

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING –WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009 - 5:30 P.M. –
SINCLAIR SENIOR CENTER - SINCLAIR**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Vern Ouellette, EMA Director
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director
Darren Woods, Public Safety Coordinator

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 the October 7, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the minutes of the October 7, 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. Approval of full-time Victim Witness Advocate position.

The County Administrator, on behalf of Neale Adams, District Attorney, recommended the hiring of Kim Ouellette of Caribou as full-time Victim Witness Advocate. This position is being funded from additional grant monies for a three (3) year period. At the end of the three (3) years, the County will assess the status of the funding, and other variables, and make a decision on whether to continue with full-time status.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Kim Ouellette of Caribou as full-time Victim Witness Advocate, consistent with the County Administrator's recommendation.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Emergency Management Agency Update (Vern Ouellette, EMA Director).

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

- State Communications Network and to how it will affect county and local responders;
- Upcoming requirements from the FCC for narrowing banding of all communication licenses and its impact on communications requirements;
- Current Homeland Security Funding requests and deadlines.

ART. 7. Scheduling of Tax Abatement hearing.

This Article was tabled pending a query posed to John Pluto, Assistant District Attorney, regarding the legality of a power of attorney document.

ART. 8. County Administrator's Report:

A) Maine Pretrial September report.

The County Administrator reviewed the September Maine Pretrial report with the County Commissioners.

B) Maine County Commissioners' Association (MCCA) Meeting.

The County Administrator indicated that there were three (3) issues of merit discussed at the Maine County Commissioners' Association (MCCA) meeting last Wednesday. The noteworthy issues were:

- Future dues for County organizations;
- Funding for the County jails;
- The MacImage issue.

The County Administrator provided summary information on each of the issues and entertained questions.

C) Jail Board Costs.

The County Administrator reported that a recent bill from York County for boarding of our prisoners in May and June of 2009 was forwarded to Scott Ferguson, Finance Director, Department of Corrections, for payment. The County Administrator further explained that he had been advised by both the Board of Corrections and Mr. Ferguson in August 2009 to send the bills to Mr. Ferguson for payment. The County does not have sufficient money in its Correctional Services Budget (Fund Balance) to pay these expenditures.

6:05 P.M. The County Commissioners recessed the meeting to conduct a Public Election for the Sinclair Sanitary District Board of Trustees.

6:25 P.M. Upon completion of the election, the County Commissioners re-convened the County Commissioners' Meeting.

D) Board of Corrections Expenditure reporting.

The County Administrator reported that monthly expenditure reports are required by the Board of Corrections regarding our Correctional Services Budget. The County of Aroostook has been in compliance with this request for sometime now. Future jail funding is predicated on the completion of these monthly expenditure reports.

E) Vehicle bid.

The County Administrator noted that the purchase of a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria for transport was awarded to York's of Houlton for \$24,415.00.

F) Other items of interest.

There were no other items to discuss.

◆— ~~THREE (3) YEAR (1/1/2008—12/31/2010) AMBULANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CARIBOU FOR CONNOR TOWNSHIP IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$4,028.00, \$4,134.00, AND \$4,240.00, RESPECTIVELY.~~

ART. 9. Other Business.

Public Comment:

- 1) Butch Thibodeau thanked the County Commissioners for their support on a CDBG Housing Grant for Sinclair and gave an update on the grant application.
- 2) Mr. Thibodeau indicated that \$407,000.00 was received in stimulus funding through USDA Rural Development for the Barn Brook Sinclair Sanitary District extension project.
- 3) Mr. Thibodeau queried the County as to revenue for snowmobile trail maintenance in the Unorganized Territory. Mr. Thibodeau was provided with a contact person within the Department of Conservation to resolve his concern.
- 4) Alan Dearborn provided the County Commissioners with a summary of the Sinclair Sanitary District intent to expand their coverage area from one end of the district to the other. They will be looking for grant funding to complete this project and wanted to put the County on notice that they will be asking for their assistance in the future. Chair Adams indicated that the County would gladly assist to the extent that resources are available.

- 5) Walter Fournier indicated that studies have confirmed that only 10% of waterfront properties in Maine have suitable soils for septic system purposes.

ART. 10. 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, paragraphs (A) and (C) 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. 11. 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 21, 2009