

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009 – 5:30 P.M. – HOULTON DISTRICT COURT BUILDING – CONFERENCE ROOM

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Jim Madore, Sheriff
Craig Clossey, Chief Deputy

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ART. 2. Approval of agenda.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the agenda.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 3. Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. The Commissioners approved and signed the following:

- A) Attendance Record.
- B) Bills and Warrants.

ART. 5. Bids:

- A) Cleaning Supplies.

Bids were received from the following vendors:

The County Administrator provided a chronological review of the PSAP/Dispatch ratemaking case, which is before the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). The initial rate filing request by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) was \$4.09 per capita for PSAP services, amounting to an annualized cost of \$302,406.00 for Aroostook County. On January 23, 2009, the PUC rendered a decision with respect to six (6) issues for inclusion/exclusion as it relates to this rate case. DPS had fourteen (14) days to respond with an adjusted rate request, incorporating the PUC's order. On February 6, 2009, DPS filed an adjusted rate request of \$3.47 per capita for PSAP services, which would translate to an annualized cost of \$256,565 for Aroostook County. (When the County Commissioners and Finance Committee passed the County Budget last November for the 2009 fiscal year, the County approved \$189,768.00 for PSAP services.) On February 12, 2009, DPS filed yet another rate request asking for \$3.54 per capita or \$261,741.00, annually. This represents a rate increase of over 38% to Aroostook County alone.

Given these tough economic times, the County Commissioners are particularly sensitive to the potential loss of jobs in Aroostook County. However, given financial limitations and a projected cost increase over four (4) years of approximately \$270,000 (if the County continues the contract with DPS) the County Commissioners feel they have no other viable option but to contract with Penobscot County for \$180,000.00, annually.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate a contract with Penobscot County for PSAP services for Aroostook County communities and to commence those services on or before July 1, 2009.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. County Administrator's report:

A) Bureau of Labor Standards Safety Inspection.

The Bureau of Labor Standards conducted a safety inspection of county facilities in October 2008. Initially, a fine of \$1,700.00 was levied against the County; however, because of the Facilities Manager's diligence and responsiveness in dealing with the violations, this fine has been waived.

B) Tour of Superior Court Building Renovations.

In lieu of taking a tour of the Superior Court building, the County Commissioners decided to take a tour of the jail facility, immediately following the Commissioners' Meeting.

C) Other Items of Interest.

There were no other items of interest.

ART. 9. Other Business.

There was no other business to discuss.

ART. 10. Executive session.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to go into executive session.

MOTION:

The following motion was made by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier:

“I move that we go into executive session pursuant to Title 1, MRSA, §405, sub-section 6, paragraph (A) to discuss a personnel issue.”

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

ART. 11. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: February 18, 2009