

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING –WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009 - 5:30 P.M. –
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Wilfred J. Bell, Treasurer
Jim Madore, Sheriff
Vern Ouellette, EMA Director
Dave Sokolich, Public Works Director

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:36 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. Approval of minutes of the March 4, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the March 4, 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. Contract:

- A) Five (5) year (1/1/09 – 12/31/13) Ambulance Service Contract with the Aroostook Medical Center (TAMC) for E Plantation.

The County Administrator recommended the approval of this contract with Aroostook Medical Center (TAMC). He indicated to the County Commissioners that Dave Sokolich, Public Works Director, was present to answer questions. Commissioner Fournier asked Mr. Sokolich a question about the subsidy cap, to which Mr. Sokolich responded.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve a five (5) year (1/1/09 – 12/31/13) Ambulance Service Contract with the Aroostook Medical Center (TAMC) for E Plantation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Bid:

- A) One (1) 2009 One-ton 4-wheel drive pick-up for the Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

Bids were received from the following vendors:

York's of Houlton Houlton	\$29,495.00
Griffeth Ford Lincoln Mercury Caribou	\$29,360.00
Martin Ford Fort Kent	\$29,235.00
Carroll's Auto Sales Presque Isle	\$31,341.00
Valley Auto Fort Kent	\$31,371.00.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to table the bids pending review by the County Administrator, with authorization to award the bid to the apparent low bidder who adheres to the specifications.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Approval of part-time cook for the Houlton County Jail.

The County Administrator and Sheriff Madore recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Carolyn McWaid as part-time cook at the Houlton County Jail.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Carolyn McWaid as part-time cook at the Houlton County Jail.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Emergency Management Agency (EMA) update.

Vern Ouellette, EMA Director, updated the County Commissioners on the following items:

- Efforts taken, to date, to prepare local communities in meeting their requirements for the possible upcoming ice-out conditions.
- HUD funding that will be available to assist County communities, specifically the Fort Kent area Elderly Housing units, with possibly up to \$1.5 million in assistance for rebuilding of the units and the remaining \$581,462.00 used to meet the 15% State reimbursement requirement for local communities.
- Demonstrated newly acquired equipment that will be used by the agency to assist in disaster damage assessments as well as the Global Positioning System (GPS) to identify critical County facilities.

ART. 9. County Administrator's Report.

A) Maine Public Employees Retirement System Contribution Rates.

The County Administrator reviewed the 2009 contribution rates from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS). He indicated that the County had budgeted sufficient funding to meet this financial obligation.

B) Police Cruiser bid award.

Sheriff Madore explained the situation in reference to this bid process. Ultimately, it was decided that one (1) cruiser would be awarded to Griffeth Ford and one (1) to York's of Houlton based, in part, on where the deputy resides.

C) Correspondence from Town of Fort Fairfield.

Fort Fairfield has requested that the County of Aroostook provide dispatch services as of July 1, 2009. The Sheriff explained that we are in the process of assessing how many communities are considering making a change from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Sheriff's Office for dispatch services. After we are able to ascertain the potential new call volume, we will be able to determine a proposed, new rating structure for these contracts.

D) Constituent request regarding resolution.

There was a brief discussion about some of the elements proposed in this Gun Control Resolution. In the final analysis, the County Administrator recommended, and the County Commissioners agreed, that an amended resolution be brought to the next County Commissioners' Meeting for their consideration.

E) Status of PSAP Project.

The County Administrator indicated that he met with Penobscot County Administrator Bill Collins and Penobscot County RCC Executive Director Jim Ryan to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for future PSAP services for Aroostook County. This meeting was successful. The proposed MOU is expected to be approved by the Penobscot Board of County Commissioners shortly. It will then be brought before our Board for final approval.

The County's request to change its PSAP provider is now before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The request was made approximately one (1) month ago. After receiving no word on this request, it prompted the County Administrator to send an expedited request to Karen Geraghty, Administrative Director of the PUC. The County has been advised that the request is on the Commission's Agenda for March 24, 2009. A progress report will be provided at the next County Commissioners' Meeting.

F) Other items of interest.

1) Capital Projects.

The County Administrator will discuss the capital reserve funds and provide a report on the 2008 County Budget Fund Balance at the April 15, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

2) B-Road – Town of Hammond.

Two (2) added Fact Finding filings were received on March 17, 2009, which were provided to the County Commissioners at this meeting. A decision on this matter will be issued within thirty (30) days.

3) Board of Corrections (BOC) Meeting.

The County Administrator advised that he had listened, by phone, to today's Board of Corrections (BOC) Meeting. Collectively, the counties requested over \$7 million from the BOCs (General Fund money) for the Fiscal Year ending 2010. After a fair amount of deliberation, the BOC voted to support a \$3.7 million request (It should be noted that upon review of the BOC's minutes prepared by Tim Leet after the meeting was held, the amount is \$3.5 million.), which creates a serious funding issue for the operations of our county jails. The recommendation of the BOC will be conveyed to the committee of jurisdiction and the Appropriation's Committee.

ART. 10. Other Business.

There was no other business.

ART. 11. Executive Session.

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

MOTION:

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

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

ART. 12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: March 18, 2009