aroostook. Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Tracy Kala as administrative assistant.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to accept the hiring recommendation of Tracy Kala as administrative assistant.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 21. Adjournment.

**MOTION:**

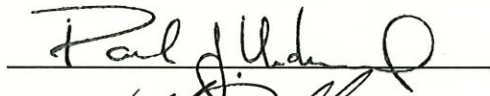

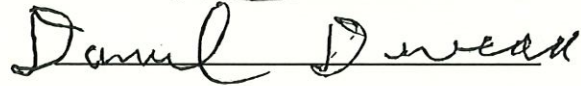
A motion was made by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 pm.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy  
of Commissioners' Meeting

  
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Ryan D. Pelletier  
County Administrator

  
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AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DATE: March 19, 2025