

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 21, 2021 2364  
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing and Laura Sanborn 28°**

**Roll Call -**

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioners Sanborn and Cushing and Administrator Honey present.

Absent was Treasurer Hiatt

**Public Comment -**

***Janet Drew – York County Resident***

Participant is pleased that public hearings are being scheduled regarding ARPA funds; questions on who would be participating and how information would be passed down. Participant is disappointed that renovation and expansion of the jail is still being considered.

**DA's Update –**

DA Marianne Lynch presented the following:

- DA's office received a grant regarding domestic violence; some of those funds will be for education in the community.
- Violent cases and domestic violence cases are up. Those people must be incarcerated both for the safety of victims and for our community.
- With the issue with social media being kept safe, the ADAs are going to start a program talking to students on choices
- A law has been passed in regards to the batterers intervention program; this now requires the DA's office to be exchanging information with that program once cases have been closed.
- Working on a webpage for victims of violent crimes for easier access for services
- Area hospitals are helping us address issues around strangulation with education
- We want to focus educational efforts at UMaine with regards to dating violence
- Docket has been set for the first week of January; with over 70 cases of people in jails
- Grand Jury is caught up
- Working with diversionary activities helping people getting their licenses back for dismissals and operating after suspensions.
- Many thanks to the Bangor Area Recovery Network (B.A.R.N) for allowing us space and staffing to run our diversion program.
- We're utilizing an opportunity for people with Operating after Suspension to have the opportunity to use monies to pay for their insurance on their vehicle versus a fine

**DA's Update – Continued:**

Office Manager Kristine Higgins presented the following:

- Over \$154K has been collected in restitution for victims
- In October alone, over \$21K has been paid to 180 people in restitution checks
- Letters have been sent to defendants that are behind on restitution payments
- The prosecutorial diversion program was held ten times this year; 156 people offered this program, 130 people attended, and there were 22 no shows. There were 124 cases dismissed.
- As of last Friday, the DA's Office has logged in 6,272 cases for prosecution or review
- Long time employee Heather Crouse is leaving and moving to Florida this week
- Part-time employee is leaving to work for Lincoln PD as law enforcement

**UT Update –**

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following:

- A draft letter to Dustin Gordan and Ashley LaDuke for Commissioners approval for the Automobile Recycling Permit Application for "Up in Smoke Auto Recycling".
- A workorder for the surveyor Roger Coolong who will research the property of Jennifer Gordon where the junkyard operation takes place. It will show locations of the wells in the vicinity to that lot; also, setback areas from the adjacent lots and the road. It was agreed to have both Director Weeks and Administrator Honey sign the contract.
- Commissioner Cushing made a motion that the cost of the service would not exceed \$2,500 and the County will pay half of that up front and the other half upon completion of the work. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- The Patten Ambulance agreement was presented for service to multiple territories in the UT. This contract has been \$6K since January, 2016. An increase has been requested to \$12K; Director Weeks is negotiating for \$10K. Director Weeks will wait until he hears back from the new Town Manager.
- A memorandum of understanding between Penobscot County and Northern Timber Cruises and the Town of Millinocket for the Benjamin Campbell Bridge Project was presented. Signed.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the Town of Clifton, Town of Orono and the Town of Veazie Animal Control Officer 2022 contracts. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

**PRCC Update –**

Director Chris Lavoie presented the following:

- Budget recap, looks well for end of 2021 calendar year
- Interviews were held the beginning of this month; 11 were scheduled, four showed up and one left after finding out that we were a year-round 24/7 operation
- There are currently three going through training
- The PSAP audit and the access integrity unit audits took place last week
- The only hiccup was a county policy that needs to be revised on the building access
- The radio project is going well.
- The shack that we purchased for Fish Hill is completed. We're working the vendors to get the site ready for delivery
- A radio issue occurred in Patten this morning

Commissioner Baldacci presented Director Lavoie the 2021 Spirit of America Award for the Glenburn Fire Department.

*Glenburn Fire Department recently has organized a blood drive in memory of Brady Nickerson, hosted a vaccine clinic, helped build an area training facility, participated in a teacher appreciation parade and assisted the criminal justice program. The department consists of about 30 volunteer firefighters on call 24/7 to emergencies in their town or in nearby communities & who also spend countless hour in preparation training each year. Though their duties are challenging enough in normal times, these volunteers have faced additional personal risks and difficulties during the pandemic.*

**Administration Update -**

Administrator Honey presented the following:

- Employment within the County:
  - The new maintenance technician starts tomorrow
  - Finance Director position closed last Friday and interviews will be held next week
  - Probates Clerical Specialist position closes Thursday and we will schedule interviews as soon as we can
  - Recruiting for part time jail cook and full time Correction Officer's positions

**Administration Update Continued:**

- Last week's meetings:
  - Corrections Line unit negotiations were held last week; with another meeting tomorrow.
  - Administrator Honey participated in a labor manager meeting with the Sheriff's Office discussing staffing and coverage
- Last week's meetings:
  - The holiday party was last Friday and was very well received
  - Department Head meeting took place and are supportive of extending a personal day for all full-time employees. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve this request as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Next week's meetings:
  - There will be a general unit meeting next Wednesday and following up on job description revisions with our custodial staff.
  - Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers and Administrator Honey will be meeting today with Kara Hays from Penquis Cap
- Miscellaneous:
  - Our electric car sustained about \$850 in damage
  - County offices are closing half day Thursday and all-day Friday
  - Sheriff provided today's jail count: 162 in-house; 30 boarded and 95 in Maine Pre-trial
  - Flooding damage occurred from a women's cellblock in the jail that affected some of the administrative offices
- ARPA Update:
  - The meeting in Dexter was well attended; a report of findings will be placed on the ARPA resource page
  - There are four in-person meetings scheduled: Bangor – January 5, Newport – January 11, East Millinocket – January 19, and Brewer – January 29
  - Two virtual meetings are scheduled: January 8 and February 8
  - Lincoln, Old Town and Patten's meetings still need to be set up
  - There will be a meeting set up with Penobscot County's Budget Committee
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 12.17.2021: \$240,657.33
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 12.21.2021: \$ 76,281.67
- UT Warrant to be approved for 12.21.2021: \$12,622.64
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for: NONE
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update – Continued:

- Payroll Change Notices signed for: Raymond Harding - Hired Full-time Facilities; Olivia Smith – Promotion; Rebecca Peters, Beau Seekins and Jeffrey Hunter – Resignation; Amanda Sweden – Payroll Changes.

**2020 and 2021 Spirit of America**

Commissioners Baldacci, Cushing and Sanborn honored 2020 and 2021 Spirit of America recipients during the regularly scheduled Commissioner's meeting.

The following are **2020** recipients:

<b>Bangor</b> - Literacy Volunteers of Bangor	<b>District 1</b>
<b>Eddington</b> - Joan Brooks	<b>Eddington</b> - Alice "Lou" Higgins
	<b>Holden</b> - Eastern Maine Snowmobilers
	<b>District 2</b>
<b>Carmel</b> - John Luce	<b>Corinna</b> - James Louder
<b>Dexter</b> - Crystal Greaves	<b>Etna</b> - Janet Winchester
<b>Orrington</b> - McKenna LaBrie	<b>Plymouth</b> - Kathy Condon
	<b>District 3</b>
<b>Bradley</b> - Ann Delaware	<b>LaGrange</b> - Roger Stanley - posthumously
<b>Lincoln</b> Events and Tourism Committee	<b>Medway</b> - Jane McLaughlin
<b>Millinocket</b> - Jane Danforth	<b>Millinocket</b> - Gail Fanjoy
<b>Millinocket</b> - Ailish Keating	<b>Millinocket</b> - Jessica Masse
<b>Millinocket</b> - Lucy VanHook	

The following were **2021** recipients:

<b>Brewer</b> - Brewer Kiwanis	<b>District 1</b>
	<b>Holden</b> - Sarah's House
	<b>District 2</b>
<b>Carmel</b> - Russell Treadwell	<b>Corinna</b> - Phillip Cossar
<b>Dexter</b> - Dexter Sunrise Kiwanis	<b>Etna</b> - Leroy Hall
<b>Glenburn</b> - Glenburn Fire Department	<b>Hampden</b> - Hampden Historical Society
<b>Hampden</b> - Dana Tardif	<b>Newport</b> - Newport Fire Department
<b>Plymouth</b> - Kristina Wheaton	

**2020 and 2021 Spirit of America – Continued:**

**District 3**

**Bradley** - Linda Hardesty  
**LaGrange** - Joseph Fleming  
**Millinocket** - Eldon Doody  
**Millinocket** - Bruce Rioux

**Burlington** - Maureen Bean  
**Lincoln** - Sharon Sibley  
**Millinocket** - Peter Jamieson  
**Old Town** - Rotary Club of Old Town

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Commissioner Baldacci speaking on behalf of Penobscot County Commissioners, gave thanks to all those who were honored and everyone else who has done something to improve the cause of volunteerism. This ceremony reminds us that there's a lot of good things happening and there are a lot of good people that are making communities in Penobscot County a better place.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:45 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Erika Honey, Director Weeks and Deputy Buswell. Session ended at 10:55 a.m.

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve terminating the Grand Falls snow removal contract with Robert Hartford effective December 21, 2021. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Sanborn moved to agreed rates to be provided by the UT Director from Sunset Development for the Grand Falls snow removal contract. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:56 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners and Administrator Erika Honey. Session ended at 11:15 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:16 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners and Administrator Erika Honey. Session ended at 11:34 a.m.

**Meeting Adjourned-**

Commissioner Sanborn moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Certified By:**

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Administrator, Erika Honey

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Peter K. Baldacci, Chairman

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Laura J. Sanborn, Commissioner

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Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner