

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 18, 2025 1:00PM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner
William Dobbins, County Commissioner
Daniel Deveau, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Peter Johnson, Sheriff
Roy Guidry, Facilities Director
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director, Zoom
Beth Hummel, HR Director
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator
John Gibson, Community Services Director
Darren Woods, EMA Director
Paula Brewer, Bangor Daily News
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Carter McBreairty, Allagash
Phil & Karen Levesque, Frenchville
Betty & Mark Benson, Portage Lake
Vaughn Martin, Easton
Jerri & Tami Palmer, Easton
Stephanie Bresett, Van Buren

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Justice Planners presented their final reporting of the jail needs assessment for Aroostook County

ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:23 PM.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Jestin Merchant, resident of Connor, commented on the excessive dust and lack of mowing on Dubay Pit Road near his home. He would like to have the road better taken care of. He has spoken to contractors who have suggested ways that the County can reduce the dust created by travelling on the road.

Mr. Merchant also commented that a \$100 million jail is unacceptable and would be terrible to give that burden to the taxpayers and the County needs to get creative and find a different solution.

ART. 4. **MOTION:**
Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the agenda.

VOTE:
Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Commissioner Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the May 21, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

~~LISTEN~~

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the meeting minutes of May 21, 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) Liquor license renewal – Eagle Lake Sporting Camps, T16 R6

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve liquor license renewal for Eagle Lake Sporting Camps, T16 R6.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Commissioners Underwood, Dobbins, and Deveau presented the 2024 Spirit of America recognitions to Carter McBreairty (Allagash), Betty Benson (Portage Lake), Frenchville Historical Society, Van Buren Revitalization Association, and Friends Helping Friends Food Pantry (Easton). Absent were Mike Greenlaw, (Fort Fairfield) and Jeff & Elizabeth Clark (Mapleton/Chapman/Castle Hill).

No motion necessary.

ART. 8. Mrs. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration a request to increase the fixed asset limit to \$10,000.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve increasing the fixed asset limit to \$10,000.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration two timelines for updating the County charter. Commissioners will review for feedback and next steps.

ART. 10. Mr. Ryan Pelletier opened a discussion on the conveyance of the Lakeview Senior Citizens Center in Cross Lake. The county owns the land, but not the building. The community would like to have the county take over all aspects of the center. Feedback was gathered during a public meeting in May that supports the transfer of the Center to the county.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to authorize the County Administrator to engage an attorney to complete a transfer deed for the Lakeview Seniors Center to the county.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration to schedule a date and time for the tax abatement appeal hearing in the matter of Baker v. Town of Weston.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to set the date and time of the tax abatement hearing in the matter of Baker v. Town of Weston to be July 16th at 10:30am at the Sheriff's Office, 2nd floor conference room.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Mr. Darren Woods presented updates on the anticipated FEMA changes and capital resilience funding in local communities. Mr. Woods strongly recommends starting to think about setting up an account to help alleviate financial stressors during emergencies that may not be reimbursable at the same levels as in previous years.

No motion necessary.

ART. 13. Mr. Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommission on Sgt. Shanna Duffy.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, and seconded by Daniel Deveau to recommission Sgt. Shanna Duffy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Mr. Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Carrie Crandall as part-time dispatcher.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Carrie Crandall as part-time dispatcher.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Mr. Peter Johnson presented for consideration the reallocation of \$12,000 of capital funds previously allocated to E-Printers to create a relocation bonus for patrol deputies.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the request to reallocate \$12,000 of capital funds to create a relocation bonus for patrol deputies.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the Oxbow Road paving project Trombley Industries, who was the lowest bidder.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the bid recommendation for the Oxbow Road paving project to Trombley Industries.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 17. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the solid waste contract with Pine Tree Waste for services in E Plantation.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the solid waste contract with Pine Tree Waste for services in E Plantation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 18. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the solid waste contract with the town of Mattawamkeag for services in Molunkus.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the solid waste contract with the town of Mattawamkeag for services in Molunkus.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 19. Mr. John Gibson presented the following bid recommendation for snow plowing contracts. Each area had one (1) bidder only.

A) Bancroft – Foss & Son, Inc

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with Foss & Son, Inc for services in Bancroft.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

B) Benedicta – JMQ, Inc

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with JMQ, Inc for services in Benedicta.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with CD Elwell Trucking for services in Benedicta/Silver Ridge.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

D) Cary – GCL Trucking

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with GCL Trucking for services in Cary Township.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

E) Oxbow Rd – M Rafford Trucking

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with M Rafford Trucking for services in Oxbow.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

F) Sinclair Fire Station & Seniors Center, Cross Lake Fire & Lakeview Seniors Center – Martin’s General Store

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with Martin’s General Store for services at Sinclair Fire Station and Seniors Center, Cross Lake Fire and Lakeview Seniors Center.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

G) Shore Rd & St Peter Rd, Sinclair

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with Babin Construction for services at Shore Rd and St Peter Rd.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the snow plowing contract with Anderson's Lawn & Landscape for services at Madawaska Lake.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 20. Mr. Roy Guidry presented for consideration a request to use contingency funds to cover a roof repair at the Sheriff's office in Houlton.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the use of contingency funds for the roof repair at the Sheriff's office in Houlton.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 21. Mr. Roy Guidry presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Ivy McDaniel as part-time custodian at the Caribou Courthouse. The Fort Kent custodian position remains open at this time.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Ivy McDaniel as part-time custodian at the Caribou Courthouse.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 22. Mr. Roy Guidry presented for consideration the recommendation for window trim painting at the Houlton Courthouse by Hayes Construction.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the recommendation for window trim painting at the Houlton Courthouse by Hayes Construction.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 23. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented on behalf of Amy Ouellette and Melissa Richardson an increase in subscription fees for Registry of Deeds effective July 1, 2025.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the subscription fee increases for Registry of Deeds effective July 1, 2025.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Commissioner William Dobbins advised the board that the MCCA Convention information is now available for September 2025. Risk Pool is doing on-site training for jail employees to help reduce claims. The training will take place at Aroostook County Jail on July 25th.

Commissioner Daniel Deveau indicated that he will have more information to share next month on the bills we are following related to jail funding, LUPC, and others. The legislative session will be closed on Friday and we will be able to know more about the details of what passed.

ART. 25. Other Business

Commissioner Deveau commented regarding the impending closure of Jobs Corps and how that will have a negative impact on our area. He's hopeful that something might happen to keep it operating.

ART. 26. At 3:15 pm, the following motion was made by William Dobbins, 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 County Administrator's annual evaluation and goal review."

Upon return from executive session no action was taken.

ART. 27. Adjournment.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to adjourn the meeting at 4:19 pm.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: July 16, 2025