

Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Harvell (Zoom), Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Brann

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners Meeting

June 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Harvell at 3:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience (Present): Nathan Hiltz, Jim Desjardins, Donna Perry, Jake Nichols, Pam Prodan, Susan Pratt, Mt. Blue T.V., Tom Skofield, Fen Fowler, Tom Saviello, Tiffany Baker, Jamie Sullivan, and Brenda Bitle

Audience (Zoom): Deeds, Peter Axelson, and John Hamer, Esq.

Public Hearing Giving Notice of Intent to Build Emergency Operations Center Application.

Motion to Open hearing for Federal Assistance SF-424 at 3:31 p.m.: Lance/Bob (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 in the Sun Journal and on the Daily Bulldog. and is being discussed at this public board meeting on June 4, 2024. This matter was previously heard at the April 16, 2024 Commissioner's meeting. As a formality this matter is being discussed at this public board meeting on June 4, 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 at 3:35 p.m.: Bob/Terry (3/0)**

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/Terry (3/0)**
- 3. Strategic Planning Process** – A discussion was had regarding the current strategic planning process and whether or not it is heading in the right direction. It was stated that the County is in the gathering data stage of the process and this will take time. Tom Saviello was disappointed that meetings were not held in Wilton and in Jay, and that the meetings were not held after business hours. He agrees that the County should have a strategic planning process in place, however, he would like to see the current contract extended and this process be put on hold and revisited when we have five (5) Commissioners. Nick Hiltz mentioned when going through this process he would like the County to consider the future generation. It was further discussed that the meetings that were held in Farmington, Kingfield and Rangeley (June 24, 2024) were held were considered to be in a centralized location. **This matter has been tabled until after currently scheduled meetings have been had.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry** – Tom Saviello brought up an article that was posted Sun Journal article stating the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry along with other State, Federal and Non-profit organizations collaborating in the purchase of the 2,700 acres of critical wildlife habitat in the Maine's High Peaks Region of Franklin County. Mr. Saviello was inquiring as to if the County was notified of the transaction. Commissioner Carlton addressed his questions stating that County has addressed the matter by sending a letter to Amanda Beal of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.
2. **Quick Stream Bridge Replacement** – Commissioner Carlton provided an update on this process. The bid was posted on Franklin County website, the Maine Municipal Association website, and the Daily Bulldog on Monday, June 3, 2024.
3. **Kennebago Road, Lang Township** - Commissioner Brann saw that the Kennebago Road had recently been graded. He questioned whether the County was paying for the whole road to be graded or just the UT's portion. Commissioner Carlton indicated that he flagged the UT's portion of the road last year, so the UT's portion of the road is clearly identifiable.


MISCELLANEOUS:

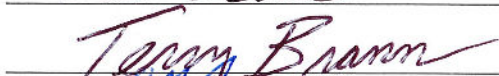
1. **Commissioner's Meetings - Motion to hold Commissioner's Meetings at 10:00 a.m. beginning June 18, 2024 through the Summer: Bob/Terry (3/0)**


WARRANTS: AP, UT, and Payroll

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 4:31 p.m. Lance/Bob (3/0)

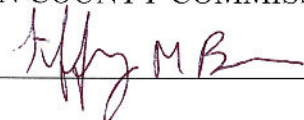
A recording is available for this meeting.







FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:  _____, CLERK