

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 -1:00 PM SINCLAIR SENIOR CENTER – SINCLAIR

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner - Zoom
William Dobbins, County Commissioner
Daniel Deveau, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Peter Johnson, Sheriff
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
John Gibson, Community Services Director
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Chris Bouchard, Bangor Daily News
Jason Parent, ACAP
Meagan Westfall, LUPC – Zoom
Craig Clossey, Jail Administrator - Zoom
Chris Bouchard – Bangor Daily News
Alan Dearborne, Resident of Sinclair
Cecile Ouellette, Resident of Sinclair
Russell St Pierre, Resident of Sinclair
Theresa St Pierre, Resident of Sinclair
Nancy Dionne, Resident of Sinclair
Martin Dionne, Resident of Sinclair
Jennie Beaulieu, Resident of Sinclair
Gerry Beaulieu, Resident of Sinclair
Michael San Antonio, Resident of Sinclair
Tina Patrico, Sinclair Sanitary District Trustee
Additional unnamed Sinclair Residents

Before the Commissioners meeting took place, at 1:00 p.m. the Sinclair Sanitary District Trustees election was held. County Administrator Ryan Pelletier read the Warrant and entertained a motion to elect a moderator.

A motion was made by Martin Dionne to nominate Daniel Deveau as Moderator. The motion was seconded by Nancy Dionne. There were no other nominations. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Pelletier administered the Moderator's Oath of Office to Mr. Deveau.

Moderator Deveau explained the rules and procedures for today's election. He explained, two (2) trustee were to be elected for a three (3) year term each. Moderator Deveau opened the floor for nominations.

Gerry Beaulieu nominated Chuck Cyr. The motion was seconded by Mike San Antonio. Diane Berube nominated Adam Wintle. The motion was seconded by Tina Pratico. No other nominations were received. The vote was unanimous for both nominees.

Newly elected nominees were not present. Oaths of office will be completed separately.

Having no other business, Moderator Deveau declared the election closed at 1:03 pm.

Regular Meeting

ART. 1. Commissioner William Dobbins called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No public comment.

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

VOTE:
Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Commissioner Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the September 17, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

MOTION:
Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the meeting minutes of September 17, 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. Commissioner Daniel Deveau presented former Commissioner Norman Fournier with an MCCA service award for 36 years of service as an Aroostook County Commissioner.

No motion necessary.

ART. 8. Mr. Jason Parent provided an update on the happenings and initiatives at ACAP and the recent expansion to Washington and Hancock counties. The board will be changing and there will be no changes to the existing board until the new board process has been established.

No motion necessary.

- ART. 9. Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the creation of a correction services capital credit reserve account in the amount of \$590,134 to cover the current jail funding deficit. The account would meet the guidelines under Title 30A.

MOTION:

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the creation of the correction services capital credit reserve account in the amount of \$590,134 funded from the undesignated General Fund surplus balance as of June 30, 2025.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 10. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration a request from the City of Caribou recreation department to use the Town Line Rd, Connor as an ITS snowmobile trail. This will help with the request to alter the winter road maintenance, as the recreation department will assist with maintaining the brush/trees along the roadway allowing for better visibility. The landowner is willing to work with the recreation department to ensure that the road can be used for both their uses without the need for the county to alter winter road maintenance.

MOTION:

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the use of the Town Line Rd, Connor as an ITS snowmobile trail.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 11. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Russell Socoby as part-time dispatcher.

MOTION:

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the hiring recommendation of Russell Socoby as part-time dispatcher.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

At the request of County Administrator Ryan Pelletier, Commissioner Dobbins paused the Commissioners' meeting to allow the Sinclair Sanitary District to hold their scheduled Public Hearing on increasing rates for 2026.

The Sinclair Sanitary District Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on rates. There will be an increase of 3%. The hearing concluded at 1:55 pm.

- ART. 12. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Matthew Chase and Kevin Pray as full-time corrections officers.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Matthew Chase as full-time corrections officers.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 13. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented on behalf of Darren Woods the bid recommendations for the construction of the new Sinclair fire station. Mr. Pelletier indicated that construction is expected to begin in the spring. It is recommended to go with the bid from A.M. Construction & Roofing of \$2,805,000 with alternate plans for underground water storage and heat pumps/AC for an additional \$47,700.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve bid recommendation for the construction of the new Sinclair fire station by A.M. Construction & Roofing of \$2,852,700 which includes alternate plans for underground water storage and heat pumps/AC.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 14. Mr. John Gibson presented for consideration the 3 (three) year contract with the town of New Sweden for snow removal in Connor Township.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the 3 (three) year contract with the town of New Sweden for snow removal in Connor Township.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 15. County Commissioners Report

Commissioner Daniel Deveau provided an update on LD719 for jail funding. The County Corrections Professional Standards Council must provide a report no later than January 2026 with any recommendations and suggested legislation for the next legislative session. There is also a new Property Tax Task Force that will be determining the source of problems within the current property taxation system. A report is due January 2026 with preliminary findings and recommendations.

Commissioner William Dobbins provided an update on MCCA; 3 jail bills were not funded; \$40,000 in reserve for new Executive Director position; and they would like to be updated as to when our County Commissioner meetings are held. The Risk Pool closed 19 cases, and have 150 open; still working on determining next year's rates; \$250,000 in reserves.

Commissioner Deveau commented on the MCCA Convention and how he was able to see that the municipal and county collaboration was increasing and is the way to go.

County Administrator Ryan Pelleteir commented that Aroostook County came in 4th for the Safe Driving awards. It has been many years since Aroostook has placed so high and been presented with a monetary award for safe driving.

ART. 16. Other Business

Several Sinclair residents expressed that the 3% increase in rates was a good thing and the Sanitary District is doing a good job.

ART. 17. At 2:12 pm, the following motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by William Dobbins:

"I move that we enter into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to discuss County Administrator search."

Upon return from Executive Session at 3:05 pm, no motion was necessary. Commissioners will meet with Beth Hummel, HR Director on October 30th.

ART. 18. Adjournment.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Paul Underwood, seconded by Daniel Deveau to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 pm.

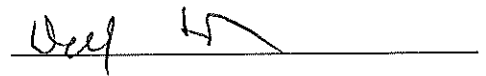
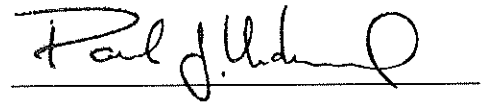
VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: November 19, 2025