Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Brann

The meeting was held via: Zoom
Franklin County Commissioners Meeting

February 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Harvell at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience: David Hanson, Jessica Brown, Sue Black, Susan Pratt, Doug Hiltz, Nathan Hiltz, Nick Palmer, Jim Desjardins, Jake Nichols, David Rackliff, MBTV, Drew Goodrich, Stephan Bunker, Jane Woodman, Tiffany Baker and Jamie Sullivan

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Clerks Report- Motion to accept the Clerk's Report: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
2. **Treasurers Report – N/A**
3. **Sheriff's Office Secretary Job Description –** Longtime employee, Elaine Fitch, Secretary for the Sheriff's Department, will be retiring at the end of May of this year. **Motion to approve job description for Secretarial Position for the Sheriff's Office: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
4. **Bookkeeper –** We had thirteen applicants apply for the Bookkeeper position. Of those thirteen applicants, six were contacted for interviews. Unfortunately, two applicants were no shows. The interview panel unanimously agreed that Brenda Bitle was the best fit for the position. **Motion to approve to hire Brenda Bitle for the Bookkeeper position for the Treasurer's office: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
5. **Teague Memorial Centennial Celebration** - Members from the American Legion Roderick-Crosby Post 28 were present to discuss the 100th Anniversary of the Teague WWI Memorial Arch program. Legion members were seeking permission to intern a time capsule on county property. They are in the process of collecting artifacts. Wiles Funeral Home will be building a vault to be placed in the ground, along with a ground marker. **Motion to approve permission for the American Legion Roderick-Crosby Post 28 to intern a time capsule on county property: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
6. **Retirement Plan – Vendor Change:** The County's current benefit package includes the choice of MainePers or 457 retirement plan with a match for new hires. We recently discovered, however, that the plan only supports an employee contribution, not an employer contribution. In order to have the matching contributions, we need to offer a 401(a) plan along with the 457 plan. David Hanson from ISS indicated that Empower, the Counties current provider, will charge a set-up fee of $2,500.00 to implement the plan. He recommended that we reach out to other providers for a more cost-effective plan. He noted that Nationwide, has no set-up fee, would provide better customer service and employees

would have the opportunity to apply on-line. **Motion was made to move to Nationwide to provide retirement services to the County: Lance/Bob (3/0)**

7. **Blue Star Accounting & Advising Agreement** – Marc Roy, who was previously employed with BTR, has established his own firm, Blue Star Accounting & Advising. He has agreed to provide accounting services for the County. **Motion to authorize Amy Bernard to sign the Agreement between the County and Blue Star Accounting & Advising: Terry/Bob (3/0)**
8. **Set Hearing for March 5th for NCEU Grievance – Motion to hold NCEU Grievance for March 5, 2024 at 3:30 pm., to be heard 1st on the agenda. Lance/Bob (3/0)**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Update of Security for Courthouse -** The County received two quotes from A3 Communications for security at courthouse. One quote was for a 5 year plan and the other quote was for a 10 year plan. Lieutenant David Rackliff from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department indicated that the County may have the opportunity to receive a 5% to 10% discount in costs if we utilized A3 Communications' services in collaboration with the security program being implemented at the Rangely and Stratton Schools. Jim Desjardins, the County's IT Director indicated that A3 Communications software programs are more modern and up to date than that of the services that we would receive from Seacoast Security. **Motion to move forward with the next phase of the 5 year plan proposal with A3 Communications: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
2. **LUPC Update –** On February 14, 2024, the Joint Standing Committee of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry held a public hearing on Thomas Dubois's nomination and approved the nomination to move to the next step before the Senate. On Friday, February 15, 2024, the Senate voted to confirm the County's nomination of Mr. Dubois. **Motion to send letter regarding the appointment of Mr. Dubois to the Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commission, requesting the provide Mr. Dubois the necessary swearing in paperwork: Bob/Terry (3/0)**

MISCELLANEOUS: Sue Pratt indicated that she has a meeting with the Farmington Planning Board regarding the new building located at 123 County Way on March 11, 2024. Time of said meeting is unknown.

WARRANTS: UT, County A/P

Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter: Union Grievance - Motion to enter into Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter: Union Grievance at 10:49 a.m.: Bob/Terry (3/0); Motion to End Executive Session at 11:31 a.m.: Bob/Terry (3/0) – No Action taken

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 11:32 a.m. Bob/Terry (3/0)

A recording is available for this meeting.

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: _____, CLERK