

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2025 1:00PM 2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUILDING, HOULTON

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner
William Dobbins, County Commissioner
Daniel Deveau, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Peter Johnson, Sheriff
Erica Pelletier, Chief Deputy
Rand Maker, Chief Deputy, Lincoln County Sheriff
Roy Guidry, Facilities Director
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director, Zoom
Beth Hummel, HR Director
Joyce Findlen, HR Specialist
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator - Zoom
John Gibson, Community Services Director
Darren Woods, EMA Director
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Kathleen Tomaselli, Bangor Daily News - Zoom

ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No public comment.

ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested an addition to Article 19: Other Business – To consider the contract for Ambulance services with the town of Ashland for services in Oxbow North and North Maine Woods.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Commissioner Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the June 18, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the meeting minutes of June 18, 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 – Homestead Lodge, Oxbow

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve liquor license renewal for Homestead Lodge, Oxbow.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Chief Deputy Rand Maker, Lincoln Sheriff's Department, presented the Deputy Luke Gross Youth of the Year award to Ellie Moon. She was presented with a new bike.

No motion necessary.

ART. 8. Commissioner Deveau invited representatives to update the board on recent legislation affecting the county. Senator Trey Stewart was unable to attend and provided a document that outlined a number of legislative bills and results. Representative Gregg Swallow discussed items related to taxation, including increased taxes on cigarettes, paint, pensions, real estate transfer tax, streaming services, cannabis, dairy, and changes to income tax brackets.

Representative Donald Ardell provided information about the law enforcement cooperation with ICE and how they want to prevent other agencies from providing support to ICE regarding illegal aliens. With regard to jail funding, they want to do away with cash bail and have a full-time bail commissioner in an effort to have less people in jail; however, it creates a public safety issue.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the final Justice Planners Jail Needs Assessment. Feedback from the Jail Study Commission has seen some changing opinions since the report was released regarding size and location. The Jail Study Commission recommends that the Board of Commissioners move forward to the next step in the process which is developing an RFP for design/architect services.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve moving forward with developing an RFP for design/architect services.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Thor Axe as part-time corrections officer.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Thor Axe as part-time corrections officer.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 11. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Carrie Matheson as full-time dispatcher.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 12. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Colt Bernhardt as full-time patrol deputy.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Colt Bernhardt as full-time patrol deputy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 13. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the commission of new hire Deputy Colt Bernhardt, and the recommissions of Cyr Martin and Deputy Ryan Doughty.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, and seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the commission of Deputy Colt Bernhardt and the recommissions of Cyr Martin and Deputy Ryan Doughty.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the request to donate a 2018 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor (VIN :18944) that was a K9 cruiser to the Fort Fairfield Police Department.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the donation of the 2018 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor (VIN:18944) to the Fort Fairfield Police Department.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 15. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the 3-year contract with Heidi's Lawn Care for services at Cary Twp Cemetery & Memorial maintenance.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the 3-year contract with Heidi's Lawn Care for services at Cary Twp Cemetery & Memorial maintenance.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 16. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented, on behalf of Mr. Darren Woods, the hiring recommendation of Keyonah Cray as junior firefighter and Peter Beaulieu as firefighter for North Lakes Fire & Rescue.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Keyonah Cray and Peter Beaulieu for North Lakes Fire & Rescue.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 17. Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the 6/30/2025 year end vacation and sick liability funding obligation.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the 6/30/2025 year end vacation and sick liability funding.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 18. County Commissioners Report

Commissioner Dobbins reported out that the Risk Pool has about \$5 million in reserves and about \$2.5 million in liabilities. There were 11 new claims and 1 closed last period. Jail training will take place on 7/23. Sheriff Johnson indicated that all jail staff should be able to attend the training being offered that day. Commissioner Dobbins advised that the insurance renewal information should be out shortly.

The MCCA convention will be held in September. Commissioner Deveau plans to attend.

- ART. 19. Other Business

- A) Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the three-year contracts with the town of Ashland for ambulance services in Oxbow North and North Maine Woods.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the three-year contract with the town of Ashland for ambulance services in Oxbow North and North Maine Woods.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- B) Mr. Ryan Pelletier reminded the Commissioners that the County Charter limits meeting attendance to 52/year and to keep track of how many they attend throughout the fiscal year which started July 1.

C) Mr. Pelletier recommended that the Commissioners engage Steven Salley, a property tax appraiser from central Maine, to review the information provided in the Baker v. Town of Weston appeal and make a recommendation to the Commissioners.

MOTION:

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by William Dobbins to approve Administrator's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. Adjournment.

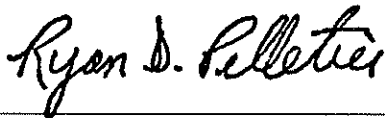
MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to adjourn the meeting at 2:33 pm.

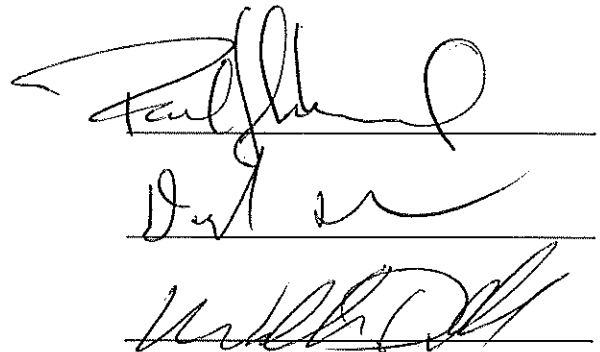
VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: August 20, 2025