

**MINUTES**

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING –MONDAY, JUNE 15, 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  
Jim Madore, Sheriff  
Wilfred Bell, Treasurer  
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director  
Joanne Carpenter, Register of Probate

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ART. 2. Approval of agenda.

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

**MOTION:**

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

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 3 Approval of minutes of May 20, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the May 20, 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.

C) Liquor License for Roland N. Verrier D/B/A Bear Den Family Restaurant Bar and Grill in Benedicta.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the Liquor License with the condition that additional information is received to complete the application.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

D) Letter of Support for Maliseet Tribe for SBA 8(a) Certification.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the letter of support for the Maliseet Tribe for SBA 8(a) Certification.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. Consideration of request to hire temporary, part-time employee for Probate Office. (Joanne Carpenter)

The County Administrator advised that he had received a request from Joanne Carpenter, Register of Probate, to hire a temporary, part-time employee for her office to replace an employee out on medical leave. In certain circumstances, the County Administrator can approve a request such as this when salary savings are available. However, in the instant case, approving such a request would result in an overdraft in the personnel services line of the Probate Budget. Recognizing this fact, the County Administrator suggested to Mrs. Carpenter that we put this issue before the County Commissioners for their consideration.

Joanne Carpenter, Register of Probate, indicated that she has had a vacancy in her office since May 8, 2009. At this same time, over the course of this year, filings for her office are up by 40. Additionally, she has had to deal with nineteen (19) contested cases to date. This medical leave comes at a time when the office is experiencing increased volume from summer traffic (research oriented requests). As such, she is requesting consideration by the County Commissioners to hire temporary, part-time help to help handle work load demands.

Mrs. Carpenter was asked several questions by the County Commissioners. After some discussion, the following options were suggested:

- 1) Assistance from another County department;
- 2) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program;
- 3) University summer intern.

In the end, the County Commissioners asked the County Administrator and Register of Probate to work together to come up with a viable solution to meet the workload demands for the Probate Office, without incurring additional costs to the Probate Office.

ART. 6. Approval of one (1) full-time Dispatcher.

Sheriff Madore recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Amber Cole of Houlton as full-time Dispatcher.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Amber Cole of Houlton as full-time Dispatcher.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

**ART. 7. County Administrator's Report:**

**A) Horizon Wind Energy.**

The County Administrator indicated that he and Paul Bernier, Public Works Director, met last week with Edward Wright from Horizon Wind Energy to get an update on the project at #9 Mountain. According to Mr. Wright, this wind project continues to be viable and the County of Aroostook would be a key player and a stakeholder in the project, particularly as it relates to designing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) package for this project.

**B) July 1, 2009 County Commissioners Meeting?**

The County Commissioners unanimously agreed to cancel the July 1, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2009 in Fort Kent.

**C) Maine Pretrial May Report.**

The County Administrator indicated the Maine Pretrial Program continues to be worth its weight in gold to the County of Aroostook.

**D) North Lakes Fire & Rescue Equipment Grant.**

The County Administrator updated the County Commissioners on two (2) recent grants received for our North Lakes Fire and Rescue. One is in the amount of \$3,500 for an Extrication Strut Kit and the second grant is to cover two-thirds of the cost up to, but not exceeding, \$1,576.67 for a hose testing machine.

**E) Patten Ambulance Service.**

The Patten Ambulance Service has notified the County that they are waiving our Ambulance Service Contract fee until further notice. The savings amounts to \$1,000.00 per quarter.

**F) 1862 Map in Public Works Director's Office.**

The County Administrator explained the situation concerning an old 1862 authentic Map of Maine in the Public Works Director's Office. The County Commissioners approve of the County Administrator's request to relocate the map to the Maine State Archives, with the proviso that it be provided to them with an indefinite, "on-loan" designation.

G) ATV Grant.

Paul Bernier, Public Works Director, indicated that the ATV Grant for Cross Lake and Sinclair was approved with a total value of trail improvements of \$100,000.00. This grant will provide an integral connector trail for that region of the county.

H) LD 797.

The County Administrator brought LD 797 to the attention of the County Commissioners. This legislation will impact the County of Aroostook in that any area with the designation of "squa" will have to be renamed. The County Administrator outlined a procedure that was used in 2000 regarding similar legislation. He will think about this issue and come back to the County Commissioners to develop a plan-of-action at a future meeting.

I) Other Items of Interest.

4) Law Enforcement Collective Bargaining.

A meeting is scheduled for Law Enforcement Collective Bargaining negotiations on July 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

5) FY 2010 Corrections Budget.

The Corrections Working Group reviewed the County's FY10 Corrections Budget today. There was quite a fuss generated over the salaries paid to our Corrections' Officers by Denise Lord, Associate Commissioner of the Department of Corrections. The County Administrator defended the County's action on this matter. A review by the Board of Corrections of our FY10 Budget is scheduled for June 24, 2009 in Augusta. Today's meeting with Corrections Working Group provides a good "dance rehearsal" for what we might expect next week before the Board of Corrections.

ART. 8. Other Business.

There was no other business to discuss.

ART. 9. 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."

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to send a letter to Governor Baldacci nominating the following three (3) individuals for consideration as potential Trustees to the Loring Development Authority:

Tom Clowes, T16R4 (Madawaska Lake)  
Richard Ezzy, Caribou  
Paul J. Underwood, Presque Isle

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy  
of Commissioners' Meeting

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Douglas F. Beaulieu  
County Administrator

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AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DATE: June 15, 2009