



Aroostook County  
Sheriff's Office

Peter A. Johnson, Sheriff  
Craig L. Clossey, Chief Deputy

Patrol

Transportation

Corrections

Civil Process

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully express my concerns regarding the current lack of available cost comparisons between expanding services at a Houlton facility and pursuing development of a northern facility and making a decision between facilities at this juncture.

At this time, it is unclear what the projected cost difference would be between operating and constructing a new Houlton facility and constructing and operating a larger northern facility. A detailed breakdown comparing capital costs, long-term operational expenses, maintenance, utilities, and projected future liabilities would be essential for taxpayers to fully understand the financial implications of this decision.

Additionally, there has been no clear comparison provided between staffing levels at a new Houlton facility and the anticipated staffing requirements for a northern facility. Differences in staffing models can significantly affect annual operating budgets through salaries, benefits, overtime, training, and administrative overhead. Without this information, it is difficult to evaluate whether the proposed northern option represents a fiscally responsible choice.

Finally, I am concerned about the potential increase in the medical services contract associated with operating a larger northern facility. Medical contracts are a substantial and growing expense, and an expanded population or higher service demands could significantly increase these costs. A transparent projection of how the medical contract would change under each option is necessary for informed decision-making.

Before moving forward with any long-term commitments, I respectfully request that the Commissioners consider:

- A side-by-side cost comparison of Houlton versus a northern facility (capital and operational).
- A detailed staffing comparison, including projected annual personnel costs.
- An estimate of how the medical services contract would change under a larger northern facility model.
- A multi-year financial forecast reflecting these variables.

A comprehensive financial analysis will allow for an informed decision that protects taxpayer resources while meeting community needs.

Thank you for your time despite my absence from the meeting today.

Respectfully,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Peter A. Johnson", written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Peter A. Johnson

*FAITHFULLY SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS SINCE 1839*