**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Brann, Commissioner Harvell (Tardy), Commissioner Carlton

Meeting held by Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners Meeting**

**July 5, 2022 Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brann at 10:00AM

Pledge of Allegiance

**Audience:**

**APPOINTMENTS: Mike Pond, Amy Bernard, Donna Perry, Jim Desjardins, Annie Twitchell, Sue Pratt, David Rackliffe, Ralph Parker, Susan Black, Dee Lynn Libby, Fen Fowler, Steve Bunker, Libby Kaut, Nick Palmer, Amanda Simoneau, Tim Hardy, Richard Caton, Charlie Woodworth, Diane Dunham, MBTV, Betsy Sawyer, Ron Smith, Mariam Hutchinson, Beth Myers, Quentin Clark**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Clerk’s Report:** Minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. **Motion to approve the minutes from June 21, 2022: (Bob/Lance) (2/0)**
2. **Treasurer Report:** Pam presented the following warrants for signature: 2 UT, 1 TIF, 1 ARPA, 2 Payroll, 2 EFT payments for Empower, 2 EFT payments for Maine State Retirement. **Motion to approve the Treasurers report: (Bob/Terry) (2/0)**
3. **PILT Payment from U.S Department of Interior:** The County received a notice from the US Department of the Interior that we will receive $18, 388 for PILT to the UT account. This was mostly from the Appalachian Trail properties. Historically the Board of Commissioners approve the funds. **Motion to accept the Appalachian Trail payment in leu of taxes in the amount of $18,388: (Bob/Terry) (2/0)**
4. **FY21 Audited Financial Statements Presentation-RHR Smith:** Ron Smith provided a summary of the FY21 audit statements to the Board. Commissioner Harvell asked whether or not the County should pay off its debts. Ron did not recommend doing this because interest rates are favorable.
5. **Dispatch Hire for Full Time Position:** Amanda would like approval to hire Niki Puchalski-Hadden as a full time Dispatcher. Niki is a former teacher at a nearby school. **Motion to hire Niki Puchalski-Hadden as a full time Dispatcher: (Bob/Terry) (2/0)**
6. **Sheriff’s Office PT Hire approval, Brandon Sholan:** Brandon Sholan was a former Corrections officer for the Jail and currently works for the Waterville PD. He is a certified officer. David Rackliffe would like approval to hire Brandon as part time. **Motion to hire Brandon Sholan as a part time Deputy: (Bob/Terry) (2/0)**
7. **Corrections Officer, FT Hire:** John Donald would like to hire Brianna Johnson as a full time Corrections Officer at the Jail. Brianna currently works for Oxford County Jail and is MCJA certified. John Donald believes because Oxford owes money for a past employee that it will be a wash to buy Brianna’s certification cost. **Motion to approve hiring Brianna Johnson: (Bob/Lance) (3/0)**
8. **Set Due Dates and Interest for County Taxes:** Historically county taxes are due 9/1 and 2/1. The Maine Revenue services set the rate on delinquent property tax interest rate at 4%. **Motion to set the county tax due dates to September 1, 2022 and February 1, 2023, and interest on delinquency at 4%: (Bob/Terry) (2/0)**
9. **Maine Workforce Development Compact:** The Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine’s Workforce has access to over $60 million in grant funding to help with workforce development training. By enrolling as a Maine Workforce Development Compact member, we will be eligible for up to $1200 in 2022 and a $600 match in years 2023-2025 for employee development. **Motion to allow HR to enroll in the Maine Workforce Development Compact as a member: (Bob/Lance) (3/0)**
10. **ARPA updates:**
    1. **County Wide Communication System:** Motion to approve up to $500k for the Communications system upgrade. Motion was withdrawn. **Motion to table and reconsider at the next meeting. (Lance/Bob) (3/0)**
    2. **LEAP: Motion to remove the project from the ARPA project list: (Lance/Terry) (3/0)**
    3. **Farmington Grange: Motion to accept the project at a cost of $20k: (Lance/Bob) (3/0)**
    4. **Salem Fire Dept. Request: Motion to table until receive a roster and land sale: (Lance/Bob) (3/0)**
    5. **Healthy Community Coalition: Motion to reject the project in the amount of $156,800: ((Lance/Bob) (3/0)**
    6. **Senior’s Plus: Motion to fund the project, made by Bob. Motion failed. Motion to remove the project: (Terry/Lance) (2/1) Bob opposed.**
    7. **Courthouse Upgrade: Motion to approve the upgrade in the amount of $107,497: (Lance/Bob) (3/0)**
    8. **Mt. Blue Area Garden Club-WW1 Teague Memorial Updates:** The memorial has been cleaned, grass has been resurfaced with sod, a lighted flag has been installed. For maintenance, the county would like to formally recognize Trent Burns as a volunteer who has offered to maintain the lawn at the memorial: **Motion: (Lance/Bob) (3/0)**
    9. **Sprucing up the Courthouse:** Amy recognizes that the space around the courthouse could use some TLC. Others have also made observations and comments. Amy is going to meet with a landscape expert, who was recommended by Bob Carlton, to identify low maintenance opportunities and discuss removing trees which could be harmful to the foundation. **Motion to approve removal of trees around the property which could impact the structure of the building: (Lance/Bob) (3/0)**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Warrants:** 2 UT, 1 TIF, 1 ARPA, 2 Payroll, 2 EFT payments for Empower, 2 EFT payments for Maine State Retirement.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 11:49am**

**Next regular meeting will be July 19, 2022 at 10am**

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

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FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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