

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING –WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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
Jim Madore, Sheriff
Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director

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 November 18, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to approve the minutes of the November 18, 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.

The bills and warrants were not approved because they were not provided to the County Administrator in time for the meeting.

ART. 5. Contract:

Three (3) year (1/1/2010 – 12/31/2012) Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Van Buren for T17R3 in the amounts of \$7,355.00, \$7,576.00, and \$7,803.00, annually.

Paul Bernier, Public Works Director, indicated that the contract had annual increases of 3%. He also indicated that he was both surprised and pleased that the contract was provided to us in a timely manner.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the three (3) year (1/1/2010 – 12/31/2012) Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Van Buren for T17R3 in the amounts of \$7,355.00, \$7,576.00, and \$7,803.00, annually, and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Dispatch relocation project overview (Bryan Jandreau).

The County Administrator, Facilities Manager, Sheriff and County Commissioners engaged in a discussion about the estimated dispatch relocation budget, the various grant funding sources (four (4) grant sources) and other logistical concerns related to the project. There was a concern expressed about allowable costs related to two (2) of the funding sources and whether these funding sources could pay for building renovations. This item will be on the agenda at the next County Commissioners' Meeting for another progress report.

ART. 7. Approval of 2010 County Commissioners' Meeting dates.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the 2010 County Commissioners' Meeting dates.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Purchases of pharmaceutical items for jail.

The County Administrator reviewed materials that were provided to the County Commissioners for this meeting. Overall, based on information provided by Correct Rx and Mars Hill Pharmacy, it appears that prescription drugs could be obtained from Correct Rx at an approximate savings of 50%. While the County places a premium on supporting local businesses, it is difficult to justify the current pricing structure. It is also likely that if the County does not make this change on its own volition, the change will be forced or mandated on us by the Board of Corrections (BOC), in which case, any savings would be returned to the BOC Investment Fund. As such, the County Administrator recommended authorization to purchase pharmaceuticals from Correct Rx through a State of Maine contract.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to authorize the County Administrator to purchase pharmaceuticals from Correct Rx through a State of Maine contract.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. County Administrator's Report:

A) Perkins-Plourde American Legion Post 136 request.

The consensus of the County Commissioners was that this item should have been submitted for consideration during the recent budget process.

B) Board of Corrections (BOC) meeting/tour in Houlton.

The County Administrator, the Sheriff, Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Underwood provided an update of the recent meeting of the Board of Corrections (BOC) in Houlton. The County did a fine job of hosting this event.

C) Workers' Compensation Experience Rating.

The County Administrator provided a review of our Workers' Compensation Experience Rating for 2010. Our Exp Mod for the new year will be 1.06.

D) Other items of interest.

1) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) monitoring visit by the Feds.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) monitoring visit by the Feds was completed during the week of November 15, 2009. The Federal Monitors looked at both programmatic and financial compliance of the WIA program. The County Administrator reviewed some of the more substantive findings, particularly as they relate to the County of Aroostook. As the grant recipient of the program, it appears that the County has limited ability to implement accountability measures to protect its own interests. For example, one of the findings is that the Executive Director should, under the law, report to the Board, not the County Administrator. From a financial standpoint, the Federal Monitor found that our financial accounting system is insufficient to meet the needs of federal requirements. That is, our current accounting system is ill-suited to provide detailed programmatic tracking of WIA subrecipients. The County Administrator also advised that the State Monitor has recently advised us that our Local Area was being considered as a "high risk grant recipient" and new contractual obligations would be implemented shortly. In sum, both the proposed findings and the new contractual requirements are prompting this organization to rethink its role as grant recipient/subrecipient for Local Area 1.

ART. 10. Other Business.

There were no other items to discuss.

ART. 11. 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), (D) and (E) to discuss personnel issues, collective bargaining negotiations and attorney/client consultations, respectively."

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

ART 12. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: December 2, 2009