

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 – 1:00 PM
SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUILDING SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM-HOULTON

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator-Zoom
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Darren Woods, Director, EMA
Peter Johnson, Sheriff
Erica Pelletier, Chief Deputy, Aroostook County Sheriff's
William Janakis, Sergeant, Aroostook County Sheriff's
Jim Willis, Dirigo Safety
Rand Maker, Chief Deputy, Lincoln County Sheriff's, Camp Postcard
Brian Harris, Lieutenant, Maine State Police
Steven Austin, Camp Postcard Luke Gross Award Recipient, and his family
Rob Morang, Sergeant, Hancock County Sheriff's-Zoom
Kathleen Thomaselli, Bangor Daily News
Megan Waceken, WAGM

- ART. 1. Commissioner Paul Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.
- ART. 3. No public comment.
- ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested the following addition to Article 23: Other Business:
A) To Consider the Fire Protection Agreement for Benedicta and Silver Ridge with the town of Sherman; B) To Consider the Solid Waste Contract for Benedicta and Silver Ridge with the town of Sherman.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 5. Commissioner Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the March 20, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the meeting minutes of March 20, 2024.

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. Sgt. William Janakis and Chief Rand Maker presented the 2023 Camp Postcard Deputy Luke Gross Youth of the Year award to camper Steven Austin.

No motion necessary.

ART. 8. Mr. Jim Willis of Dirigo Safety presented the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office with MLEAP accreditation. The Aroostook County Sheriff's Office is the 27th agency in Maine to become accredited with MLEAP.

No motion necessary.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier provided an update on the letters of interest received for the Opioid Task Force. He recommended that the 1 applicant from District 1 and 2 applicants from District 3 be accepted, while the 9 applicants from District 2 be reviewed further by the Commissioners to select 6 members from that pool of applicants. The Task Force would include 9 community members and 3 Ex-Officio members (Ryan Pelletier, County Administrator; Dana Gendreau, Finance Director; Peter Johnson, Sheriff).

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the applicants as noted for District 1 and District 3, and to further review the applicants from District 2.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Benjamin Wipperman as full-time Dispatcher.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the hiring recommendation of Benjamin Wipperman as full-time Dispatcher.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommissions of Deputy Kenna Prue and Deputy Stewart Kennedy.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the recommissions of Deputy Kenna Prue and Deputy Stewart Kennedy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the 2024 dispatch contract with Monticello.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 2024 dispatch contract with Monticello.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the hiring recommendation of Zachary Konz as a North Lakes Fire & Rescue Firefighter.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the hiring recommendation of Zachary Konz as a North Lakes Fire & Rescue Firefighter.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the bid recommendation for a 1-ton pick-up to be purchased from Pelletier Ford for \$58,695.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the bid recommendation for a 1-ton pick-up to be purchased from Pelletier Ford.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the 2024 ambulance agreement with the City of Caribou for services in Madawaska Lake.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the 2024 ambulance agreement with the City of Caribou for services in Madawaska Lake.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the ambulance and fire agreement with the City of Caribou for services in Connor.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the ambulance and fire agreement with the City of Caribou for services in Connor.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration a five (5) year septage disposal contract with Jane & Mike Ricci.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the five (5) year septage disposal contract with Jane & Mike Ricci.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18. Mr. Steve Pelletier presented for consideration the 2024 ARPA Grant Award recommendations. Commissioner Norman Fournier disclosed that he is a board member of Ambulance Services Inc., which is included as a recommended grant recipient.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the 2024 ARPA Grant Award recommendations as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19 County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier reported out on the MCCA/Risk Pool. Lower number of claims again this month. Most are storm/water damage, car accidents, and 1 inmate claim. 197 total outstanding claims. Working on getting funding to increase Jail training to increase safety and reduce claims. Under the freedom of information act, the ACLU has requested all settlements for the past 3-4 years. Risk Pool is working on the last 10 settlements for redaction which is time consuming and costly.

The Legislature closes today. Closely watching the \$4 million in supplemental jail funding and the outcome of the rural patrol bill which would include additional State Trooper positions in Aroostook County.

ART. 20. Other Business

A) Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration a three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Sherman for services in Benedicta and Silver Ridge.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier, seconded by William Dobbins to approve the three (3) year fire protection agreement with the Town of Sherman for services in Benedicta and Silver Ridge.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- B) Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration a one (1) year solid waste agreement with the Town of Sherman for services in Benedicta and Silver Ridge.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the one (1) year solid waste agreement with the Town of Sherman for services in Benedicta and Silver Ridge.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 21. Adjournment.

MOTION:


A motion was made by William Dobbins, seconded by Norman Fournier to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 pm.


VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting


Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



Norman Fournier


AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: May 15, 2024