

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20,
2017 – 1:00 P.M. – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE - ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM –
CARIBOU**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chair, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director
Darren Woods, EMA Director
Christina Theriault, Human Resources Manager
Anne-Marie Marquis, Financial Analyst
Darrell Crandall, Sheriff
Shawn Gillen, Chief Deputy
Dixie Shaw, Catholic Charities of Maine
Sherrill Campbell, Administrative Assistant

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

ART. 2. Public Comment Period.

Dixie Shaw of Catholic Charities of Maine, was present to inform the County Commissioners of a program between her organization and the County Jail. She explained that inmates are providing much needed and appreciated labor to her organization over the past 14-16 months. This has been the most successful labor program Ms. Shaw has been involved in. In turn, Ms. Shaw has provided the jail with clothing and food when she can. The County Commissioners thanked Ms. Shaw for her partnership with the Sheriff and for her informational presentation.

ART. 3. Approval of Agenda.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier asked that the following amendments be made:

- 1) Strike Article 8 from the agenda.
- 2) Move 2017 Safe Driving Award from Article 10 A)1 to Article 12.

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. Minutes.

Chair Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2017 County Commissioners' meeting.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2017 County Commissioners' meeting.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

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

- A) Attendance Record.
- B) Bills and Warrants.

ART. 6. Cross Lake Boat Landing.

Paul Bernier, Public Works Director, informed the County Commissioners that the current company maintaining the Cross Lake Boat Landing no longer wishes to continue in this capacity. Paul has been exploring the possibility of the County of Aroostook providing this service. Paul has contacted Malcolm Ulmer from the Maine County Commissioners' Association Risk Pool to find out what would be needed for Aroostook County to be insured in anticipation of providing these services. Mr. Ulmer stated that a lease from the landowner would be required for insurance purposes. Paul has been in contact with the landowner (Irving) to inquire about obtaining a deed to the land that the boat landing is on. Irving will not deed the land for the boat landing to the County of Aroostook. Mr. Bernier will keep the County Commissioners informed as things unfold.

ART. 7 Christmas Club.

County Administrator Ryan Pelletier is recommending that the Christmas club program offered by the County of Aroostook to its' employees be eliminated and presented a modification in the Personnel Policy to reflect such change. The program was established before electronic fund processing and is a tedious manual process. He stated that there will still be an option for employees to sign up for electronic deposits into an account at the bank of their choice.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to eliminate the Christmas club policy.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Renewal of four (4) Deputy Sheriff Commissions.

Sheriff Darrell Crandall presented Aaron Neureuther of Houlton, Michael Gahagan of Caribou, Percy Thibeault of Frenchville, and Stewart Kennedy of Oakfield for renewal of Deputy Sheriff Commissions.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve Sheriff Darrell Crandall's recommendation of Deputy Sheriff Commission renewals for Aaron Neureuther of Houlton, Michael Gahagan of Caribou, Percy Thibeault of Frenchville, and Stewart Kennedy of Oakfield.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. County Commissioners' Report:

A) MCCA/Risk Pool.

Risk Pool Meeting. Commissioner Norman L. Fournier reported that at the September 8, 2017 meeting: an appeal for updated assets was sent to all counties for insurance purposes; a request was received from Cumberland County to make Cyber Security Insurance a part of the plan for all counties; 8 new claims were reported; 6 claims were closed; Aroostook County received a \$1,500.00 Safe Driving award based on the number of reported claims and the number of miles driven.

MCCA. Commissioner Norman L. Fournier reported that the MCCA is in the process of planning a one-day retreat for new County Commissioners that would take place every two years. Commissioner Fournier stated that he has attended this very informational retreat. The next session may include training on tax abatements.

B) Legislative Update.

Commissioner Norman L. Fournier reported that the legislature is back in session. Governor LePage has stated that he will not be accepting the funds for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity. There are organizations in the County of Aroostook that will be affected by this decision. Governor LePage allegedly sent a letter to the US Department of Labor stating that Maine would not participate in the program. Charlie Pray has spoken with Senators Collins and King asking them to advocate for Maine with the US Department of Labor but they are hesitant as they have not seen Governor LePage's letter as of yet. A Freedom of Information Act was filed but there has been no response. There is a meeting scheduled with MCCA Board Chairman Tom Davis and Governor LePage, however, this meeting may be postponed until the content of the letter written to the US Department of Labor has been disclosed.

C) Other Items of Interest.

None.

ART. 11. County Administrator's Report.

A) Maine Municipal Employee Health Trust Health Claims Experience Report.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier reported that our current MMEHT Health Claims Experience rate is at 100%. Mr. Pelletier has sent out an inquiry to municipalities to inquire as to what their current MMEHT rate is for comparison purposes and is waiting for responses to come in. County Administrator Pelletier will continue to monitor the MMEHT Health Claims Experience reports.

B) PSAP Discussion, Review of Current MOU.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier stated that he brought this topic to the table to discuss whether the County Commissioners would like to consider any changes to the current agreement. Commissioner Norman L. Fournier stated that there was a 5 year expiration date on the current agreement and recommended that this end date be respected. County Administrator Pelletier stated that he would strive for a conversation regarding this issue to take place in mid-2018. He is of the opinion that the County would see great cost savings if this contract were to go to RFP.

C) RFP for Registry of Deeds Software.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier asked the Commissioners for approval to put together a Request for Proposal for the Registry of Deeds software program.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to put out an RFP for the Registry of Deeds Software.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

D) Maine Municipal Association Risk Management Services Membership Award.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier presented a certificate given to him for the County of Aroostook's 24 year membership in Maine Municipal Risk Management Services.

E) Other Items of Interest.

Public Works Director Paul Bernier reported that the last Public Hearing for the de-organization of Cary Plantation was held on September 14th. Both he and Commissioner Adams attended the hearing and felt that the Cary Board was prepared to go before the legislature which will happen in early 2018.

Public Works Director Paul Bernier reported that he has been in contact with the Bureau of Elections regarding the name change for T17R4 (Sinclair). The proposal will be voted on in the November election.

A picture was taken to commemorate a Safe Driving Award the County of Aroostook.

Art. 13. Executive Session.

MOTION:

The following motion was made by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood.

“I move we go into executive session pursuant to Title 1, M.R.S.A., §405, paragraph 6(A) to discuss personnel issues related to the office of the Aroostook County Commissioners and to the elected officials’ salary structure”.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session the following motion was made by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier:

MOTION:

“I move that we authorize the County Administrator to form an Ad-Hoc Committee and appoint its members, to review the administrative organization and structure in the Aroostook County Commissioners office and to report back to the County Commissioners by December 31, 2017”.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

The following motion was made by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier:

MOTION:

“I move that the County Commissioners approve the proposed Salary Structure for elected officials.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 14. Adjournment.

MOTION:

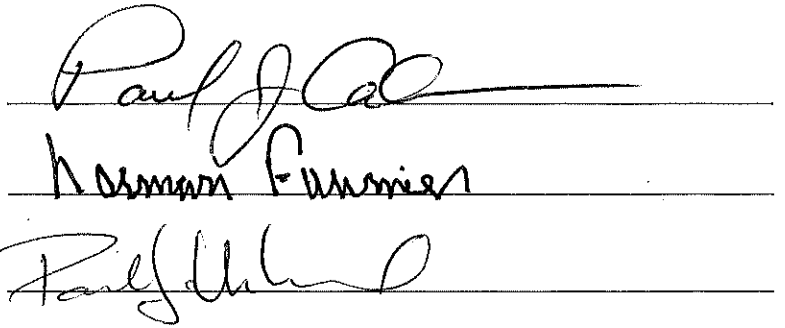
Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator



Three handwritten signatures of Aroostook County Commissioners, each written over a horizontal line.

AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: September 20, 2017