

MINUTES

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016 – 1:00 P.M. – SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM (SECOND FLOOR) - HOULTON

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
Ross McQuade, Lieutenant
Todd Collins, District Attorney
Peter Johnson, Detective
Arthur Thorne, Dispatcher
Shanna Morrison, Corrections Officer
Christina Theriault, Human Resources Manager

ART. 1. Chairperson Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

ART. 2. Public comment period.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall presented Exceptional Service Awards to Detective Peter Johnson, Dispatcher Arthur Thorne and Correctional Officer Shanna Morrison. He read a brief letter outlining the attributes of each recipient. Photographs were taken of the recipients with the County Commissioners. Congratulations goes out to each recipient.

ART. 3. Approval of agenda.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. Minutes.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 County Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 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) Malt liquor license renewal for St. Peter's Country Store.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve a malt liquor license for St. Peter's Country Store.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- D) Forfeiture Consent.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to accept a total of \$8,502.00 in Criminal Forfeiture funds and to use \$4,000.00 of those proceeds to reduce the Fund Balance in the Jail, with the remaining balance of \$4,502.00 to be deposited in the Sheriff's Equipment Fund, which is a Balance Sheet account.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and approved.

ART. 6. Approval of Ambulance Services for Townships of Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T1R4, T2R4, T3R4, and T1R5 with the Town of Patten.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu indicated there was no increase in this contract. He recommended approval of the same.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the Ambulance Service Contract with the Town of Patten for the Unorganized Townships of Benedicta, Silver Ridge, T1R4, T2R4, T3R4, and T1R5 with the Town of Patten and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Consideration of Removal/Trimming of Red Pine trees at the Caribou Courthouse.

County Administrator Doug Beaulieu indicated that four (4) red pines trees at the Caribou Courthouse have become a safety hazard, are overgrown and are generally unruly. During a recent snowstorm, limbs broke off the various trees; these trees pose a danger to the public. He recommended three (3) of the trees be removed and that the one (1) on the front of the property be groomed, consistent with Bryan Jandreau's e-mail to the County Administrator dated December 6, 2016 on this subject.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the recommendation of the County Administrator regarding four (4) trees on the grounds of the Caribou Courthouse.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Discussion of Substance Abuse Assistance Project Grant Award.

District Attorney Todd Collins reported that his office has secured a grant to implement an Aroostook County Diversion Academy Program for an eighteen (18) month period in Aroostook County. The monetary value of the grant award is \$107,094.00. The objective is to carefully manage 15-20 drug and alcohol addicted defendants facing significant jail time for crimes (post-conviction). The program will be administered by a Post-Conviction Advocate. The program would reduce the amount of incarceration time and provide the necessary treatment plan for the defendants, with the goal of having them live productive lives in the community and staying out of jail.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to formally approve the grant program and to accept the grant funds consistent with the Agreement from the State of Maine Department of Public Safety.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the hiring of Adam Lavoie to administer this grant and to function as an advocate for the program for an eighteen (18) month period consistent with the recommendation of the District Attorney.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Bids:

- A) Three (3) 2017 Ford Interceptor All-Wheel Drive SUVs for Sheriff's Office.

Bids were received from the following dealers:

Pelletier Ford \$26,803.00/vehicle x 3 = \$80,409.00

Griffeth Ford \$27,118.14/vehicle x 3 = \$81,354.42

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 bids to the low bidder assuming the bid specifications are met.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Consideration of Correctional Support Sergeant Position and Job Description.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall presented his recommendation to upgrade a Corrections Officer position to Corrections Support Sergeant and explained his rationale for the same. He further recommended that a job description be authorized.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the Corrections Support Sergeant position and job description as recommended by the Sheriff.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. Approval of one full-time Dispatcher.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended the approval of Susan Richards of Houlton as full-time Dispatcher.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the hiring of Susan Richards of Houlton as full-time Dispatcher as recommended by the Sheriff.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 12. Continued Discussion on Part-time Wage Adjustments for Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall recommended approval of an adjustment in the part-time scale of positions utilized by his department. He reiterated that the existing pay scale makes recruitment and retention extremely difficult. He also indicated that these positions are potentially dangerous and these personnel are often subjected to offensive behavior and conditions by inmates. He indicated that something must be done and that there will never be a good time to implement a more adequate compensation structure.

After a brief discussion with the County Commissioners, the following motion was made:

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to authorize the County Administrator to take all necessary action(s) to institute a wage and benefit study of all non-union positions in the agency as expeditiously as possible.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. County Commissioners' Report.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to table Article 13 and Article 14 A and C until the January 3, 2017 Organizational Meeting.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. County Administrator's Report:

B) MCCA/Risk Pool Proxy.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to grant Paul J. Underwood standing proxy to attend and vote at MCCA/Risk Pool Meetings in the event that Norman L. Fournier is unable to attend any of these meetings.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 15. Other Business.

- A) Commissioner Norman L. Fournier indicated that Northern Maine Development Commission has asked the County of Aroostook to consider appointing a member from the Maliseet Tribe to serve on their Board. This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.
- B) Commissioner Paul J. Underwood introduced newly elected House Representative Chris Johansen to his colleagues. The County Commissioners congratulated Representative-elect Johansen and wished him well. Additionally, Commissioner Underwood indicated that Scoping Meetings are scheduled by the National Park Service regarding the new National Monument designation. It appears the County of Aroostook and some municipalities have been left out of the loop. Commissioner Underwood believes we should all be invited and actively involved.

ART. 16. Executive Session.

None.

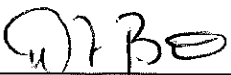
ART. 17. Adjournment.

MOTION:

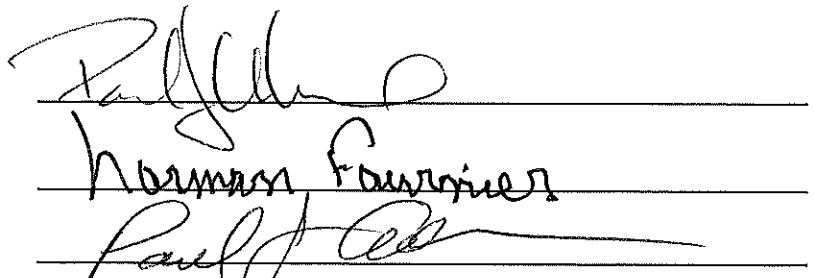
Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator



Norman Fournier

Paul J. Adams

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: December 21, 2016