

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 - 4:30 P.M. -
CARIBOU COURTHOUSE, ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM - CARIBOU**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chairperson, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator
Darrell Crandall, Sheriff (by teleconference)
Darren Woods, EMA Director
Paul Camping, Secession Committee Member
Maynard St. Peter, Secession Committee Member

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

ART. 2. Public Comment Period.

There was no public comment.

ART. 3. Approval of agenda.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams advised that one (1) item would be added to Article 10 – Other Business – Update from Caribou Secession Committee and that item would follow Article 6.

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. 4. Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015 County Commissioners' Meeting.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 5. The Commissioners approved and signed the following:

A) Attendance Record.

B) Bills and Warrants.

C) State of Maine v. Ward W. Ballard Criminal Forfeiture.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the Criminal Forfeiture of \$1,125.00 in U. S. Currency and \$7,500.00 in U.S. Currency, property owned by and seized from Ward W. Ballard who was convicted of Unlawful Furnishing of Scheduled Drugs.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Presentation on Maliseet Tribal Legislative Initiatives. (Henry Bear, Elected Maliseet Tribal Representative)

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to table this Article until the next meeting when Mr. Bear can be present.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Other Business.

A) Update from Caribou Secession Committee. (Paul Camping and Maynard St. Peter)

Chairperson Paul J. Adams introduced Paul Camping and Maynard St. Peter, representatives of the Caribou Secession Committee. Mr. Camping and Mr. St. Peter provided an overview to the County Commissioners of their initiative to secede from the City of Caribou. The purpose of their presentation was not to ask for help or support; it was merely to provide information on the history of Caribou, their grievances with the city council form of government, the secession process, and to propose a partnership with the County of Aroostook if their initiative is approved after a long and arduous public process (potentially 1.5 to 2 years). As representatives of the committee, they understand that they are unable to make any commitments or enter into any agreements. That responsibility will be within the domain of elected representatives of the new Town of Lyndon, if their initiative is successful.

The County Commissioners thanked the representatives for their informative and substantive presentation.

ART. 7. Sheriff's Office Appointments:

A) Approval of one (1) full-time deputy sheriff.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Corey Saucier of Connor as full-time deputy sheriff.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Corey Saucier of Connor as full-time deputy sheriff.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- B) Approval of one (1) part-time cook for the jail.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Keely Howell of Smyrna Mills as part-time cook for the jail.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Keely Howell of Smyrna Mills as part-time cook for the jail.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- C) Approval of one (1) part-time dispatcher.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Brian Jewell of Houlton as part-time dispatcher.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the hiring of Brian Jewell of Houlton as part-time dispatcher.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- D) Approval of five (5) part-time corrections officers.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended that the County Commissioners approve the hiring of Salvador Cloukey of Island Falls, Theresa Cousins of Danforth, Emery Demers of Island Falls, Rhonda Smart of Houlton and Preston Wallace of Houlton as part-time corrections officers.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Salvador Cloukey of Island Falls, Theresa Cousins of Danforth, Emery Demers of Island Falls, Rhonda Smart of Houlton and Preston Wallace of Houlton as part-time corrections officers.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- ART. 8. Approval of 2015 County Tax, Due Date and Interest on delinquent taxes.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu recommended that the County Commissioners approve the County Tax with a September 1, 2015 due date and an interest rate of 7% on delinquent taxes.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the 2015 County Tax with a due date of September 1, 2015 and an interest rate of 7% on delinquent taxes.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. County Administrator's report:

A) MCCA/ Risk Pool Meeting update.

Risk Pool Meeting – Commissioner Fournier reported that the Risk Pool continues to be financially healthy; nine (9) new claims have been set up and eleven (11) claims have been closed-out.

MCCA Meeting – Commissioner Fournier advised that most of the discussion revolved around LD 186. Ultimately, the board members approved the establishment of a committee consisting of three (3) county commissioners and three (3) sheriffs, largely to convey to the legislature that the county commissioners and sheriffs are working together in earnest to take back control of our jails.

The 2015 convention will be held in Bar Harbor (Hancock County) and the 2016 convention will be held in either Androscoggin or Penobscot County.

B) Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust (MMEHT) Health Claims.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu advised that the MMEHT Health Claims Experience Report loss ratio was 62% for 2014, which is excellent.

C) Other Items of Interest:

1) Rescheduling of a Tax Abatement Hearing.

A poverty abatement hearing was rescheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015 at 12:00 noon in Caribou.

2) Homeland Security Grant.

Emergency Management Agency Director Darren Woods advised that we recently applied and were approved for a Homeland Security Grant totaling \$50,004.50. Mr. Woods gave an overview of each component of the grant award to the County Commissioners.

ART. 11. Executive Session.

There were no items to discuss in executive session.

ART. 12. Adjournment.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting

WFB

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

Paul Adams
Norman Fournier
[Signature]

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: March 18, 2015