

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025 1:00PM 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, FORT KENT

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
Roy Guidry, Facilities Director
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Beth Hummel, HR Director
Darren Woods, EMA Director
April Duffy, Policy & Treatment Recovery Coordinator
Lucien Daigle, State Representative – Fort Kent
John Gibson, Community Services Director, Zoom
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Chris Bouchard, Bangor Daily News – Zoom
Ray Cunrod, Connor Township
Bobby Cunrod, Connor Township

ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 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 CJCC Annual Expenditure report.

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 July 16, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the meeting minutes of July 16, 2025.

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. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration a petition to modify the winter road maintenance of Town Line Rd in Connor Township. The petition was certified by the Registrar of Caribou as having 14 valid voter signatures which meets the requirement under Title 23 for scheduling a Public Hearing on the matter. Town of New Sweden has indicated that they will not plow any further down that road unless there is significant work done. Both Mr. Ray Cunrod and Mr. Bobby Cunrod objected to the need to widen the road. They will put out stakes to indicate the section they want plowed so that the County can better understand the request. Mr. Ryan Pelletier encouraged the Commissioners to visit the road individually prior to the public hearing. The public hearing was set for September 17th at 1pm, prior to the regular monthly Commissioners meeting in the Administrative Hearing Room, Caribou Courthouse.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the tax abatement appeal decision in the matter of Baker V. Weston for property located at 25 Logan Farm Rd. The recommendation is to hold the matter in abeyance to allow for the property owner and town to work together to complete a more thorough assessment of the home, including the interior, to ensure a fair and equitable assessment. In addition, the Commissioners suggest that the town may look at adjusting the condition to "average" on all new homes/outbuildings to ensure more equity among taxpayers. Both parties would need to respond with their outcome by September 30, 2025.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to hold the tax abatement appeal decision in the matter of Baker V. Weston in abeyance until further responses are received on September 30, 2025.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the Design/Architectural RFP for the Aroostook County Jail. The Jail Study Commission has recommended that we move forward with the RFP. The RFP will include a bed count range to allow for modular expansion versus having a set bed count number that could limit the design size and costs. RFP would have a due date of October 15, 2025.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve moving forward with advertising for a RFP for design/architectural services.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration two (2) opioid settlement authorizations for Purdue/Sackler and a grouping of small manufacturers.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to authorize the County Administrator to execute all documents required to participate in said settlements. The County Administrator, in consultation with legal counsel, Napoli Shkolnik, is also authorized to take all necessary actions to manage the receipt, expenditure, and reporting of funds according to the terms of the settlements. Furthermore, the firm Napoli Shkolnik is authorized to vote on behalf of Aroostook County in favor of the Purdue Pharma L.P.'s bankruptcy plan.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 11. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the transfer of \$6,000 of unused broadband grant liaison funds from the balance sheet to establish a broadband expansion reserve.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the transfer of \$6,000 of unused broadband grant liaison funds to establish a broadband expansion reserve.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 12. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the Community & County Collaboration Summit to be held on September 12, 2025. 25 people have registered so far, and the group has done a great job at getting this setup. He encouraged full participation.

No motion necessary.

- ART. 13. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the nomination of a representative for the Corridor Advisory Group for the St. John Valley Cultural & Fish River National Scenic Byway.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, and seconded by Paul Underwood to nominate Commissioner Daniel Deveau as representative to the Corridor Advisory Group.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Mr. Roy Guidry presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Clayton Babin as part-time custodian at Registry of Deeds Fort Kent.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Clayton Babin as part-time custodian at Registry of Deeds Fort Kent.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Ms. Beth Hummel presented for consideration the recommendation to add an optional Roth 457 plan for County employees.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the addition of an optional Roth 457 plan for County employees.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Ms. Beth Hummel presented for consideration the recommendation to opt for a private plan for paid family leave through Symetra. This will have an overall savings of \$98,873 for both employees and the County. Employees would be refunded any paid premiums since July 1, 2025 and no additional premiums would be due until May 2026.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve opting for a private plan for family medical leave through Symetra.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the recommendation to add a new full-time position for a Training & Logistics Planner for EMA. The position would be fully funded via grant for the first year, then would be absorbed by the County over several years. Grant has been applied for, but not yet awarded.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to table the recommendation until the grant decision has been received.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the updates to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to accept the updates to the Emergency Operations Plan with additional updates to Annex J: Section V, Page 9 to replace Darleen Guy with Cathy Goff as Registry of Probate and replace Dan Bouchard with Chris Tarr as Department Deputy for Facilities.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Cassandra Arledge as Dispatch Supervisor.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Cassandra Arledge as Dispatch Supervisor.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20.

Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the request to accept a donation to the Sheriff's office K9 program from Linda Karch. The funds would be used to go toward a K9 vest.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the acceptance of a donation to the Sheriff's office K9 program.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 21.

County Commissioners Report

Commissioner William Dobbins reported the Risk Pool has \$5 million in reserves, with \$2 million in claims. Washington and Aroostook County have completed the additional jail training. Sheriff Johnson indicated that all jail staff were able to attend the training.

Everyone is preparing for the MCCA convention. The NACO CEO will be the keynote speaker. Commissioner Deveau will be in attendance.

Commissioner Daniel Deveau introduced Representative Lucien Daigle to talk about his participation on the Health & Human Services board. Jail requests for mental health and substance abuse programs went unfunded. HHS has a \$5 billion budget. Over 400,000 people on Mainecare with a population of 1.9 million. As a comparison, New Hampshire has 187,000 people on Medicaid with a population of 1.4 million. Incarcerated individuals are not covered by Mainecare or private plans, leaving the full responsibility of medical care to the jails. The state is working on waiver to allow for Mainecare coverage 90 days prior to release. Currently, California is the only state that has this waiver.

ART. 22.

Other Business

Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the CJCC annual expenditure report.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the CJCC annual expenditure report.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Mr. Rudy St. Peter, resident of Cross Lake, addressed the Commissioners with his concerns about the County taking over the Lakeview Seniors Center. Mr. Ryan Pelletier explained that a public meeting was held regarding the matter and the County has accepted the building and is in the process of forming a committee to run the center. Names will be accepted until August 30th, and the Commissioners will make the appointments to the committee at the regular meeting on September 17th in Caribou.

ART. 23. Adjournment.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 pm.

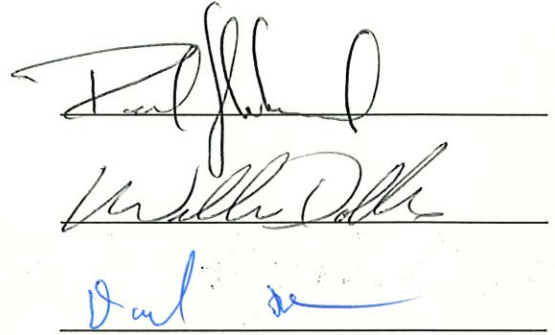
VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: September 17, 2025