

**Aroostook County Finance Committee Meeting**

**April 28, 2026 – Caribou Courthouse – Caribou**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Sue Powers, Chair, Finance Committee  
Ryan Bushey, Vice Chair, Finance Committee  
Richard Fortier, Secretary, Finance Committee  
Michael Greenlaw, Finance Committee  
Donald 'Spike' Savage, Finance Committee  
Michelle Raymond, Finance Committee - Zoom  
Kai Libby, Finance Committee – Zoom  
Nelson Jandreau, Finance Committee  
Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner - Zoom  
Daniel Deveau, County Commissioner  
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner  
Dana Gendreau, Interim County Administrator/Finance Director  
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant  
Darren Woods, Director EMA  
Peter Johnson, Sheriff  
Shawn Gillen, Chief Deputy  
Beth Hummel, HR Director  
Roy Guidry, Facilities Manager  
Cyr Martin – Town Manager, Eagle Lake  
Maine Wire – Zoom

1. Chair Sue Powers called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
2. A motion was made by Richard Fortier, seconded by Mike Greenlaw to approve the minutes of March 12, 2026. All were in favor.
3. Ms. Dana Gendreau provided an overview of the 2026-2027 General Fund, Jail Fund, and Unorganized Territory budgets. In general, budget increases were mainly seen in the personnel expenses due to the health insurance and COLA changes for non-union employees. Some of that additional expense has been offset by contracting with private vendor for Maine paid family leave, short term disability, and the participation in the Workers' Compensation workplace safety program.

Commissioner Dobbins commended Ms. Gendreau and her team for working hard to reduce the initial budget requests down to a more reasonable amount.

Ms. Gendreau went through each department's budget providing an overview of decreases and increases for each. Overall, approximately \$664,000 in expenses was reduced from departments requested general fund budgets, resulting in an 8.34% net increase in general fund expenditures compared to the previous year. Departmental revenues increased by 10.89%, while tax revenues rose by 7.79% over the same period. The Jail Fund experienced a 10.88% increase in expenses compared to the prior year. With no increase in state funding, departmental jail revenue decreased by 13.9% over the same period. The overall tax rate for the Jail Fund is 18.54%.

The County is watching several bills regarding supplemental budgeting from the state that may result in additional funding to the Jail, but the amount and timing of the payment are unknown,

so are not being accounted for in the current budget. The UT budget has already been approved by the state legislature. Most increases were in services for fire, ambulance, snow, and road projects that are required. The UT budget increased 21% over last year, with taxes increasing 16%.

Finance Committee members and Commissioners discussed funding of outside agencies for state and municipal programs and the need to determine the future of that funding within the County budgets. Chair, Sue Powers suggested the discussion be moved to Other Business, in order to maintain the direction of the meeting to focus on the current budgets being presented.

4. Deliberation and discussion on the proposed budgets included questions on what would happen if the Finance Committee rejected the budgets as presented; if the County was expecting any changes between now and the May 12 public hearing that would affect the budget, and if the County would consider an increase to the amount that is billed to the UT for patrol coverage in the next budget. After much deliberation and discussion the following motions were made:
  - A) Motion by Ryan Bushey, seconded by Spike Savage to approve the General Fund budget as presented. No further discussion. No opposition. No abstentions. All in favor (8/9) with Scott Moir absent.
  - B) Motion by Ryan Bushey, seconded by Dick Fortier to approve the Jail Fund budget as presented. No further discussion. No opposition. No abstentions. All in favor (8/9) with Scott Moir absent.
  - C) Motion by Ryan Bushey, seconded by Nelson Jandreau to approve the Unorganized Territory budget as presented. No further discussion. No opposition. No abstentions. All in favor (8/9) with Scott Moir absent.
5. Other Business – The Finance Committee agreed to restart the subcommittee that was established in 2025 with the purpose to review the funding of the outside agencies for state and municipal programs. A meeting will be scheduled with the new County Administrator, Justin Tibbetts, the Finance Director, Dana Gendreau and the 3 subcommittee members; Ryan Bushey, Nelson Gendreau, and Richard Fortier to determine next steps and the plan for next year's budget process for outside agencies.
6. Chair, Sue Powers reminded the group that the Public Hearing will be held May 12 at 4:30pm in the Caribou District Courtroom. Zoom will be available, however, members are needed to be in person to sign the budgets for submission to the state. All members must confirm attendance with the Operations Assistant.
7. Vice Chair, Ryan Bushey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:52am, seconded by Nelson Jandreau. Motion voted and passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Fortier  
Secretary