

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026, 1:00 PM
1ST FL CONFERENCE ROOM, FORT KENT REGISTRY OF DEEDS

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner
Daniel V. Deveau, County Commissioner
Dana Gendreau, Interim County Administrator/Finance Director
Beth Hummel, HR Director
Roy Guidry, Facilities Director
Peter Johnson, Sheriff
Shawn Gillen, Deputy Sheriff
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Administrator – Zoom
Lucien Daigle, State Representative
Timothy Guerrette, State Representative
Craig Clossey, Jail Administrator – Zoom
Todd Collins, District Attorney – Zoom
Richard Hoppe, Portage Lake Spirit of American recipient
Katy Hoppe, Portage Lake
Chris Bouchard, Bangor Daily News
Kathryn Olmstead, Caribou
Sophia Anoushfay, Fort Kent
Maine Wire – Zoom
RCR Grading – Zoom
AMA Watchdogs – Zoom
Fort Fairfield Town Office – Zoom
Metro Publishing – Zoom

- ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.
- ART. 3. Public Comment Period.
- No public comment.
- ART. 4. **MOTION:**
Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the agenda.
- VOTE:**
Motion voted on and passed.
- ART. 5. Commissioner Paul Underwood entertained a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2026.
- MOTION:**
Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to approve the meeting minutes of April 15, 2026.
- 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 Spirit of America recognition to Mr. Richard Hoppe of Portage Lake.

ART. 8. Representative Timothy Guerrette provided an update regarding the ATV laws regarding weight limits. A bill he sponsored, as well as others that looked to increase weight limits did not pass. ATV owners with machines that weigh more than 2,000 pounds will not be able to be registered this year. He is working to put together another bill to increase weight limits for the next legislative session.

Representative Lucien Daigle provided an update regarding fraudulent payments within the Mainecare system. There are currently more than 479,000 people in Maine on Medicaid/Mainecare.

No motion necessary.

ART. 9. Commissioner William Dobbins presented for consideration a request to increase the request for Opioid Settlement funds from the Prevention category to help fund the Law Enforcement Against Drugs & Violence (LEAD) pilot program within 6 school systems in Aroostook County. The prior request was for \$100,000 and was approved last year by the County Commissioners. Commissioner Dobbins explained that program would need to be funded for 360 days versus 180 days as originally requested, bringing the total funding request to \$209,128. Ms. Dana Gendreau confirmed that this funding request did not have a formal recommendation from the Opioid Task Force, as the request was presented after the application period for funding ended in 2025. The OTF was briefed on the updated proposal at a meeting on April 28, 2026. The current year application period is still in development. Ms. Gendreau confirmed that the funding was available within the Opioid Settlement monies to support this request and that these funds were solely from settlement money and were not from County tax funds. After much discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION:

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by Paul Underwood to authorize the increase of funding to the LEAD pilot program to benefit 6 schools systems within Aroostook County from \$100,000 to \$209,128 from the Opioid Settlement fund.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed. Commissioner Dobbins abstained.

ART. 10. Ms. Dana Gendreau presented the quarterly financial reports for period ending March 31, 2026. All funds are as expected.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to accept the quarterly financial reports for period ending March 31, 2026.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration a request from the Aroostook Public Health Council for a representative from the County. The role was previously held by former County Administrator Ryan Pelletier.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to nominate Commissioner Paul Underwood as primary representative to the Aroostook Public Health Council, with incoming County Administrator Justin Tibbetts as proxy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12.

Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the 2026-2027 County Tax Commitment of \$16,008,360 with an overlay of \$283,331, due date of September 1, 2026, and interest rate of 7% after November 1, 2026.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the 2026-2027 County Tax Commitment of \$16,088,360 with an overlay of \$283,331, due date of September 1, 2026, and interest rate of 7% after November 1, 2026.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13.

Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Leslie Rafford as Accounts Payable/Payroll Specialist.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendation of Leslie Rafford as Accounts Payable/Payroll Specialist.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14.

Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the ratification of the purchase of gift cards for the Finance Committee in recognition of their commitment and work on the 2026-2027 budget.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to ratify the purchase of gift cards for the Finance Committee in recognition of their commitment and work on the 2026-2027 budget.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15.

Ms. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration an update on the Jail Steering Committee applicants. Applicants were: District 1 - Brian Harris (Professional), Johanna Johnston (Professional) and William Grant (Community member); District 2 - Dixie Lee Shaw (Professional) and Penny Thompson (Professional); District 3 - Edward Pocock (Professional), Renee Deschaine (Professional) and Gilman Bourgoine (Community member). There remains an opening for a community member in District 2 as there were no applications received. After some discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION:

Motion by Daniel Deveau, seconded by William Dobbins to approve Jail Steering committee applicants as follows: District 1, Brian Harris (Professional), Johanna Johnston (Community member); District 2, Dixie Lee Shaw (Professional), Penny Thompson (Professional); and District 3, Edward Pocock (Professional), Renee Deschaine (Professional) and Gilman Bourgoine (Community member). Openings will be available for District 1 - Professional and District 2 - Community member.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 16. Ms. Dana Gendreau presented an update on the jail design contract with SMRT Inc. The agreement is very close to being finalized. She recommended a special Commissioners' meeting be held to review and approve the contract as soon as it is received. The Commissioners agreed and a meeting will be scheduled within the next week.

No motion necessary.

- ART. 17. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommissions of Nathan Chisholm, Dustin Charette, Matthew Brown, William Campbell, Aaron Neureuther, Shanna Duffy, Larry Goff, and Ryan Doughty.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the recommissions of Nathan Chisholm, Dustin Charette, Matthew Brown, William Campbell, Aaron Neureuther, Shanna Duffy, Larry Goff, and Ryan Doughty.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 18. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendations of Ian Ryan Sonderman and Brian McGuigan as part-time Corrections officers.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the hiring recommendations of Ian Ryan Sonderman and Brian McGuigan as part-time Corrections officers.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 19. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the communications tower lease agreement with Atlantic Tower Corp.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to approve the communications tower lease agreement with Atlantic Tower Corp.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 20. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Dobbins advised that the MCCA is highlighting that people do not understand what the county pays for within their budgets and that we should work to educate our community members. The brochure we developed should help. The Risk Pool has over \$13 million in liabilities, with 13 new claims and 12 closed. 90% of claims continue to be vehicle accidents. There will be driver training offered to those counties with the most accidents.

Commissioner Deveau advised that the Legislative Policy committee will only meet once a month, instead of once a week. Commissioners should reach out to the newly elected officials and help to educate them. Bills need to be worked on in advance to ensure they are ready for the opening of the legislative session after

election. The recent LUPC permit appeal approval for the Sinclair Fire Station is unheard of and the work done by the County is commendable.

ART. 19. Other Business

Commissioner Dobbins discussed the need to continue the work on the funding of outside agencies within the county budgets. Ms. Gendreau advised that there is a subcommittee in place and their work will continue when the new administrator, Justin Tibbetts, is in place. A meeting will be scheduled with the subcommittee and Mr. Tibbetts.

ART. 22. At 2:49 pm, the following motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Daniel Deveau:

"I move that we enter into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to consider a personnel matter."

The Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 4:14 pm.

No action was taken.

ART. 21. Adjournment.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Daniel Deveau to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm.

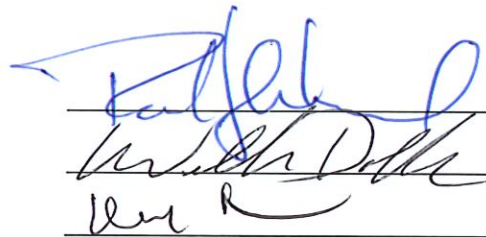
VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Dana L. Gendreau
Interim County Administrator



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: June 17, 2026