

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023
1:00 PM REGISTRY OF DEEDS FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – FORT KENT

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
Bryan Jandreau, IT & Facilities Director
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator
Shawn Gillen, Sheriff
Peter Johnson, Commander
Joey Seeley, Deputy Sheriff
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Amy Ouellette, Registrar of Deeds
Melissa Richardson, Registrar of Deeds-Zoom
Darren Woods, Director of EMA-Zoom
Adam Bouchard, Deputy & family members
Eric Corbin, Deputy

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

ART. 3. There was no public comment.

ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested that Article 14 be moved up to be after Article 7. Chair Paul J. Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the agenda as amended.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Chair Paul J. Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the April 19, 2023 County Commissioners' meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 County Commissioners' meeting.

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. Sheriff Shawn Gillen presented Deputy Adam Bouchard with the Deputy of the Year Award.

ART. 14. Ms. Amy Ouellette and Ms. Melissa Richardson presented for consideration a change in the Certified Copy Fee for the Registry of Deeds offices from \$2 to \$5, with \$1 each additional page. The Certified Copy fee is set by the individual County. Maine Registry of Deeds Association is working on a proposal to change fees that are regulated by the State.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to increase the Certified Copy fee from \$2 to \$5, with \$1 each additional page beginning July 1, 2023.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for ratification a Letter of Support on behalf of Aroostook Agency on Aging for the Aroostook Health Partnership Project.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to ratify the Letter of Support for Aroostook Agency of Aging.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for ratification a Letter of Support on behalf of the Loring Development Authority for a new Foreign Trade Zone.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to ratify the Letter of Support for Loring Development Authority.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the appointments to the NMDC Board of General Membership (2) and Unorganized Territory (1).

A) Unorganized Territory (1)

MOTION:

A motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the re-appointment of Martin Dionne for NMDC-Unorganized Territory.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

B) General Membership (2)

MOTION:

A motion was made by Paul Underwood and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the re-appointment of Norman Fournier and the appointment of William Dobbins for NMDC-General Membership.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the location and date for the Spirit of America Award Ceremony. The Commissioners set the date for the event to be July 21, 2023 at the Northeastland Hotel.

No motion needed.

ART. 12. Mrs. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the quarterly financial reports.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the quarterly financial reports.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. Mr. Steve Pelletier presented for consideration an update on the 2023 ARPA Grant applications.

No motion needed.

ART. 15. Mr. Shawn Gillen presented for consideration the hiring of Steven Murphy for Full-Time Corrections Officer.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the hiring of Steven Murphy as Full-Time Corrections Officer.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 16. Sheriff Shawn Gillen presented for consideration the Phillip Morely for Full-Time Corrections Officer.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the hiring of Phillip Morely as Full-Time Corrections Officer.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 17. Mr. Joey Seeley presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the purchase of a 2023 Enclosed Cargo Trailer. Winning bid was \$10,900 from Embelton Auto Sales.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to accept the bid from Embelton Auto Sales for the purchase of a 2023 Enclosed Trailer.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 18. Mr. Joey Seeley presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the sale of a surplus 2015 Sure-Trac trailer. Winning bid was \$1850 from Embelton Auto Sales.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to accept the bid from Embelton Auto Sales for the sale of a 2015 Sure-Trac trailer.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 19. Mr. Joey Seeley presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the sale of a surplus 2015 Polaris UTV. Winning bid was \$11,999 from Marc Cyr.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to accept the bid from Marc Cyr for \$11,999 for the 2015 Polaris UTV and should Mr. Cyr not finalize the purchase for any reason, the UTV will be awarded to the next highest bid received at the time of bid opening on May 11, 2023.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 20. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the Connor Recreation facility maintenance. Winning bid was for \$7,815.04 for 2023-2025 from RM Lawn Care LLC.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the bid from RM Lawn Care LLC. for the Connor Recreation facility maintenance for 2023-2025.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 21. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the Ambulance Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of East Millinocket for the Unorganized Territories of Molunkus and North Yarmouth Academy Grant for a three (3) year period (7/2023-6/2026)

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to accept the Ambulance Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of East Millinocket for Molunkus and North Yarmouth Academy Grant (7/2023-6/2026).

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 22. Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the Ambulance Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Van Buren for the Unorganized Territory of Van Buren Cove for a three (3) year period (7/2023-06/2026).

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the Ambulance Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Van Buren for Van Buren Cove (7/2023-6/2026).

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 23. Mr. Bryan Jandreau presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the Jail Flat Roof Replacement. Winning bid was for \$76,480 from Powers Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. Bid is over budget by \$11,780. Jail Capital Fund balance of \$6,549.22 can be applied leaving \$5,230.78 needed.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the bid for the Jail Flat Roof Replacement from Powers Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. and includes the approval of the needed funds of \$5230.78 from the Contingency Fund.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 24. Mr. Bryan Jandreau presented for consideration the bid recommendation for heating oil for nine (9) locations. Winning bid was Dead River Company with pricing ranging from \$3.0693-\$4.5882 depending on location and fuel type.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the bid from Dead River Company for heating oil for the nine (9) office locations.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 25. Mr. Bryan Jandreau presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the Dispatch Construction Project. Winning bid was for \$151,231.00 from Building Etcetera, Inc. Over the original budgeted amount, but the project has expanded to include additional upgrades. Mr. Ryan Pelletier and Sheriff Shawn Gillen are advocating with the State to enable the Sheriff's Office to utilize State towers for communication. Mr. Pelletier presented options for funding the additional upgrades to include; 1) Refinancing the lease to keep annual payments similar with no significant impact; 2) Usage of ARPA Funds that went unused by previously awarded projects; 3) Usage of a combination of Contingency Funds and ARPA Funds.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the bid from Building Etcetera, Inc for the Dispatch Construction Project; with additional funding come from Option 2 with the usage of unused awarded ARPA funds to complete the upgrades.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 26. Mr. Bryan Jandreau presented for consideration the SunVest NEB Subscription Agreement. This is a ten (10) year agreement for the two Limestone solar farms and includes an estimated \$4,500/year savings on electricity for the Fort Kent and Caribou offices. There is a one (1) year opt out clause.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the SunVest NEB Subscription Agreement.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 27. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier provided an update for MCCA/Risk Pool. 9 new claims last month and 14 claims resolved. There are 3 employment related complaints, with the rest being vehicle related. The Risk Pool is in a good financial standing.

Legislatively, the Governor did not include an increase for jail funding. She has requested more efficiencies within the operation of the jails. MCCA representatives testified in support of LD 258 to maintain the State's contribution of 20% for jail operations. Opposition was unanimous for LD 785 where each County would have been responsible for creating and funding a Board to review complaints regarding DHHS/OCFS. The Rural Patrol bill, LD 630, has been tabled until next year due to the need for additional documentation which will not meet the current deadline requirements to present to legislators.

ART. 28. Other Business

Mr. Paul Bernier presented for consideration the Ambulance Agreement with NWSARAS for Bancroft Township (7/2023-6/2024).

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to accept the Ambulance Agreement with NWSARAS for Bancroft Township (7/2023-6/2024).

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 29. Adjournment.

MOTION:

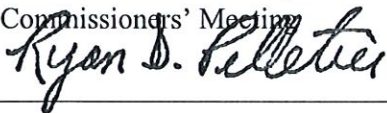
A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to adjourn the meeting at 3:12 pm.

VOTE:

Motion voted and passed.

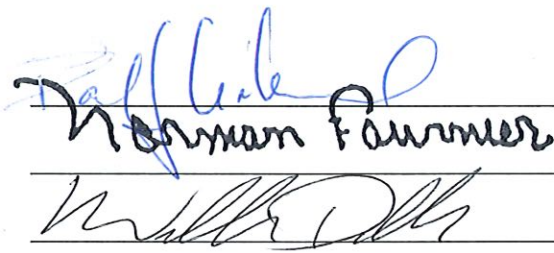
ATTEST: A True Copy

of Commissioners' Meeting

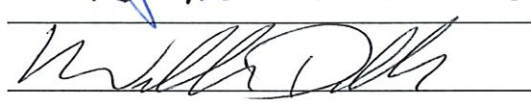


Ryan D. Pelletier

Ryan D. Pelletier
COMMISSIONERS
County Administrator



Norman Fournier



William Dobbins

AROOSTOOK COUNTY

DATE: May 17, 2023