

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 - 1:00 PM
CARIBOU COURTHOUSE-ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM-CARIBOU

PRESENT

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director-Zoom
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator
Shawn Gillen, Sheriff
Joey Seeley, Deputy Sheriff
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Darren Woods, Director of EMA
Christina Theriault, HR Director
Leigh Smith, Treasurer
Melissa Lizotte, Bangor Daily News
Richard Rhoda, Resident of Houlton
Collette Pelletier, Resident of St. John Plantation

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

ART. 3. Mr. Richard Rhoda, a resident of Houlton, was present for public comments regarding trees at Houlton Superior Court. This item will be on the agenda for July 19th's meeting in Houlton. Mr. Rhoda was invited back next month to provide his comments and to provide any materials to the County Administrator in advance of the meeting.

ART. 4. MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the agenda.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Chair Paul J. Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the May 17, 2023, County Commissioners' meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2023, County Commissioners' meeting.

VOTE:

ART. 6. Motion voted on and passed.
The County Commissioners approved and signed the following:

- A) Attendance record.
- B) Bills and warrants.
- C) BYOB Permit – D. Robinson/Benedicta

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the BYOB Permit for D. Robinson/Benedicta.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for ratification a letter of support for LD 1943: An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewal Energy Development in Northern Maine.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to ratify the letter of support of LD 1943.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for ratification a letter of commitment for the Central Aroostook Association's Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Grant.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to ratify the letter of commitment for Central Aroostook Association's WORC grant.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented an update on the possibility of a PFAS/PFOA Settlement.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to ratify the Retainer Agreement with Napoli Shkolnik PLLC specific to PFAS/PFOA Settlements.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Mr. Steven Pelletier presented for consideration the 2023 Municipal and Non-Profit ARPA Grant Awards. There is an unused amount in Public Health that could be moved to Public Infrastructure. This could fully fund Ashland's Public Infrastructure project and funds could also be awarded to Madawaska's Public Infrastructure project.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the 2023 Municipal and Non-Profit ARPA Grant Awards as presented, including moving unused Public Health funds (\$97,073) to Public Infrastructure to fully fund Ashland's Infrastructure project, with remaining funds being offered to Madawaska. Should Madawaska not use the funding, it will go back into the pool for the next round of awards.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Mr. Steven Pelletier presented for consideration an updated project cost estimate for the North Lakes/Stockholm Fire Station addition. Cost increased by \$50,000 since the project was first estimated.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to use the remainder of the unused funds, previously awarded to Homeless Services of Aroostook, in combination with additional funds previously assigned to HVAC to cover the revised cost estimate.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Mr. Steven Pelletier presented for consideration the EECEBG Grant Program Resolution. The County is eligible for \$77,330 for energy efficiency.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the EECEBG Grant Program Resolution.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. Mrs. Christina Theriault presented for consideration an update to the Annual Leave Policy.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the updated Annual Leave Policy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Sheriff Shawn Gillen presented for consideration the promotion of Brandy Fuller to ACCCP Supervisor.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the promotion of Brandy Fuller to ACCCP Supervisor.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Mr. Shawn Gillen presented for consideration recommission of Sgt. Forrest Dudley as Deputy Sheriff.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the recommission of Sgt. Forrest Dudley.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration updates to the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the updates to the County Emergency Operations Plan with amendments to update the Basic Plan References to reflect more recent Census Data than 2010, and Annex H Resource Management: XIII. Commodities Distribution to reflect the correct number of Community Districts listed as twelve (12) versus five (5).

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Darren Woods presented for consideration the hiring of Rylie Levesque as a Junior Firefighter and requested that the hiring of Noah Oakes be Tabled.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to Table the hiring of Noah Oakes, and to hire Rylie Levesque as Junior Firefighter.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the bid recommendation for Road Maintenance Area One Southern Aroostook (7/2023-6/2026).

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to accept the bid for Road Maintenance Area One Southern Aroostook from Michael Elwell & Sons.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the bid recommendation for Road Maintenance Area Two (7/2023-6/2026).

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the bid for Road Maintenance Area Two from MJ Ouellette & Daughters.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the Animal Control Contract Agreement with the Town of Mapleton for Scopan Township (7/2023-6/2024).

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the Animal Control Contract Agreement with the Town of Mapleton for Scopan Township.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 21. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Mapleton for T11R4 (Scopan) Year One of Three Year agreement (7/2023-6/2026)

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to accept the Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Mapleton for T11R4 (Scopan) Year One of Three Year Agreement.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 22.

Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the proposed ATV Access Routes requested by Caribou Viking Riders ATV Group for Emond and Dubay Pit Roads in Connor Township.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the ATV Access Routes for Emond and Dubay Pit Road as requested by Caribou Viking Riders.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 23.

County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier reported that the Risk Pool remains steady with 9 new cases and 16 closed last month. Most cases (7) were automobile related. MCCA is asking for feedback on Educational Sessions to offer and has supplied a handout to rank the topics of interest due by June 30th. Educational Session topics will be announced at the end of July.

The Legislature is close to adjourning its current session. The rural patrol bill was tabled due to the need for additional information. Jail funding continues to have many supporters but resistance from the Governor's office.

ART. 24.

Other Business

Mr. Paul Bernier advised that the Sherman Town Office has only 2 employees and they are both retiring. The town is looking at cutting back on staffing/hours and services offered such as Elections, Vehicle & Dog Registrations, Solid Waste, Fire, Ambulance, etc. Mr. Bernier is monitoring closely and working on alternative solutions for services should they become eliminated at the Sherman Town office.

ART. 25.

At 2:28 pm, the following motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier:

"I move that we enter Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to discuss the County Administrator's 2022 annual evaluation."

VOTE:

Motion voted and passed.

Upon return from Executive Session at 3:39 pm, no action was taken.

ART. 26. Adjournment.

MOTION:

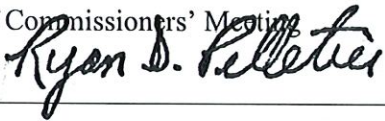
A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 pm.

VOTE:

Motion voted and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy

of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier

Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator





AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: July 19, 2023