

Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Brann

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting

November 12, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Carlton thanked all of the veterans for their service.

Audience (Present): Jake Nichols, Susan Pratt, Betsy Sawyer-Manter, Charles LaVerdiere, Iris Ramirez, Bonita Tompkins, Chris Farmer, Nathan Hiltz, Diane Bellington, Shanelle Lake, Corrina Seaward, Nancy Perlson, Fenwick Fowler, Jeff Gilbert, Sarah Caton, Jim Andrews, Sue Black, Pamela Prodan, Donna Perry, Mt. Blue T.V., Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, Jamie Sullivan, and Brenda Bitle.

Audience (Zoom): None

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 the Treasurer Report: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
- 3. RHR Smith & Co. – Engagement Letter for the Audit – RHR Smith & Company provided an engagement letter for auditing services to be provided to Franklin County for the year ending June 30, 2024. Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter from RHR Smith & Co.: Terry/Bob (3/0)**
- 4. Memorandum of Understanding – Town of Rangeley/Franklin County Sheriff – Review – The Town of Rangeley has requested and Memorandum of Understanding between their police department and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to clarify coverage between the two departments. Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for mutual aid assistance between the Town of Rangeley and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
- 5. UT Budget – Set Public Hearing – Motion set Public Hearing for the UT Budget for December 3, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.: Terry/Bob (3/0).**
- 6. Registry of Deeds – Software Vendor Review – The software recording system used in the Registry of Deeds is currently not meeting operational needs of the County and needs to be updated. The Register of Deeds, Susan Black sent out a Request for Qualifications to six vendors for a new recording system. Four companies responded, and based upon the information provided, it is in Sue's opinion that IQS software would best meet the needs of the County. ISQ's contract would be for 3 years at the rate of \$43,200 per year, to begin**

in July of 2025. **Motion to approve IQS for the software vendor for the Registry of Deeds: Bob/Terry (3/0)**

7. **USDA Post Obligation Documentation** – The County received the official letter from the USDA congratulating us on the approval of our FY20274 Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) Facility Upgrades Grant in the amount of \$2,035,000. In order to proceed the following documents were to be completed, as follows:

- A. **Resolution to Accept the Grant - Motion: BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers for the County of Franklin, in the State of Maine approves and accepts in all respects, a proposed Grant in the amount of \$2,035,000 (Two Million, Thirty-Five Thousand dollars) from USDA Rural Development for the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Facility Project; and authorizes County Administrator to deliver all documents, and to take any and all actions necessary to carry into effect such grant funding.**

The Grant Agreement was presented and voted upon as follows:

YEAS 3, NAYS 0, ABSENT 0

- B. **Form RD 3570-3 Community Facilities Grant Agreement**

- C. **Notice of Federal Interest**

- D. **Form SF-3881, SCH Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment**

- E. **Form RD 400-1 – Equal Opportunity Agreement**

- F. **Form RD 400-4 – Assurance Agreement**

- G. **Form SF-429 Real Property Status Report**

Motion to authorize Commissioner Carlton to sign the Grant Agreement, Vendor Payment, Notice of Federal Interest, Equal Opportunity Agreement, Assurance Agreement and Real Property Status Report: Lance/Terry (3/0)

8. **Anti-Retaliation Policy** – The County Attorney suggested that we implement an Anti-retaliation, Policy. The policy includes the purpose, the definition of retaliation, policy statement, examples of retaliation, investigation process, consequences, employee rights, training, and reporting. This policy aligns with local, state and federal laws. **Motion to implement the Anti-Retaliation Policy: Terry/Bob (3/0)**

9. **Betterment Grant Fund** – The County Administrator had been reached out by several towns to discuss the lack and quantity of Animal Control Officers and inquired as to establishing a County-wide Animal Control Officer. This matter was brought to the Commissioners back in 2015 whereby the Sheriff's Department brought forward a grant opportunity to provide such. The Commissioners declined to move forward at that time. Due to the lack of response as well as lack of people wanting the job and are willing to do the training ACOs at the town level. Amy spoke with Sheriff Nichols regarding this matter, and he too believes that this matter is a real problem. It's also a problem with the UT as the Sheriff's Department is having to fill that role for the UT. The Betterment Grant would help supplement to seed this program for two years to bring on a County-wide Animal Control Officer. Grant deadline is December 15, 2024. **Matter tabled until January**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **ARPA Applications** – Unfortunately an application was missed. Rangeley Friends of the Performing Arts submitted an application on September 24, 2024 that was sent to our e-mail quarantine. They requested \$50,000 for renovations for year-round arts programming.

There is \$544,722.24 in ARPA funds left to obligate. 17 applications for ARPA funding have been received and presented for consideration.

- A. New Sharon Water District- Emergency Power and Support Equipment – requested \$55,000. **Motion to grant \$50,000 to the New Sharon Water District: Lance/Terry (3/0)**
- B. Franklin County Dispatch - Replacement of Dispatch Consoles – requested \$91,857.90. **Motion to grant \$61,857 to the Franklin County Dispatch Lance/Bob (3/0)**
- C. Franklin County Technology Dept. - Cloud Migration for data- requested \$67,350. **Motion to grant 67,350 to the Franklin County IT Department: Bob/Lance (2/1) Terry opposed**
- D. Franklin County EMA- Generators - requested \$8,000. **Motion to grant Franklin County EMA \$4,187: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
- E. Wilton Lion's Club- Preparation for Warming Center - requested \$65,000. **Motion to grant \$60,000 to the Wilton Lions Club: Lance/Terry (2/1) Bob opposed**
- F. Sargent Family Community Fund - Health and Safety Property repairs - requested \$50,000. **Motion to grant \$8,500 to the Sargent Family Community Fund: Bob/Not seconded. Motion to not fund the Sargent Family Community Fund: Lance/Terry (2/1) Bob opposed**
- G. Franklin County Facilities Department – Windowsills and windows – requested \$181,332.38. **Motion to grant Franklin County Facilities \$181,332: Lance/Bob (3/0)**
- H. Franklin County Facilities Department - Ceiling Fan installation - requested \$17,000. **Motion to grant Franklin County Facilities \$17,000: Lance/Bob (2/1) Terry opposed**
- I. Seniors Plus - Meals on Wheels Facility - requested \$125,000. **Motion to grant Seniors Plus \$60,000: Bob/Not seconded. Motion to grant \$40,000 to Seniors Plus: Lance/Bob (2/1) Terry opposed. Motion to add an additional \$3,000 to Senior Plus for a total of \$43,000 to Seniors Plus: Lance/Bob (No Vote) Motion to reconsider the Seniors Plus, meals on wheels facility: Lance/Bob (2/1) Terry opposed. Motion to grant \$43,000 to Seniors Plus Meals on Wheels Facility: Lance/Bob (2/1) Terry opposed**
- J. Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund for Children - Rangeley Child Care Center- requested \$50,000. **Motion to fund at \$0.00: Terry/Lance (3/0)**
- K. Madrid Historical Society - Community Facility - requested \$50,000. **Motion to not fund: Lance/Terry (3/0)**
- L. Kemandkeag Lodge - Community Center renovations - requested \$50,000. **Motion to not fund: Lance/Terry (3/0)**
- M. Rangeley Water District - Generator to run system - requested \$66,000. **Motion to grant \$66,000 to the Rangeley Water District: Bob/Not seconded. Motion to grant \$50,000 Lance/Terry (3/0)**
- N. Rangeley Radio - Upgrade - requested \$39,794. **Motion to fund at \$0.00: Lance/Terry (3/0)**
- O. Center for Entrepreneurial Studies - Staff to manage core operations - requested \$230,048. **Motion to fund at \$0.00: Lance/Terry (3/0)**

- P. Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club-Safety Kiosk at trailhead - requested \$50,000. **Motion to grant \$10,000 to the Rangeley Lakes Snowmobile Club: Lance/Terry (2/1) Bob opposed**
- Q. Rangeley Friends of the Arts - renovations for year-round arts programming – requested \$50,000. **Motion to fund at \$0.00: Lance/Terry (3/0)**
2. **E.J. Perry Medical Expansion Jail** – We received the contracts at 9:00 am on Tuesday, November 12th and forwarded it along to the County Attorney for review. Hoping to hear back from them by the next Commissioner’s meeting. **Motion to table E.J. Perry Medical Expansion Jail: Lance/Bob (3/0)**
3. **Policy Prohibiting Pets in the Workplace** – This matter was brought back to the Commissioners to discuss the policy as there have been requests from other departments other than the DA’s office. After discussions had regarding the Pet Policy presented for consideration along with an agreement to review a Working Dog Policy, this matter was tabled. **Motion to table matter: Lance/Bob (3/0)**


MISCELLANEOUS:


1. Jim Andrews spoke on the need for Animal Control Officers and requested that we speak to MCCA.
2. Jim Andrews discussed concerns with respect to the camera system in the Courthouse.

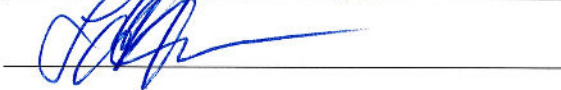
WARRANTS: County AP and Payroll – Motion to sign Warrants: Terry/Bob (3/0)

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 4:38 p.m.: Lance/Bob (3/0)

A recording is available for this meeting.







FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: , CLERK