**Minutes**

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

Meeting held by Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners Meeting**

**September 21, 2021 Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brann at 3:15 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Audience:**  Vickie Braley, Jim Desjardins, David Rackliffe, Judith Kaut, Donna Perry, Marion Hutchinson, Mike Pond, Tiffany Baker, Brian Bernier, Libby Kaut, Peter Axelson, Doug Blauvelt, Scott Nichols, Carry Keep, Charlie Woodworth, Andy Robinson, Mt. Blue TV, Elizabeth Swiney

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**3:15 P.M. Scott Nichols, Doug Blauvelt: Hiring of New Cook:** Scheduled interviews tomorrow. Nichols would like flexibility in pay with experience. The current rate of pay for a 5 year employee is $15.49. Sheriff Nichols will come back to the Commissioner’s for an approval of rate of pay.

**Motion to allow for flexibility in hiring based on experience. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**3:20 P.M. Property Tax Abatement request, Peter Axelson vs Town of Rangeley Plantation:** Peter made a statement and provided documents to the Commissioners. Mr. Axelson believes three Maine statutes were violated and his property was overvalued. He has been paying the high tax rate for 17 years. Axelson was requesting three years reimbursement plus interest for the overvalued property tax. Mr. Keep disagreed with Mr. Axelson’s statements. After some argument, the Commissioner’s interjected and suggested to the two gentlemen that they seek legal counsel and take this dispute to court.

**No action taken by the Commissioners. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**3:40 P.M. Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (E) Consultation with Legal Council:**

Entered: 3:52pm (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)

Exited: 4:19pm

**Action: Motion to proceed with mediation with Terry Brann representing on behalf of the Commissioners. (Lance/Terry) (3/0)**

**3:50 P.M. Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters Grievance Appeal:**

Entered: 4:21 pm (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)

Exited: 4:25 pm

**Action: October 5, 2021 at 4pm (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**4:00 P.M. Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters County Clerk:**

Entered: 4:26 pm (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)

Exited: 4:35 pm

**Motion to have a Commissioners meeting on September 28, 2021 at 3:30 pm. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**4:30 P.M. Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matters Sheriff Patrol**

Entered: 4:36 pm (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)

Exited: 4:42 pm

**Motion to accept lateral transfer from patrol to corrections pending the outcome of an interview. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Clerk’s Report: Motion to approve the clerk’s report for minutes of September 7, 2021 (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**
2. **Treasurers Report**: **Motion to accept the Treasurers Report (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

Vickie has contacted Franklin Savings, Bangor Savings, and Skowhegan Savings Bank regarding interest bearing accounts. Waiting to hear back from TD Bank. Information will be shared at the next meeting along with the Finance Managers recommendation. Warrants were approved and signed.

1. **DA’s Office-Anticipated Open Position and Remote Work:** Andy would like to advertise for a trial assistant, begin the interview process, but not hire until there is a vacancy. Has funds for a part-time position which is unfilled. Would like to use these funds for the transition/training. Vickie would like the position to be put under the full-time line item, the total budget won’t be in the negative, only that line item. Auditors recommend to show a true budget. **Motion to approve posting position, use funds for training period: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

Would like his office to go full remote with one person in the office at all times, the rest will work from home. Use a rotating schedule. To avoid having everyone out of office due to quarantine. Would like to do this until the end of October.

**Motion to approve telecommuting for the DA’s office. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

1. **Schoolhouse Road Bridge-Mike Pond:** Bridge in bad shape, wants the county to repair. Looked into documents here, county ownership is .04 miles. 211 ft., bridge is 274 ft. from road. Wants to know when it was county owned. Brian provided some information he gathered on the roads history and requested the county provide information on the order of discontinuance and public hearing and notifications. Brian stated that no notice was provided to the residents. Suggested if he repairs the bridge he will gate it off. Vickie will research and provide the requested information.
2. **Cherry Hill Road, Perkins TWP: Letter received stating the road was 1.6 miles, however the road is 1.1 miles to the four corners. Found information stating the Cherry Hill Road 1.6 miles was being discontinued. County roads generally run straight, would never take a sharp turn.**
3. **State Claims Commission hearing: Commissioner to be designated to serve as third member. Motion to have Clyde represent as third member (Lance/Terry) (3/0)**
4. **FY21-22 Plowing contract signatures:** Washington Plt./Perkins TWP. Out to bid, no bids at this time. Due September 30, 2021. **Motion to sign contracts at the same rate as last year. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)** Approved and signed.
5. **COVID Recommendations:** Commissioners would like to follow CDC guidelines.
6. **MainePERS Adoption of Provisions, Eligible Employees: 9 eligible employees now, and 3 will be eligible for open enrollment for the first 5 years of employment beginning in 2022. 9 employees=roughly $56k, can allow to enroll and wait until end of June 2022 to make deductions active to not impact this year’s budget. Terry thinks it’s too much money for the county. Not retroactive back to their start date, begins when they enroll. Would like to table it until the next meeting.**
7. **MainePERS study: Motion to deny participation in the study. (Lance/Terry) (3/0)**
8. **Food Services Manager Position:** Agreed not to make this position a department head, keep the title and rate increase per previous meeting approval. Position reports to Doug Blauvelt

**Motion to have this position remain the same and report to Doug. (Lance/Terry) (3/0)**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Madrid ATV Use update:** The Commissioners are receiving emails regarding the closure.The ATV club has been informed of the closure, signs have been removed by the ATV club.
2. **ARPA Position update:** No applicants as of yet. Stick with current ads (DB, Irregular, FJ) for 2 more weeks, and revisit at the next meeting.
3. **Monument/Flower Club:** Libby presented information on the areas for improvement for the monuments. Would like to see the stones cleaned, add signage, retaining wall along route 4, steps could use some work, soil is not ideal for growing flowers, and needs irrigation. Commissioners requested she put together a list of priorities and pricing. A couple of package options and come back to present. Lance suggested partnering with the state on the project, reach out to Paul Mills.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Charlie presented the Commissioners each with a book funded by the TIF.**

**Septic plan-** White house put out to bid. Proposal is oversized and easy to add on. Mike to sit with Vickie to prepare packet and notice for bid. **Motion to approve Mike and Vickie putting together the notice to bid on the project. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Warrants: 1 County, 2 UT, 2 Payroll, 1 TIF, 1 Other (EFT)**

**Bruce Flaherty reaching out regarding the Spirit of America. Have them send them to us, we can print them, same process as last time. Vickie to contact Bruce.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm**

**Next regular meeting will be October 5, 2021 at 3:15 p.m.**

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

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FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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