

Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Brann

The meeting was held via: Zoom
Franklin County Commissioners Meeting

April 16, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience: Susan Pratt, Nathan Hiltz, Jim Desjardins, MBTV, Fen Fowler, Jeff Gilbert, Ryan Close, Jake Nichols, Marlene Bradley, Pam Prodan, Heidi Jordan, Tom Saviello, Keith Amato, Bonita Tomkins, Stacy Austin, Leeanna Lavoie, David Rackliff, Steve Lowell, David St. Laurent, Eric Calderwood, Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, Jamie Sullivan and Brenda Bitle

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Clerk's Report- Motion to accept the Clerk's Report: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
- 2. Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Bob/Lance (2/1) Terry opposed**
- 3. Opioid Settlement Committee –** Commissioner Harvell discussed his concerns with the current committee and the potential of disbanding said committee. It was brought to the Commissioners attention that Franklin County is the only County within the State of Maine that has a committee and process to vet applications and that is something to be proud of. Several committee members spoke in support of the having a committee and made recommendations on how to restructure said committee – **Motion to temporarily suspend the committee with the intent to reorganize by June 1, 2024: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
- 4. Public Notice of Intent to Build Emergency Operations Center Application - Motion to Open hearing for Federal Assistance SF-424 Bob/Terry (3/0).** Franklin County is looking to obtain federal funding assistance in the amount of \$2,035,000 from the USDA, Rural Development. This application has been posted and is being discussed at this public board meeting on April 16, 2024.
As part of the USDA Application, the County must hold a formal public hearing to notify the citizens of Franklin County of the intent to build the Emergency Operations Center using USDA funds. Preliminary estimates of spending: Federal - \$2,035,000 ARPA – \$1,665,000 Other - \$696,345: **Motion to close hearing for Federal Assistance SF-424: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
- 5. Salary Structure –** A discussion was had with regard to the pay structure of the custodian position. The Commissioners were made aware that the current pay for this position is \$15.10 which is only \$0.95 more than minimum wage. This position's pay is also considerably lower than what the local school district's custodian position pays as

well as a full-time union position with the County. The Commissioners were given two potential options to choose from: Option 1 is giving the nonunion employees an 8.3% increase in the current fiscal year at a cost of approximately \$138,156. Option 2 would be to leave the part-time custodian position on a Grade 3 and add a full-time custodian position on a Grade 4 which is a difference of approximately \$4,000 - **Motion to move forward with Option 2 and amend the Salary Structure: Bob/Lance (2/1) Terry opposed**

6. **Tree Removal at County Way** – The abutters to County Way are clear-cutting their property. The Sheriff's Department is concerned with the integrity of the trees remaining on the property line where the jail's recreational yard is and their ability to sustain high winds. They are proposing that the trees be cut - **Motion to remove trees pending proof of liability insurance: Terry/Bob (3/0)**


OLD BUSINESS:


1. **Awarding RFP for Reeds Mills Bridge** - Calderwood Engineering of Brunswick, Maine, submitted a proposal in the amount of \$102,000.00 to repair/construct said bridge: **Motion to accept bid from Calderwood Engineering in the amount of \$102,000.00 and Lance or Amy to sign said proposal: Terry/Bob (3/0)**


MISCELLANEOUS:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 11:31 a.m. Bob/Terry (3/0)

A recording is available for this meeting.







FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:  , CLERK