

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes January 19, 2021 2319
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci & Andre Cushing 19°
Commissioners Laura Sanborn via Zoom

Roll Call -

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. from the Commissioners Chambers and Commissioner Sanborn attending via Zoom. Commissioner Cushing arrived in person at 9:03 a.m.

Public Comment -

Larry Dansinger, citizen of Bangor participated with ZOOM. Mr. Dansinger quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. which he feels appropriate at this time.

Larry summarized his email sent to the three Commissioners and Administrator Honey on items he felt important to discuss.

- Mr. Dansinger feels that the District Attorney for Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties is not accessible. Larry believes that there needs to be some oversight and accountability in what the offices are doing for those counties. Larry states he has made several attempts (email and phone) to contact DA Lynch for information what the office is doing and to offer suggestions on concerns that he has. Larry feels since DA Lynch is a public elected official, she should be providing public awareness in accountability as to what her office is doing.
- Larry is requesting that the Commissioners have DA Lynch come in regularly to provide updates in Penobscot County. Larry feels that there should be some sort of accountability such as public oversight group over the DA's office. This group would be allowed contact with the District Attorney's office to provide public awareness and transparency. Larry believes public officials should make themselves accessible to the public.
- Commissioner Baldacci responded that we recognized that department heads reporting regularly needed to be improved. This is a process that Erika is working on and there should be a schedule set up in a few weeks.

Commissioner Baldacci stated that Marianne Lynch is an elected official and we have no plans to put a formal group together to have oversight on her department. Marianne falls under the Attorney General's department and she can choose how to communicate. The Commissioners feel that DA Lynch has been very responsive in the alternative sentencing diversion program and has been more progressive than prior administration.

Public Comment – Continued:

Commissioner Cushing clarified that Marianne Lynch has always responded to us when we have requested updates and information when needed. The District Attorney's Office, like other county offices, is under a lot of strain with complications with the pandemic. To state that DA Lynch isn't answering your questions when meeting by chance in the hallway is inappropriate. We need to recognize that the court system many times dictates on how these cases are handled. The DA and Sheriff are responsible for implementing whatever the Court says.

UT Update –

- Director Weeks presented for signature the Animal Control agreements:
 - Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the contract for Bradley as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
 - Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the contract for Clifton as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
 - Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the contract for Hudson as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
 - Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the contract for Orono as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Director Weeks reminded that next week will be the tax abatement hearing for Kolman vs State of Maine at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

EMA Update –

Director Bradley Nuding presented the following:

- There are two clinics scheduled this week for Phase 1A vaccinations for public safety (ambulance drivers and law enforcement agencies). This is new guidance from the Governor to include all public safety not just licensed EMS clinicians
- The Sheriff Deputies will be vaccinated this week at the clinic in Bangor.
- The Correctional staff is being worked out with the Sheriff and Department of Corrections.
- The State just sent out a list of where vaccines can be found across the state. They are planning to open up some additional clinics and expand services up in Aroostook County.

Finance Update –

Finance Director Judy Alexander reported the following:

- Director Alexander stated that as of January 1, 2021 Machias Savings Bank has reduced our interest rate from 1.77% to .85% on monies earned.
- Director Alexander then presented the five bids for the 10-year, \$6M PRCC Infrastructure bond. All bids provided were on the basis of Lump Sum or “As Needed”.

Bank	Interest Rate	Total Interest Cost	Comments
Bank of America	1.5069%	\$491,252.30	This is not a loan as much as a lease agreement for proposed equipment. BAC will have security interest in the equipment. Level payments of principal and interest in the amount of \$69,125.23 to be paid December 1 of each year for the term of the bond. Cover letter requests signed copy of “Proposal Letter” be signed & returned no later than January 6.
Camden National	2.72%	\$832,244.47	Assuming the full \$6M is drawn on the date of issue & is paid in full on the maturity date; assumed monthly principal payments of \$50K each month
First National	1.95%	\$631,312.50	Principal payments of \$600K and accrued interest payment due December 1 of each year
Machias Savings	2.375%	\$1,439,311.74	The interest is based on the assumption the loan is fully advanced for the full term of the loan. The yearly interest would be paid annually on December 1. This proposal does not show principal payments until the end of the term of the bond with one payment of \$6M
Sterling National	1.875%	\$618,738.30	Level principal and interest payments of \$661,873.83 to be made December 1 of each year for term of the bond. They spoke of ad valorem taxes which is security in taxes to be collected

- The Commissioners felt that it would be wiser to have interest and principal payments monthly rather than an interest only payment in December. Director Alexander reports that some of the verbiage on the RFP is confusing. Director Alexander will communicate with Director Lavoie and Attorney Bearor on the RFP in having interest only payment in December.
- The Commissioners would like to take under advisement until next week when there is more clarification on the RFP.

Finance Update – Continued:

- Director Alexander provided a report on expenditures and revenues through November 30, 2020.
- On expenditures:
 - There are a couple departments that are over 91.63% spent. The following are:
Treasurer - due to necessary additional office supplies; Probate – guardian ad litem line; UT Administration – former director payout of vacation and sick time upon retirement
- On Revenue:
 - There are still six towns that have not paid their taxes and will be contacted with calls and follow up with letters. (Edinburg, Exeter, Garland, Stetson, Webster Planation and Penobscot Nation)
 - We are ahead in revenues with one month to go.
- Director Alexander stated she is working with the department heads on what will be carried over next year and will report that at the next meeting.

Administration Update –

Administrator Erika Honey reported on the following:

- Federal Flexible Spending Accounts benefits (Group Dynamics – Medical and Dependent) are allowed to expand and allow for employees to rollover all unused portions to the next year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the amended plan. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- As a follow up on the Holiday Pay Grievance that was heard December 22. Commissioner Sanborn moved to deny. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to deny passed 2-0. Commissioner Cushing abstained.
- Administrator Honey has been working with the Sheriff's department for tomorrow's inauguration. As of right now, there are no known threats.
- The final draft of the employee handbook will be reviewed this week in hopes that it can be rolled out to all employees the beginning of February.
- Final schedule for department head presentations will be going out starting in February.
- Director Honey reported that in the Warrants this week there is an approximate \$200K payment for first installment toward our worker's comp coverage. This includes a decrease this year of approximately \$99K because our mod rate went down from 2.4% to 2.01%

Administration Update – Continued:

- Bangor Fire responded this weekend to our building. It appears there was a burning smell coming from a computer fan that an employee was using in the DA's Office.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Payroll Change Notices signed for: Julie Philbrick – Resignation
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 01.15.2021: \$251,399.26
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 2020- 01.19.2021: \$60,112.58
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 2021 - 01.19.2021: \$543,004.08
- UT Warrant to be approved for 01.19.2021: \$56,538.81
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for 01.19.2021: \$49,042.00

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey, and Director Bradley Nuding. Session ended at 10:15 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:16 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey, Director Alexander, Treasurer Hiatt and Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 10:55 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Erika Honey

Peter K. Baldacci, Chairman

Laura J. Sanborn, Commissioner

Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner