

Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Brann

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting

December 17, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience (Present): Jake Nichols, Susan Pratt, Nathan Hiltz, Donna Perry, Robert Lightbody, Pamela Prodan, Tom Saviello, Jeff Gilberts, Sarah Caton, Neil McLean, Jr., Esq., Brad Timberlake, Mt. Blue T.V., Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, Jamie Sullivan, and Brenda Bittle.

Audience (Zoom): Ralph Parker

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: Terry/Bob (3/0)**
3. **Spirit of America** – Spirit of America Awards were presented to the following individuals for their volunteerism and commitment to their community: April Demers – Town of Weld, Frank Donald – Town of Wilton, Dale Welch - Town of Wilton, Wendy Boyle – Town of Eustis, Duayne Boyd – Town of Strong, Donald Oliver – Town of Chesterville, Janice Sweeney – Town of Jay and Stephen Philbrick, Town of Rangeley.
4. **EMA Deputy Director Position** – The Director and Deputy Director position had a combine job description. A new job description was established to separate the two positions. **Motion to accept the EMA Deputy Director Job Description: Terry/Bob (3/0).**
5. **Union MOU for approval and signatures** – The County bargained with Teamsters and the FOP to split the cost of the Maine Paid Family Leave. Both unions agreed to split the cost with the County, each paying 0.5%.
 - A. **Teamsters – Motion to authorize Amy Bernard to sign the MOU to split the Maine Paid Family Leave: Terry/Bob (3/0).**
 - B. **FOP - Motion to authorize Amy Bernard to sign the MOU to split the Maine Paid Family Leave: Terry/Bob (3/0).**
6. **Holiday Schedule for Non-essential Employees** – Amy requested that the Commissioners consider that non-essential employees have Christmas Eve off with pay. Historically we have followed the States schedule. **Motion to follow the State schedule for the Christmas Eve and New Years Eve holiday: Bob/Lance (2/1) Terry opposed.**
7. **Set Time for the Next Commissioners' Meeting - Motion to start Commissioner Meetings at 10:00 a.m.: Bob (No Second).** Lance asked Tom Saviello, Commissioner

Elect, what he thought. Tom indicated that the future board has discussed this matter and approved of the time change. He also indicated that a discussion was had to see if some of the meetings could be held a later time and possibly at some of the other towns. **Motion to start meetings at 10:00 a.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse: Bob/Lance and Terry (They seconded at the same time) (3/0).**

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Policy Prohibiting Pets in the Workplace –** The purpose of the pet policy is to maintain a safe, clean and productive environment. This policy restricts the presence of pets (including dogs, cats, and other animals) in the workplace to maintain professionalism and address health and safety concerns. The County Attorney reviewed and approved the workplace pet policy to ensure that it is following state, federal and local laws. **Motion to approve the Policy Prohibiting Pets in the Workplace: Terry/Bob (3/0).**
- 2. ARPA Project – Greater Franklin Economic Development –** The Greater Franklin Economic Development received ARPA funds in the amount of \$40,292 for fiber network installation, however they were successful in receiving funding from the State for this project. They would like to use the ARPA funds that they were awarded for digital literacy and skills training throughout the County. Currently the State funds this program, however, they will not be continuing with funding past 2025. They are requesting that the previous award be redirected to digital literacy and training. **Motion to repurpose the ARPA funds for pole conductivity to digital literacy in the amount of \$40,292: Bob/Terry (3/0).**

MISCELLANEOUS:

- 1. Communication Consoles –** Communications Director, Brad Timberlake, is requesting to use \$35,000 in reserve funds to complete the project at dispatch for the replacement of desk consoles. He is receiving \$61,857 in ARPA funds, however, the anticipated cost of the project is approximately \$91,857.90. **Motion to use \$35,000 out of the Reserve Account for the balance of the cost of the project: Bob/Lance (3/0).**

WARRANTS: County AP, UT, ARPA, and Payroll – Motion to sign Warrants: Lance/Terry (3/0)

**Executive Session – Person Matter 1M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – NCEU Bargaining
Motion to enter executive session at 4:00 p.m. Terry/Bob (3/0)
Motion to reject the counteroffer made by the NCEU: Lance/Bob (3/0)
Motion to exit the executive session at 4:15 p.m.: Lance/Bob (3/0)**

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 4:16 p.m.: Lance/Bob (3/0)

A recording is available for this meeting.

Bill Cude
[Signature]
[Signature]

Thomas A. [Signature]

I was not a County
commissioner at
the time.
Tasalle

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: [Signature], CLERK