**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Brann, Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Barker

Meeting held by Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners Meeting**

**August 17, 2021 Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brann at 10:00 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Audience:**  Vickie Braley, Jim Desjardins, Fen Fowler, Susan Black, Pam Prodan, Steve Lowell, Charlie Woodworth, Nancy Hutchinson, David Rackliffe, John Donald

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter: Cook Supervisor wages**

Entered Executive session at 11:23, exited at 12pm.

Action: **Motion to rename the Cook Supervisor to Food Services Manager, pay scale 5 at $21.35 per hour, effective August 17, 2021. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (D) NCEU negotiations update:**

Entered executive session at 12:01pm and exited at 12:20pm. No actions taken. (Terry/Lance) (3/0)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Clerk’s Report: Motion to approve the clerk’s report for minutes of August 3, 2021: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**
2. **Treasurers Report**: 6 warrants: 2 county, 2 UT, 1 TIF, and 1 payroll **A motion and second to approve the Treasurer’s report. (Clyde/Lance) (3/0)**
3. **Approval of Fitness for Duty Policy: (Clyde/Lance) (3/0)**
4. **Approval of Telecommuting Policy and Agreement:** Would like to have criteria added to the policy and agreement. Tiffany to revise and bring back to the Commissioners for approval.
5. **Stimulus project contract position:** Would like to hire someone to go around the county to collect projects among groups/towns. Looking for someone to trust, local, as a contractor, of which we will set hours. Oxford County hired Community Concepts. Other counties are just starting to look at RFP’s. Suggested that Greater Franklin Development take on the project. Charlie stated he does not have the capacity, Lance suggested we hire someone who will not have a bias about where the money is spent. Ideally have someone who has state and federal experience/resources and is capable of writing grants. Charlie added that Aroostook County proposed to manage funds both town and county at an hourly rate plus 2%. Lance added that SAD 9 has hired someone at somewhere around $400-$500 per day. The deadline for the initial project plan is October 31, 2021. Charlie informed the commissioners that the county has to have at least one plan in place, not the entire project.

**Motion that Human Resources put together a job description and advertise the position: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

1. **Discussion of 457 plan-employee loans:** Discussed the history of loans being rejected by the commissioners. Talked about the administrative responsibilities of the loan. The commissioners would like to remove themselves as part of the hardship loan approval process.

**Motion to make the 457 loans part of the benefit plan and remove the hardship responsibilities from the commissioners. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

1. **Discussion of COVID relief funds employee stipend:** Would like to give a one-time payment to employees who worked through COVID, both union and non-union as follows: $5,000 to managers, $2,000 to full-time employees, $1,000 to part-time employees totaling $92,000. There is criteria around giving employees a bonus with the ARPA funds. Would like to separate the commissioners from this bonus as part of the write up. Discussion around the federal “essential worker” list which is posted online. Going to hold off on any actions until we hire someone to help with the stimulus project.
2. **Lt. Rackliffe-Stone Garden Funds:** The FCSO was awarded $80,000 through the Stone Garden Funds. Lt. Rackliffe would like to purchase two speed trailers, a storage container, and 5 years of AT&T sim card service for the two trailers. The cost of the two speed trailers with delivery is $68,000, 5 years of AT&T sim card service is $4800, and the storage container to keep the speed trailers out of the weather when not in use is $5,000. The total purchase is $77,800.

**Motion to approve the purchase of two speed trailers, a storage container, and sim cards in the amount of $77,800 using Stone Garden Funds: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

1. **HR Studio Group:** Lance informed the group that he was receiving invoices for the investigation, but did not realize that Tiffany and/or Vickie were not included on the notices. Going forward, if Lance receives any invoices, he will forward to Vickie or Tiffany to make payment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Discussion of Appointed Treasurer vs. Elected Treasurer: Submission to get the question on the November ballot is due by September 2, 2021.**

**Motion to put the appointed treasurer vs. elected treasurer on the November ballot: (Lance/Terry) (3/0)** Clyde had originally opposed, but is now in support of.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. **Snow bid:** Perkins and Washington Township, bid has been published in the Daily Bulldog and Franklin Journal, Original Irregular.
2. **TIF-Four scholarship applicants: Clara Logan, Freeman Twp.- $10,144, Madison Phelps, Freeman Twp.- $5,913, Trenton Reed, Freeman Twp.- $8,934, Andrew Wood, Madrid Twp.- $7,892. Total for the four students is $32,800.**

**Motion to approve the scholarship award to Clara Logan in the amount of $10,144. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Motion to approve the scholarship award to Madison Phelps in the amount of $5,913. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Motion to approve the scholarship award to Trenton Reed in the amount of $8,934 (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Motion to approve the scholarship award to Andrew Wood in the amount of $7,892. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

1. **Storer Hill Road, Carthage:** Nancy Hutchinson expressed concerns regarding the maintenance of the Storer Hill Road in Carthage. The road has pot holes, and the ditches are not being properly maintained for drainage. Water currently runs onto Mrs. Hutchinson’s property. Nancy has expressed concerns with the appropriate people in Carthage and has not had any resolve. She wanted to make the county commissioners aware of what is going on with her road, and see if there was anything that could be done. Commissioner Brann stated he will reach out to Jan, the Road Commissioner about the issues with the road.
2. **Jim-**Old server equipment out to bid. Received a bid of $3500, $2000, and $1000.

**Motion to accept the $3500 bid and deposit into Susan’s account. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Warrants:**

2 county, 2 UT, 1 TIF, 1 Payroll. All warrants have been signed and approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion and second to adjourn. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:23 P.M.**

**Next regular meeting will be September 7, 2021 at 3:15 p.m.**

**A recording is available for this meeting.**

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FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, CLERK