

## MINUTES

### AROOSTOOK COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MARCH 26, 2024 – ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE

#### PRESENT

Ryan Bushey, Chair, Finance Committee - Zoom  
Sue Powers, Vice Chair, Finance Committee  
Richard Fortier, Secretary, Finance Committee  
Nelson Jandreau, Finance Committee  
Donald Savage, Finance Committee  
Michelle Raymond, Finance Committee - Zoom  
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner  
Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioner - Zoom  
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner  
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator  
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director  
Leigh Smith, Treasurer  
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 Michelle Raymond and seconded by Sue Powers to approve the Public Hearing minutes of November 15, 2023. So voted.
- ART. 3. Motion by Nelson Jandreau and seconded by Michelle Raymond 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 Richard Fortier and seconded by Sue Powers to adopt the rules as read. So voted.
- ART. 5. Finance Director Dana Gendreau presented an overview of the County FY 2024, UT and Jail budgets for the current year. General Fund revenue was 1.2% above the anticipated budget, and expenses were 1.5% above the approved budget; Jail ended the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with a 3.8% increase of collected revenue, and 3.6% increase for expenses; UT ended the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with 31.2% increased revenue, and 3.14% decrease in expenses; ARPA is on track.
- ART. 6. County Administrator Ryan Pelletier presented a preliminary overview of the budget requests for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. COLA is estimated to be 3.3% based on the CPI-W ending December 2023. Projecting a 10% increase in health insurance but will not know the final cost until January 2025. Projecting 5% increase in property/casualty insurance. New Family Medical Leave tax goes into effect January 2025 which is a 1% tax on earnings split between employer and employee. Departments with notable increases in their budget requests include the District

Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement, Building Maintenance, Jail, and Unorganized Territories.

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 April 9 and April 12; and are required to attend the work session on April 23 and the Public Hearing on May 14.

ART. 8. Committee members requested that the \$ Change column on the budgets be changed to reflect the 2024-2025 Requested minus the 2023 Actual as to better reflect a yearly comparison. Using the 2024 Special 6 month budget skews the change in dollar amount when comparing it to a full year budget.

ART. 9. Other Business:

Mr. Ryan Bushey requested that the County Charter Article V be reviewed for updates. The process to update the County Charter is challenging due to the rules surrounding that process.

Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented an update on the 6 month County Tax payment plans. 21 towns have returned their payment forms with 3 opting for 2 year plan, 8 for 1 year plan (2 already paid in full) and 10 for the 3 year plan. 5 Finance Committee members will have their terms end on December 31, 2024. Those members will need to submit their nomination/petition/signatures to the registrar by May 28 for voter verification and then to the Secretary of State's office by June 3. This will allow members to be on the ballot in November. Ryan Bushey added that he will not be seeking re-election to the Finance Committee.

ART. 10. Motion by Michael Greenlaw and seconded by Richard Fortier to adjourn at 10:27 AM. So voted.



Richard Fortier  
Richard Fortier, Secretary Finance Committee