

**MINUTES**

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING –WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009– 5:30 P.M. –  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS OFFICE – FORT KENT**

**PRESENT**

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners  
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner  
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner  
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator  
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director  
Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager  
James Madore, Sheriff

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 June 15, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the June 15, 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) Two (2) Surplus Vehicles.

The following bids were received on the two (2) surplus vehicles:

	<u>2000 Crown Vic</u>	<u>2005 Crown Vic</u>
Jon Emack Stillwater, Maine		\$ 933.00
Philip Chase Houlton, Maine		\$ 400.00
Jersey One Auto Sales Jersey City, N.J.	\$ 212.00	\$ 588.00
John Pluto Portland, Maine		\$1,101.00

**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 high bidder.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Contracts:

- A) Five (5) year (7/1/09 – 6/30/14) Solid Waste Agreement with Alec and Mona Qualey for the Unorganized Territories of T4R3, TAR2, T3R4, T3R3, T3R2, Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T2R4, T1R5, Upper Molunkus, N. Yarmouth Academy and TAR5 (Molunkus), in the amounts of \$1,739.00, \$1,791.00, \$1,845.00, \$1,900.00 and \$1,957.00, respectively.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the five (5) year (7/1/09 – 6/30/14) Solid Waste Agreement with Alec and Mona Qualey for the Unorganized Territories of T4R3, TAR2, T3R4, T3R3, T3R2, Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T2R4, T1R5, Upper Molunkus, N. Yarmouth Academy and TAR5 (Molunkus), in the amounts of \$1,739.00, \$1,791.00, \$1,845.00, \$1,900.00 and \$1,957.00, respectively.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. County Administrator's Report.

- A) Municipal Cost Components Legislation.

The County Administrator reviewed the Municipal Cost Components Legislation with the County Commissioners. He indicated that Aroostook County's share of the component (\$885,417) was authorized as requested. He also informed the County Commissioners that Doreen Sheive, Fiscal Administrator for the Unorganized Territory, is retiring effective August 31, 2009.

B) District Court Witness Fees.

The County Administrator reviewed an e-mail he had sent to the County Commissioners dated July 9, 2009. He indicated that the County of Aroostook agreed to disburse money for seven (7) of the Prosecutorial Districts in Maine. We anticipate receiving a check from the State of Maine in the amount of \$66,500.00 for FY 10. The reasoning behind the handling of the distribution of funds was to ensure that Aroostook County gets its fair share of the distribution.

C) District Court Renovations in Houlton.

The relocation project for the District Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Department was estimated to cost \$79,000.00. The County Administrator was pleased to report that the project was completed, under budget, for \$65,758.20. Accolades go out to Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager, his staff and other County personnel who assisted in this transition.

D) Discussion on Renaming District Court Building in Houlton.

The County Administrator initiated a short discussion on the renaming of the District Court Building in Houlton. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to authorize the County Administrator to establish a Naming Committee for the District Court Building on School Street in Houlton and to bring a recommendation back to the County Commissioners for consideration of the renaming of this building.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

E) Probationary Period for Corrections' Officials.

The County Administrator advised the County Commissioners that legislation was recently passed to require that various corrections' positions complete an employee probationary period of one (1) year.

F) 1862 State of Maine Map.

The County Administrator advised the County Commissioners that Maine State Archive will not accept the 1862 Maine map with an "on-loan" designation. Therefore, the County Commissioners advised the County Administrator to check with one or both of the universities in Aroostook County to see if they have an interest in acquiring this map.

G) Maine Municipal Employee Health Trust (MMEHT) Health Claims Report.

The Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust (MMEHT) Health Claims Report loss rate for the first quarter is 85%. This is excellent; however, the County Administrator expects that our claims ratio will worsen in the next quarter given the expected payment of some significant medical claims.

H) Board of Corrections Update.

The County Administrator briefed the County Commissioners on his June 24, 2009 presentation to the Board of Corrections on our FY10 Corrections budget. It has been reported that the Board has serious concerns about Aroostook County's increase in personnel costs. Some Board members think our

request is unrealistic given the State's financial situation. The increase in personnel costs is due to collective bargaining. It was an attempt to improve pay parity with other counties.

The County Administrator also noted that our staffing level is lower than in other counties (staff to inmate ratio). The County Administrator will attend the August 5, 2009 Board of Corrections Meeting in order to point out this inequity and to defend our budget request. Accordingly, it was decided that the August 5, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting will be rescheduled to August 3, 2009, to permit the County Administrator to attend this important meeting in Augusta.

The Board of Corrections needs to honor its commitment of "One-Maine, One-system", as it has been touting repeatedly over the last several months.

I) Other Items of Interest.

1) LD 33.

The County Administrator reviewed LD 33 with the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners decided to submit a referendum question to the legal voters in T16R4 during the upcoming November election. The Office of the County Commissioners will make all necessary arrangements to complete this process.

2) Meeting on Houlton District Court Lease.

The County Administrator reported that he and Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager, will be meeting with Ted Glessner, Court Administrator, on Friday, July 17, 2009, to discuss the District Court Lease for Houlton.

3) Appeals Letter.

The County Administrator reported that he and Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager, and Grant Writer David Wyle have been working on a letter to the U. S. Department of Energy appealing the decision that excluded Aroostook County from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) formula allocations.

He indicated that he has prepared a letter for the County Commissioners to sign, which will hopefully reverse this decision. The County Commissioners approved and signed the letter.

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 personnel issues."

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

ART 10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 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: July 15, 2009