

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 11:00AM 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
Erica Pelletier, Chief Deputy
Roy Guidry, Facilities Director
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Chris Bouchard, Bangor Daily News
Ray Cunrod, Connor Township
Bobby Cunrod, Connor Township
Rudy St. Peter, Cross Lake Township
Kim Gile, Cross Lake Township
Phil Gile, Cross Lake Township
Senator Susan Bernard

Prior to the County Commissioners Meeting, a Public Hearing was held on the request to alter winter road maintenance for Town Line Rd in Connor Township

- ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 11:02am.
- ART. 2. Commissioner Underwood introduced the Commissioners and read the public hearing notice into the record:
- Pursuant to and in accordance with MRSA 23, Chapter 301, a public hearing will be held for the Aroostook County Commissioners to hear petitioners on their request to alter a winter road closure order dated June 14, 2022, and extend winter road maintenance by 0.75 miles on the Town Line Rd, Connor Township.
- ART. 3. Commissioner Underwood opened the floor to public comments. Mr. Ray Cunrod, resident of Connor Township, who's son lives on Town Line Rd, indicated that they are building a house there and would like to have the road maintained to the driveway, about 0.75 miles farther than is plowed now. House is not yet finished, but has had significant work done.
- ART. 4. Commissioner Underwood asked for any other comments. As there were none, the public hearing was closed and adjourned at 11:05am.

Regular Meeting

ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 11:06 am.

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 the following additions to the agenda: Art. 6. C: To consider the nominees for the North Lakes Community Center Advisory Committee; Art. 15. C: Legislative Update: To discuss potential bills that the County would want to support for the next legislative session; and Art. 16. Other Business: To consider the petition to alter the winter road maintenance for Town Line Rd, Connor Township.

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 August 20, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the meeting minutes of August 20, 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) North Lakes Community Center Advisory Committee nominees

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the North Lakes Community Center Advisory Committee consisting of Cricket Bouchard, Rudy St. Peter, Kim Gile, Brenda Caron, Peter Beaulieu, Tom Stevens, Mary Lou Ouellette, Marie Conarroe.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the Sinclair Sanitary District warrant to nominate and elect two (2) trustees for a period of three (3) years.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the Sinclair Sanitary District Warrant, and recommend Commissioner Deveau as moderator.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 8. Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the financial reports for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. General Fund & Unorganized Territory fund both ended with a surplus. ARPA funds have all been awarded, and will need to be expended by December 31, 2026. The Jail Fund ended with a negative \$590,000, mostly due to the rising costs and flat funding from the state over the years.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to accept the financial reports for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 9. Ms. Tammy Pelletier presented for consideration a Proclamation designating October 2025 as Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation month. Aroostook County has 32 fire departments with over 600 volunteers.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve designating October 2025 as Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Month.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 10. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the Alternative Correctional Healthcare contract renewal for the Aroostook County Jail.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the renewal of the Alternative Correctional Healthcare contract for the Aroostook County Jail.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 11. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Ethan Jacques as full-time patrol deputy.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 13. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Paige Fontaine as full-time dispatcher.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Mr. Roy Guidry presented for consideration a proposal for software for maintenance and facilities to better track projects, licensing, and supplies across all the different building locations. Funding was recommended to come from the Contingency fund.

MOTION:

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the purchase of software for maintenance & facilities from the Contingency fund, with a status report at 6 months to determine continued use in upcoming years.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 15. County Commissioners Report

Commissioner William Dobbins reported that the MCCA/Risk Pool meetings were scheduled for the upcoming convention taking place this week, so no report out was available.

Commissioner Daniel Deveau introduced Senator Susan Bernard to discuss current bills and other legislative news affecting the County. Sen. Bernard is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. To begin, Sen. Bernard indicated that she strongly supports jail funding and believes that the state does not fund the jails to the level of services that are needed to support what the county jails actually do. She discussed several bills that passed such as LD1217 – new market tax credits and capital investment to attract investment in low income communities, LD1911 – tax credits for food processing plants like the kettle chip plant going in at Loring. Other bills that were

not funded included smalls business capital savings accounts, sales tax exemptions for heritage industries, and the criminalization of gift card theft. LD1971 – to limit the relationship of State and local law enforcement with Federal Immigration Authorities passed, but has not yet been signed by the Governor. Sen. Bernard indicated that there were over 2000 bills to review and many are duplicates of other versions that have to be sorted through. The process is not very efficient or streamlined and many bills get left unfunded once the funding has been distributed among approved bills.

Mr. Ryan Pelletier began the discussion as to what topics the Commissioners would like to see for bills in the next legislative session. Bills are due Tuesday, September 23.

Commissioner Underwood asked if we could get a sponsor for a bill that would allow the County to get the Tree Growth reimbursement from the State for UT lands. All municipalities get this funding back from the state, but it is not reimbursed to the UT. Commissioner Dobbins asked if we could find a way for Jails to be funded the same way schools are with bonds. Funding has been flat for years. The calculation used can affect funding yearly and is not consistent with needs. It would be good to have a consistent amount each year so the funding was never less than the year prior, regardless of the calculation.

ART. 22. Other Business

Mr. Ryan Pelletier began the discussion on the alteration of the winter road maintenance for Town Line Rd, Connor Township. All Commissioners have viewed the section of road in question. Currently, the road is maintained by the town of New Sweden and they do not want to do it, even if the road is brought up to standards that would allow them to plow. It was discussed with Caribou Public Works if they would be able to take over the plowing, but this would need to go to the City Council to be approved. There is considerable cost involved in bringing the road up to standards that include ditching, culverts, gravel, grading, adding a turnaround, etc.

Commissioner Deveau confirmed that Scott Martin farms there and uses that road, as does Chris Stairs, per Ray & Bobby Cunrod.

Mr. Ray & Bobby Cunrod both indicated that the snowmobile club wants to use the road for trails and maybe we could work with them to be able to extend the road maintenance. Administrator Pelletier indicated that no one had reached out to him about using the county road as part of their trail system and that must happen before that can be done.

The Commissioners agreed that they could not make a decision based on the information they have currently, and more research and discussion will need to take place.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to table the decision regarding the alteration of the winter road maintenance for the Town Line Rd, Connor Township.

VOTE: Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 23. Adjournment.

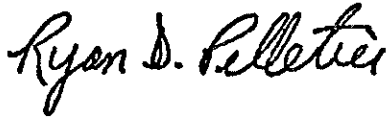
MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 pm.

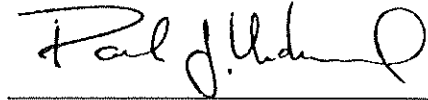
VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

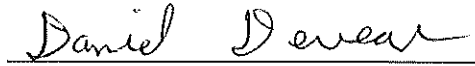
ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator







AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: October 15, 2025