

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 – ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE

PRESENT

Ryan Bushey, Chair, Finance Committee
Sue Powers, Vice Chair, Finance Committee – Zoom
Richard Fortier, Secretary, Finance Committee
Nelson Jandreau, Finance Committee
Donald Savage, Finance Committee
Kai Libby, Finance Committee - Zoom
Michelle Raymond, Finance Committee - Zoom
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant

- ART. 1. The meeting was called to order by Finance Committee Chair Ryan Bushey at 9:00 AM.
- ART. 2. Motion by Nelson Jandreau and seconded by Donald Savage to approve the Public Hearing minutes of November 15, 2022. So voted.
- ART. 3. Motion by Nelson Jandreau and seconded by Donald Savage to elect Ryan Bushey as Chair, Sue Powers as Vice Chair, and Richard Fortier as Secretary. So voted.
- ART. 4. Ryan Bushey read the Finance Committee Rules/Procedures. Motion by Sue Powers and seconded by Nelson Jandreau to adopt the rules as read. So voted.
- ART. 5. Finance Director Dana Gendreau presented an overview of the County, UT and Jail budgets for the current year. General Fund is pending revenue for the last quarter; Jail closed their fiscal year with a deficit as of 6/30/2023 which will be covered by the General Fund; ARPA is on track; UT ended the fiscal year with a surplus as of 6/30/2023.
- ART. 6. County Administrator Ryan Pelletier presented a preliminary overview of the budget requests for the special 6-month budget (Jan-Jun 2024). COLA is estimated to be 2.34% for the coming year. Commissioners approved a salary and benefit survey at yesterday's meeting and those recommendations would go into effect in July if approved. High increases in requests from Law Enforcement for the hiring of 4 Deputies and purchase of 4 new cruisers/equipment. The need arises from reduced numbers of State Police, State Police is moving away from rural patrol into more specialized areas, and 2 local police departments have been discontinued which increases the need for the County to cover the areas.

- ART. 7. Ryan Bushey reviewed the upcoming meeting dates for budget work sessions and the Public Hearing. Finance Committee members are encouraged to attend the work sessions on October 10 and October 13 and are required to attend the work session on October 24 and the Public Hearing on November 14.
- ART. 8. Ryan Pelletier explained that the goal of this 6-month budget is to be as close to 50% of last year's budget as possible. Some expenses happen at the beginning of the year so we may see some higher amounts certain budget lines. Anything over 50% will be highlighted. Some revenue only happens in the 3rd quarter which will not be part of this special budget.
- ART. 9. Other Business: None
- ART. 10. Motion by Nelson Jandreau and seconded by Richard Fortier to adjourn at 9:45 AM. So voted.


Richard Fortier, Secretary Finance Committee