

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING –WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009 - 5:30 P.M. –
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Wilfred J. Bell, Treasurer
Vern Ouellette, EMA Director
James Madore, Sheriff
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director
Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager
Dena Winslow, WIA Director

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 proposed that Article 9 be discussed after Article 4.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 3. Approval of minutes of the December 2, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the December 2, 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.

C) Renewal of Liquor License for St. Peter's Country Store.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the Liquor License renewal for St. Peter's Country Store.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. County Administrator's Report:

A) Renaming of former Houlton District Court Building.

The County Administrator and Renaming Committee Members outlined some of the thoughts and sentiments regarding the renaming of the Houlton District Court Building to the "Sheriff's Office Building". A discussion amongst some of the committee members and County Commissioners followed. On behalf of the committee, the County Administrator recommended that the building be renamed "Sheriff's Office Building", largely in keeping with the County's history of naming buildings after their primary function.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to rename the Houlton District Court Building to "Sheriff's Office Building".

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

B) Dispatch Relocation Project update.

The County Administrator indicated that three (3) of the four (4) funding sources for this project are Stimulus Act oriented. He believes that this project will exceed budget estimates; however, he is confident that the extra funding needed can be found in our 5-year Capital Plan. With this introduction, he asked Bryan Jandreau, Facilities Manager, to review the following four (4) funding sources:

- \$17,951.00 Edward Bryne Jag Grant;
- \$20,800.00 Department of Public Safety Grant;
- \$ 4,342.00 FY 2009 JAG Allocation;
- \$42,637.50 Interceptor, FRAG Order II.

After Mr. Jandreau's presentation and a brief exchange of questions and answers regarding the project, the County Administrator recommended that the County move forward with this project and asked for the County Commissioners' approval to do so.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to move forward with the Dispatch Relocation Project, with the stipulation that funding from the 5-year Capital Plan not exceed \$15,000.00. Any expenditure above that level will be brought to the County Commissioners for discussion and subsequent approval.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed. Two (2) in favor; one (1) abstained (Paul J. Underwood).

C) FY11 Jail Budget update.

The County Administrator discussed his recent conversations with the Budget Process Group regarding the County’s FY11 Correctional Services Budget. It is expected that the Board of Corrections will issue, if it has not already been issued, a directive to the Budget Process Group to flat fund the FY11 Budgets to the FY10 Budget levels. In Aroostook County’s case, at minimum, this will necessitate a reduction in expenditures of approximately \$196,000.00 and a reduction in revenue of approximately \$202,000.00. Assuming this reduction is implemented, it will likely require some cuts in the personnel line of our budget. We are in for some very difficult choices and tough times ahead.

The County Administrator also expressed concerns about our FY10 Correctional Services Budget in that we have yet to receive any revenue from the BOC from fine and forfeiture monies. The amount budgeted for FY10 is in excess of \$47,000.00. The County Administrator has voiced his concerns with Scott Ferguson, Finance Director, Department of Corrections, who has indicated that the investment fund is “cash strapped” and that we would be receiving our money from this revenue stream at some point. The inference here is that the BOC is using part of our money to prevent a negative cash flow situation.

The County Administrator also mentioned that future conversations with representatives of the BOC would be documented in writing.

D) Other Items of Interest.

1) Correct Rx Update.

The County Administrator has negotiated a suitable contract with Correct Rx and the Department of Corrections to allow the County to purchase pharmaceuticals at a discounted rate. He expects the contract to be executed within the next week or so. The operational details as it relates to this project are now being delegated to Sheriff Madore and Jail Administrator Foss for implementation.

ART. 5. Bids:

B) One (1) vehicle for Emergency Management Agency.

Bids were received from the following dealers:

Valley Auto \$21,182.93
Fort Kent

Carroll’s Auto Sales \$20,885.00
Presque Isle

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Former Border Patrol Office in Hamlin (Vern Ouellette).

Vern Ouellette, Emergency Management Agency Director, indicated that the County of Aroostook, because of its standing in the emergency management field, has been given the opportunity to acquire the former Border Patrol Office in Hamlin, at no cost. While the Aroostook Emergency Management Agency has little or no use for this facility and has no interest in assuming any of the maintenance costs associated with this infrastructure, it has come to the attention of Mr. Ouellette that the Town of Hamlin is interested in utilizing the building for municipal purposes.

After a brief discussion with the County Commissioners on the subject, it was agreed, by consensus, of the County Commissioners and staff, to acquire the building for use by the Town of Hamlin provided that the town pay all costs associated with the acquisition of the property and that these cost elements and expectations be incorporated into a written agreement, which would be approved by the County Commissioners at a later date.

ART. 7. Approval of Department of Public Safety Grant for Domestic Violence Detective.

Sheriff Madore outlined the need for a Domestic Violence Detective in Aroostook County. He indicated that ten (1) municipal police departments supported this grant application. Eighty-seven (87) cases last year were domestic violence related. This Federal grant will provide up to \$55,000.00 to fund a detective position and other related expenses. The Sheriff indicated that it would be his intent to laterally transfer Patrol Deputy Larry Goff into this detective slot, particularly in light of his twenty-five (25) years experience in law enforcement. This grant is funded for one (1) year, with the possibility to secure funding for another year through another funding source.

Deputy Goff's vacant position will either be filled with a full-time "limited duration" position or a combination of existing part-time positions.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the Public Safety Grant for a Domestic Violence Detective contingent on funding availability through this grant source or other grant funding sources.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Ratification of three (3) year Law Enforcement Bargaining Contract.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to ratify the three (3) year Law Enforcement Bargaining Unit Contract with New England Police Benevolent Association Local 601.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Other business.

There was no other business to discuss.

ART. 11. 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 (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. 12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners’ Meeting

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: December 16, 2009