

MINUTES

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018 -
1:00 P.M. – ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ROOM – CARIBOU COURTHOUSE - CARIBOU**

PRESENT

Paul J. Adams, Chair, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
Paul J. Underwood, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Shawn Gillen, Chief Deputy
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director
Bryan Jandreau, Facilities and IT Director
Anne-Marie Marquis, Financial Analyst
Robert Sowers, Oak Leaf Systems
Adam Lee, Esq.
Sherrill Campbell, Executive Assistant

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Adams called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

ART. 2. Public Comment Period.

There was no public comment.

ART. 3. Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion for the approval of the agenda.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier asked that the following item be added to Article 12:

D) Regional Efficiency Grant Update.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 4. Minutes.

Chairperson Paul J. Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 County Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Paul J. Underwood asked that the following changes be made to the minutes:

- 1) Paul J. Underwood should be marked as tardy and entering the meeting at 1:20 p.m. just before Article 10.

2) Under Article 10. C) change MDOT to USDOT.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 County Commissioners' Meeting as amended.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

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

- A) Attendance Record.
- B) Bills and Warrants.
- C) Tax Anticipation Note.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the Tax Anticipation Note as prepared by legal counsel. (Attachment 1).

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

D) MDOT Construction Overload Permit.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the MDOT Construction Overload Permit Project with the Towns of Ashland, T11R4 Wels, Castle Hill and Mapleton.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 6. Presentation of Aroostook County Spirit of America Award.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to table this article as the recipient was not present.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 7. Executive session.

The following motion was made by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to enter into executive session at 1:17 p.m.:

MOTION:

“I move that we go into executive session pursuant to Title 1, M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E) to discuss legal issues with Adam Lee, Esq.”.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Upon returning to open session at 1:40 the following motion was made by Commissioner Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Commissioner Paul J. Underwood:

MOTION:

“I move that the County Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing Aroostook County to join a lawsuit against opiate drug companies and authorize the County Administrator to engage the services of Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC and Trafton, Matzen, Belleau & Frenette, LLP as detailed in the resolution attached”. (Attachment 2)

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 8. Personally Identifiable Information (PII) policy adoption.

Anne-Marie Marquis, Financial Analyst, presented a new PII policy aimed at helping to offer the best practices to protect any identifiable information. With approval, this policy can be rolled out to department heads for implementation.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to approve the Personally Identifiable Information policy with the replacement of the term “Vice President” to Department Head.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 9. Surplus Vehicle Bids.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier presented the bids received for four surplus vehicles. The recommendation was to award three Chevrolet Impalas to the highest bidder:

2008 Chevrolet Impala - \$750.00 Jessica Taylor
2011 Chevrolet Impala - \$575.00 Jessica Taylor
2011 Chevrolet Impala - \$750.00 Jessica Taylor

With regard to the 2012 Dodge Charger, County Administrator Pelletier recommended that this vehicle be kept as a vehicle to be used for back up or travel for County of Aroostook employees, saving mileage reimbursement.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Adams to take the recommendation of County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier, authorizing the sale of two 2011 Chevrolet Impalas and one 2008 Chevrolet Impala to the highest bidder Jessica Taylor and to revisit the sale of the 2012 Dodge Charger in six months after reassessment of use of this vehicle.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 10. Internet, ELAN and hosted phone service RFP.

Bryan Jandreau, Facilities and IT Director stated that four bids were received for the internet, ELAN and hosted phone service RFP. One of the bids submitted did not meet the specifications. He recommended approval of the lowest bidder Consolidated Communications.

MOTION:

Motion by Paul J. Underwood and seconded by Norman L. Fournier to authorize a contract with Consolidated Communications for internet, Elan and hosted phone services.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 11. County Commissioners' Report:

A) MCCA/Risk Pool Update.

MCCA. Commissioner Norman L. Fournier reported that the March MCCA meeting was to be a luncheon meeting featuring the Governor as speaker. The Governor was not able to attend the meeting.

Risk Pool. One case has been elevated to the Supreme Court; one case has been settled; 8 claims were opened and 7 closed resulting in an increase in reserves of \$8,700.00; County Day will be held on April 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.; dues have all been paid except one county; District Attorney offices in other counties have been receiving a prisoner roll call report including length of residency on a regular basis from Sheriff's offices; Aroostook County Sheriff's office is in contact with the DA's office regularly to discuss prisoner resident information; discussion of the June MCCA meeting will focus on what is needed for funding.

B) Legislative update.

Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on April 14th.

C) Other items of interest.

Commissioner Paul J. Underwood reported that USDOT has awarded the Presque Isle Regional Airport carrier to United Airlines.

ART. 12. County Administrator's report.

A) Update on County Treasurer position.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier reported he spoke with Julie Flynn, Maine Secretary of State's office, and found that because the State of Maine will be moving to ranked choice voting, a request to abolish the elected position of Treasurer cannot be accommodated on the primary ballot in June. In order to put the item on the June primary ballot the County of Aroostook would be liable for costs to both print and hand count a special ballot. County Administrator Pelletier recommends voting on the question in November.

B) Recreational marijuana update for the Unorganized Territories.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier presented the County Commissioners with a proposed legislation regarding authorization of marijuana establishments within the unorganized and de-organized areas. This legislation would give the County Commissioners the same authorization as the selectmen in towns and councilmen in cities to allow or deny establishments within towns, plantations and townships in unorganized territories. LUPC would have primary authority on approval of these establishments if the County Commissioners allow them in the Unorganized Territories.

C) Ratification of undesignated fund balance transfer.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier sent a memo to the Finance Committee regarding the proposed use of the undesignated fund balance. Feedback from the Finance Committee members was presented and the following motion was made:

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the ratification of undesignated fund balance transfer as recommended by County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier and the Finance Committee totaling \$34,250.00 as follows:

\$14,250 – Law Enforcement critical radio and vehicle set up reserve account
\$10,000 – Economic development and advocacy
\$10,000 – Caribou property development reserve
\$34,250 TOTAL

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

D) Regional Efficiency Grant update.

County Administrator Ryan D. Pelletier met with municipal managers in February. All were very interested in partnering with Aroostook County Government to share fees for municipal tax assessing and code enforcement. County Administrator Pelletier asked for approval to apply for the grant as discussed.

MOTION:

Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to approve the County Administrator to apply for a Regional Efficiency Grant and execute all documents pertaining thereto.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

ART. 13. Other Business.

None.

ART. 14. 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(6)(C) to discuss consideration of the condition, acquisition or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property or interests therein.”

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed

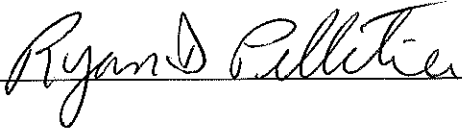
Upon return to regular session no action was warranted or taken.

ART. 15. Adjournment.

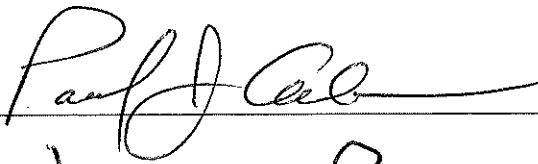
Motion by Norman L. Fournier and seconded by Paul J. Underwood to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

ATTEST: A True Copy
of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator







AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: March 21, 2018

AROOSTOOK COUNTY

VOTES TO BE ADOPTED

Voted: That the Board of Commissioners of Aroostook County (the "County") hereby authorizes a borrowing in anticipation of tax receipts for the 2018 fiscal year in the original principal amount not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000) from Katahdin Trust Company on behalf of the County with interest thereon at 2.90% per annum.

Voted: That under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 30-A M.R.S.A. Section 932 and Article III, Section 8(p) of the Charter of the County of Aroostook the Board of Commissioners and the Treasurer of the County be and they are hereby authorized to borrow in anticipation of tax receipts from Katahdin Trust Company in the name of the County the sum of up to Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000) at the interest rate of 2.90%; and that the Board of Commissioners and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue general obligation securities of the County in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000) and to execute and deliver a note or notes under the seal of the County attested by the County Administrator, dated on or about March 30, 2018 in such form as the Board of Commissioners and Treasurer may approve; and that the appropriate officials of the County be and hereby are authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the County such documents and certificates as may be required in connection with such borrowing; and that no part of the proceeds of said borrowing shall be used, directly or indirectly, to acquire any securities and obligations, the acquisition of which would cause the notes to be "arbitrage bonds" or "private activity bonds" within the meaning of Sections 148 and 141, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"); and that the notes be designated as qualified tax-exempt obligations within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of said Code; and that the Board of Commissioners and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to covenant on behalf of the County to file any information report and pay any rebate due to the United States in connection with the issuance of the notes, to take all other lawful actions necessary to ensure the interest on the notes will be excluded from gross income of the owners thereof for purposes of federal income taxation and to refrain from taking any action which would cause interest on the notes to become includable in the gross income of the owners thereof.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO JOIN A LAWSUIT
AGAINST OPIATE DRUG COMPANIES**

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Aroostook County, Maine, have learned to their sorrow over the last several years exactly how devastated many of the residents of Aroostook County have become because of addictions to painkillers manufactured by drug companies; and

WHEREAS, employees of the County are required to respond every day to problems that arise because of addiction to painkillers; and

WHEREAS, to treat and abate the opioid epidemic, the County has needed to shift resources that could have otherwise been used for various improvements and the general betterment of the County;

WHEREAS, employees in the Aroostook County Jail and in the Sherriff's Office on a daily basis observe and manage devastating issues caused by drug addiction to painkillers; and

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of people who use heroin have been prescribed opiates in the past; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 376 people died in the State of Maine from drug overdoses, and 123 of those deaths were caused by pharmaceutical opioids; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40 people died of drug overdoses in Aroostook County in 2016 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, the ease with which these drugs have been obtained, as a result of drug companies' campaign to make them readily prescribed for common aches and pains, has led many people to become addicted; and

WHEREAS, opiate drug companies have enjoyed enormous profits with the sales of opiate drugs, promoting them relentlessly among physicians and paying doctors to promote these drugs at conferences, while failing repeatedly to successfully tailor the drugs to make abuse impossible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aroostook County Commissioners hereby authorize the County Administrator to engage the services of Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC and Trafton, Matzen, Belleau & Frenette, LLP on behalf of Aroostook County with respect to prosecution of any legal claims against manufacturers and distributors of opioids arising out of the manufacturers' and distributors' fraudulent and negligent marketing and distribution of opioids.