

**MINUTES**

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009 – 5:30 P.M. –  
HOULTON DISTRICT COURT BUILDING – CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PRESENT**

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners  
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner  
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator  
James P. Madore, Sheriff  
Craig Clossey, Chief Deputy  
Patricia Brown, Register of Deeds (S)  
Darrell Crandall, MDEA  
Shawn Gillen, MDEA

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 5:34 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. Adams 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 November 4, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to approve the minutes of the November 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. Bids:

- A) One (1) surplus vehicle.

The following bids were received on the surplus vehicle:

Linda Ash Houlton	\$ 199.00
Jon Emack Stillwater	\$1,525.00
John Pluto Van Buren	\$ 401.00
Jeffery Pickering Houlton	\$1,176.00

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams 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. Approval of one (1) full-time Deputy Sheriff to be assigned to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA).

Sheriff Madore explained the rationale behind the assignment of the new position to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA), as well as the recruitment process for the position. All things considered, he recommended that the employment status of Deputy Sheriff Craig Holder be changed from part-time to full-time and that he be assigned to the MDEA.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to approve the appointment of part-time Deputy Sheriff Craig Holder to full-time status and that he be assigned to the MDEA contingent on continued State funding for the program.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 7. County Administrator's Report:

- A) Maine Pretrial October report.

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

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

The County Administrator provided an update on the dues options for Maine County Commissioners' Association (MCCA) membership. At the January 2010 Annual Meeting, the MCCA Board will decide whether our dues for the 2010 year are \$8,000.00 (as has been budgeted in 2010 budget) or a lesser amount due to the implementation of a different assessment mechanism. He also indicated the funding for the County Jails is a significant area of concern for many counties. If jails do not receive adequate funding from the State, we may be forced to make draconian cuts in our FY11 Correctional Services Budget.

C) Scheduling of Tax Abatement hearing.

A request from two (2) different property owners in the Town of Van Buren for a tax abatement hearing appears to be improperly before the County of Aroostook. Each of the properties in question is tax acquired. Therefore, the Commissioners concur with the County Administrator that a hearing(s) would not be in order. The aggrieved property owners will be notified, in writing, of this decision.

D) Other items of interest.

1) Snow Removal Contract.

The County Administrator recommended the approval of a Snow Removal Contract with John Babin for the maintenance lot and facility in Stockholm for the 2009-2010 winter season.

**MOTION:**

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to approve a Snow Removal Agreement with John Babin and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed

ART. 8. Other Business.

Commissioner Adams indicated that the Public Hearing on the County and Unorganized Territory Budgets last evening in Caribou was conducted very quickly and efficiently and was well attended. There were no questions or concerns expressed by the public concerning the recommended budgets.

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. Adams:

"I move that we go into executive session pursuant to Title 1, MRSA, §405, sub-section 6, paragraphs (A) and (E) to discuss personnel issues and attorney/client consultations, respectively."

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

ART. 10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 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: November 18, 2009