

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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
James P. Madore, Sheriff
Craig Clossey, Chief Deputy

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 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 September 16, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the September 16, 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) One (1) police cruiser.

Bids were received from the following vendors:

Percy's Auto Sales Presque Isle	\$24,639.00
Martin Ford Fort Kent	\$24,447.00
York's of Houlton Houlton	\$24,415.00

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Approval of One (1) part-time Deputy Sheriff.

Sheriff Madore recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Stephen Wotton of Houlton as part-time deputy sheriff.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring Stephen Wotton of Houlton as part-time deputy sheriff.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Approval of non-exempt status for Probate Deputy Register position.

The County Administrator provided an exemption analysis of this position, which was prepared by Christina Theriault, Human Resource Coordinator. He supports the analysis and recommends the change in status from exempt to non-exempt for the Probate Deputy Register position.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the change in status from exempt to non-exempt for the Probate Deputy Register position.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Approval of full-time Probate Deputy Register position.

The County Administrator indicated that the County had an excellent slate of interviewees for this position. Both Joanne Carpenter, Register of Probate, and Christina Theriault, Human Resources Coordinator, conducted the interviews. Based on the interviews and references, on behalf of Joanne Carpenter, the County Administrator recommended Darleen Guy of New Limerick to fill the vacant Probate Deputy Register position.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to hire Darleen Guy of New Limerick as full-time Probate Deputy Register.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Approval of Lease Purchase Agreement with Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT).

The County Administrator has been working on the acquisition of this building for a period of time to function as a storage facility for State owned emergency response assets and Homeland Security equipment for regional response requirements and capabilities throughout Aroostook County. The proposed lease agreement is consistent with the terms and conditions negotiated with Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). The County Administrator recommended that he be authorized to execute this agreement.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement with MDOT.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. County Administrator's Report:

A) Board of Corrections.

The County Administrator reviewed correspondence from Neale Duffett, Chair, Board of Corrections. The County has already sent the FY11 Correctional Services Budget to the Department of Corrections. He believes this submission is consistent with the "status quo" budget directive from the Chair.

B) Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Workers' Compensation Experience Rating.

The County of Aroostook's preliminary experience modification rate is 1.07, which is up from 1.04 in 2009.

C) Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust (MMEHT) Claims Experience Report.

The second quarter 2009 loss ratio is 119%. If this trend continues, it will have a deleterious effect on the County's 2010 premium for health insurance.

D) Unorganized Territory 2008 Annual Report.

The County Administrator reviewed key components of the 2008 Unorganized Territory Annual Report. Especially noteworthy is that Aroostook County's cost per capita of \$485.41, which is the lowest in the State, and significantly below the statewide average of \$678.99. Aroostook County provides services to the residents of the Unorganized Territory in an extremely efficient and cost effective manner.

E) Gasoline Bids.

The County Administrator indicated that the gasoline financial quotes from Irving Oil and Daigle Oil Company are identical. However, the convenience and number of locations throughout the State tilt the

scale in favor of Irving Oil. Therefore, absent any objection from the County Commissioners, the County Administrator indicated he would be awarding the bid to Irving Oil.

No objections were noted.

F) Scheduling of Tax Abatement Hearing.

The County Administrator indicated that he had requested more information from the property owners before he would ask the County Commissioners to schedule an abatement hearing. Since that information had not been received prior to this evening's meeting, he recommends that the County Commissioners table this item until the next County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to table this item until the next County Commissioners' Meeting.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

G) Other Items of Interest.

1) National Association of Counties (NACo) Dental Plan.

Commissioner Underwood indicated that NACo would provide some sort of discounted dental plan for residents of the County if the County of Aroostook belonged to NACo. This would necessitate paying dues by the County to NACo. Commissioner Underwood requested that the Commissioners give this idea some consideration in the future.

2) Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) for the Unorganized Territory.

Commissioner Underwood asked the Commissioners to consider providing feedback on the CLUP for the Unorganized Territory. After a brief discussion, Chair Adams recommended that Commissioner Underwood provide recommended language for future consideration.

3) Question from Audience (David Forbes).

Mr. Forbes asked how the County awards vehicle bids when they are so close in pricing?

Chair Adams responded that the County reviews the bid specs against the quotations and awards the bid to the lowest bidder provided that they have met all of our requirements.

ART. 11. Other Business.

There was no other business.

ART. 12. 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, §403, sub-section 6, paragraphs (A) and (D) to discuss a personnel issue and contract negotiations, respectively.”

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

ART. 13. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: October 7, 2009