

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – NOVEMBER 15, 2023
SHERIFF'S OFFICE - HOULTON

Present:

Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Steve Pelletier, ARPA Program Administrator - Zoom
Dana Gendreau, Finance Director
Peter Johnson, County Sheriff
Erica Pelletier, Commander
Joey Seeley, Chief Deputy
Craig Clossey, Jail Administrator
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Underwood called the regular meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

ART. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

ART. 3. No Public Comment.

ART. 4. Mr. Ryan Pelletier requested the following additions to Art 12: Other Business; A) To determine a date and time for a Tax Abatement Hearing in the matter of Cassidy v. City of Caribou; B) To ratify the purchase of gift cards for the Finance Committee; and C) To discuss the recommendation for a County representative on the Presque Isle Airport Advisory Board.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Chair Paul Underwood entertained a motion for approval of the October 18, 2023 County Commissioners' meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Motion by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the minutes of the October 18, 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. Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the payout of CTO time when an employee transitions from a CTO time eligible position to a non-CTO time eligible position. There are currently 2 employees in this situation, and a formal policy is being developed to address this in the future.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the CTO payout for the 2 employees currently affected by transferring to non-CTO eligible positions within the County.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Mrs. Dana Gendreau presented for consideration the quarterly financials ending September 30, 2023.

Motion:

A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to accept the quarterly financials ending September 30, 2023.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9 Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the recommissions of Deputy Sheriff Reid Clark and Deputy Sheriff Shane Campbell.

MOTION:

A motion was made by William Dobbins to and seconded by Norman Fournier to approve the recommissions of Deputy Sheriff's Reid Clark and Shane Campbell.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Sheriff Peter Johnson presented for consideration the bid recommendation for the sale of a surplus 2007 Toyota Camry. 2 bids were received, with the highest bid of \$1,000 from Chris Elliott.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to approve the sale recommendation of a 2007 Toyota Camry to the highest bidder, Chris Elliott.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fournier provided an update on the Risk Pool. 2024 insurance renewal had some significant increases from Counties as they spent ARPA funding to make a lot of building improvements. This added to the value of the properties and thus increased renewal rates. There is also some concern regarding the potential for claims coming from the mass shooting incident in Lewiston. There has already been a notice of claim filed to not destroy records due to a pending claim. They are unsure how many claims may result in the incident, and it is being monitored closely.

Last month, 12 new claims were opened and 8 were closed, in total, with approximately \$159,000 in reserves. Recently lost a case regarding FOIA where they are negotiating the total attorney fees that are required to be paid.

Spirit of America is looking to have proclamations designating a month, September and October 2024, respectively, for County Commissioners and one for Maine Municipal Association, potentially recognizing Law Enforcement and Election Clerks. Convention locations for 2024 are being discussed and Aroostook was named as a possibility. There is a really rough budget that is about a 3% increase over last year, but this is a very rough draft.

For the Legislature, the priorities continue to be Jail funding and Rural Patrol. Documentation has been submitted to the Governor's office to support the special funding request for the County Jail's. This will be part of the special session in January.

No motion necessary.

ART. 12. Other Business:

Commissioner William Dobbins inquired about the status of ARPA for next year's process. Mr. Steve Pelletier will be providing a full ARPA program update at the December County Commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner William Dobbins inquired about the need for the Unorganized Territories to have a "Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance." This allows citizens to grow, produce, and sell their food/food products without the need for State certification. Mr. Ryan Pelletier will look into the matter to determine if this is something that the Commissioners are permitted to do.

A) Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the Tax Abatement Appeal hearing date and time for the matter of Cassidy V. City of Caribou. The Commissioners came to a consensus that the date and time would be set for December 12, 2023 @ 11:00 am, dependent on if the information requested from the parties has been received by the Commissioners' Office. No Motion Necessary.

B) Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the ratification of the purchase of \$50 gift cards for the members of the Finance Committee.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to ratify the purchase of gift cards for the members of the Finance Committee.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

C) Mr. Ryan Pelletier presented for consideration the recommendation to nominate Leigh Smith as the County representative to the Presque Isle Airport Advisory Board.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Norman Fournier and seconded by William Dobbins to recommend Leigh Smith as the County representative to the Presque Isle Airport Advisory Board.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. Adjournment.


A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to adjourn the Meeting at 2:07 p.m. Motion voted and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy

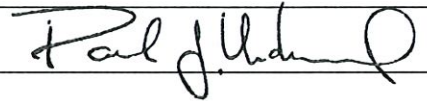
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



Norman Fournier



AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: December 20, 2023