**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Brann, Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Barker (Absent)

Meeting held by Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners Meeting**

**April 5, 2022 Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brann at 3:15 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

**Audience:** Donna Perry, MBTV, Nick Palmer, Tim Hardy, Pamela Prodan, Bob Carlton, Charlie Woodworth, Sue Pratt, Susan Black, Mike Pond, Marc Edwards, Becky Bowering, Annie Twitchell, Fen Fowler, Diane Dunham, Hannah Boivin, Amanda Simoneau, Heidi Jordan

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (F), Discussion of confidential records:**

**Motion to enter Executive Session at 4:31PM: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)** Exit: 4:47PM No action taken.

**Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A), Personnel Matter-Wages:**

**Motion to enter Executive session at 4:48PM: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)** Exit: 5:42PM No action taken.

**Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (G), Personnel Matter-County Administrator Interviews:**

**Motion to enter Executive session at 5:49PM: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)** Exit: 6:03PM

**Motion to hire Amy Bernard from Rumford at 40 hours per week salaried at $77,000. (Lance/Terry) (2/0)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Clerk’s Report:** Minutes presented for approval from March 15, 2022. **Motion to approve the March 15, 2022 minutes: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)**
2. **Treasurer Report:** Warrants presented for signature and approval, 3 county, 1 UT, 1 TIF, 3 Payroll, and 2 EFT’s. **Motion to accept the Treasurer report: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)**
3. **RHR Smith & Company-auditors, signing of engagement letters:** Two years ago County entered into a contract with RHR for 4 years. FY20-FY23. Three engagement letters, will do pre-audit work, the actual audit will happen in the late summer/fall at the earliest. Price remains the same for 4 years. Have to sign contract each year for each audit. Audit cost annually is $9500. **Motion to authorize the Treasurer to sign the engagement letters for the audit: Lance/Terry (2/0)**
4. **ARPA Funds:** Becky from Franklin Savings Bank presented information on investing the ARPA funds into their bank. Franklin Savings is offering a .60% interest rate. Fully liquid, fully insured. Sweep checking account at .60%. Yield subject to change as most sweep accounts. Funds stay local. Presented an earnings spreadsheet based on the average balance to show the interest gained on that amount. $75 monthly fee. Estimated earnings of $900 per month based on the estimated figures provided by the Commissioner. FSB offered to work closely with Pam and the County on the transition. No set transaction limitations. Insured up to $17 million. Sue estimated we have about $1.8 million left of the first round of funds. Pam expressed she wasn’t sure if it was cost effective internally. Pam understood initially that the funds were to be divided. The Commissioners clarified that they wish to move all funds to a higher interest rate. Offer from FSB is good for 30 days, beyond that it would need to be reassessed. Lance and Pam agreed the Treasurers Department will come back to the May 3, 2022 meeting with rates and a proposal.
5. **NRCM Presentation, Marc Edwards:** Marc came to introduce himself as the FC regional outreach coordinator for Natural Resources Council of Maine. Provide protection for the nature of Maine. He mentioned the dam removal on the Kennebec and the benefits to the environment. Working on plastic pollution, led the ban of single use plastic bags. Would like to understand the concerns and needs of Franklin County. If anyone has any questions or concerns they can contact him.
6. **Maine Pretrial Services:** Elizabeth informed the Commissioners there would be a 7% increase to the agreement for FY23 which equates to an estimated $3,225. Last year the cost was $75,767, looking to increase to $81,268. In 20+ years they have never asked for more than 3%. Lance asked if we could use ARPA to cover the increase. Sue will look into it.
7. **Corrections Officer Approval:** Eric Geisman for full-time Corrections Officer for approval. **Motion to approve the hiring of Eric Geisman as full-time Corrections Officer at the Jail: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)**
8. **EMA Vehicle, Open Bid:** Received three bids for a new Ford Explorer for EMA from Quirk Auto Group, Bailey’s Ford, and Height. Quirk Auto Group quoted with trade in of the EMA truck, the Explorer would cost $19,945.86, and Height quoted with the trade in a cost of $21,211**.** Bailey’s Ford provided a quote minus the trade in, the bid was for $42,841. **Motion to recommend Tim Hardy review the bids and come back with a proposal: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)** Tim reviewed the bids and came back to recommend accepting Quirk’s bid.

**Motion to accept the bid from Quirk Auto for $19,945.86: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)**

1. **MACCAM Annual Salary Survey Approval:** If every county in Maine participates, the cost for the survey per county will be $218.75. **Motion to approve the county’s participation in the survey: (Terry/Lance) (2/0)**
2. **Retirement Recognition: HR presented a proposal for recognition for retirement and years of service milestones. The Commissioners agreed they would like to table this discussion for the next meeting Clyde can attend.**
3. **ARPA:**
	1. **Review and permission to put to bid Jail**

**Drainage Improvements: Motion to approve putting the drainage at the Jail out to bid: (Lance/Terry) (2/0)**

* 1. **Monument project update: Lance attended the first stakeholder meeting and provided an update.**
1. **Mike Pond, Fuel Surcharge: Mike expressed concerns over the fuel surcharge with gas prices increasing. He suggested the County might need to look at it and figure something out.**
2. **COLA Discussion: The interim County Clerk proposed a 5% increase for the non-union employees for consideration. Commissioner Harvell requested she put together cost for 3%, 4%, and 5%.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. **Beverly Lavine, Old Dead River Road: No show.**
2. **NCEU MOU for signature:** The MOU is to include the Earned Paid Leave provisions into the current contract. **Motion to sign the MOU: (Terry/Lance) (2/0)**
3. **Commissioners meeting** on the 19th will be at 10am and we will review the budget around 10:30. Vickie is working on the books and a schedule. The Budget Committee will meet upstairs on April 20th at 6pm.

**Warrants:**

**3 county, 1 UT, 1 TIF, 3 Payroll, and 2 EFT’s**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion and second to adjourn. (Lance/Terry) (2/0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM**

**Next regular meeting will be April 19, 2022 at 10:00AM**

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

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 FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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