

Roll Call -

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with all three Commissioners attending via Zoom.

Public Comment -

Larry Dansinger presented the Commissioners with a couple questions.

- Do inmates housed at PCJ have the opportunity to get vaccinated? Larry Dansinger understands that the Maine State CDC has a policy of prioritizing people in congregate settings; which does not include county jails or state prisons. Larry Dansinger is looking for the County Commissioners to speak to the Governor in order to include inmates in being vaccinated. Larry feels that this is a form of discrimination. Larry Dansinger is hopeful that everyone working in the jail have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Larry Dansinger is asking the County Commissioners to support a policy that has been initiated in both Cumberland and York County Jails to release all inmates that have been charged with non-violent crimes to reduce the population.

DA Marianne Lynch stated her job has nothing to do with who gets vaccinated. However, she and five other counties took part in biased training. This was an intensive six-week course and met each week for two hours.

Sheriff Morton responded to Larry Dansinger's comment by addressing that Maine Pre-Trial is at 203. We are doing our very best in getting the low risk, no risk individuals out of the jail facility. Sheriff's do not have the authority to open doors to the jail to let out the low-risk inmates out on cash bails. York and Cumberland counties are not releasing inmates on cash bail.

DA Update –

District Attorney Marianne Lynch presented the following:

- Departmental Operations is running smoothly with office staff staggering working from home and office. Many thanks go to Administrator Honey for her support in allowing the office staff this availability to keep numbers low in the office. Kudo's to Office Manager Kristine Higgins in coordinating schedules and the staff for their flexibility in making this work.

DA Update – Continued:

- It's been almost a year with no reasonable access with the courts and trials. The DA's Office is working in trying and closing cases. DA Lynch gives Sheriff Morton and our IT department credit for giving the defense attorneys access in getting cases out. We rely on our partners with Pre-Trial Services which allow us to supervise people out in the community. The Court is publishing a tentative schedule for March in anticipation of having in person hearings; as long as COVID numbers in Penobscot County stay low. We have begun to schedule Grand Jury for the end of March; the last Grand Jury was in November 2020.
- Legislative Update - the Maine Prosecutors Association is supporting a bill to decriminalize certain Class E crimes which will help reform what some people are looking for.
- We are collaborating with Bangor Police Department with a part time Victim Witness Advocate that has meet with a great deal of success. Amy is providing a great deal of support to less experienced officers and we are really excited on how this pilot is working. We are hopeful this continues in the future.
- Sheriff Morton and myself continue to meet during crisis mode and when we've got mentally ill people in the jail or hospital. We are finding ourselves working with our Northern Light partners and others trying to address systemic issues. B.A.R.N. had closed their doors during the pandemic which impacted the diversion program for low level misdemeanors. The program can now restart since The B.A.R.N. has reopened for in person meetings. We continue to run drug court for people that are high risk, high need.
- Office Manager Kristine Higgins did not have access to figures to provide a report on the office's financials, but will have more to speak to in her March presentation.
- Changes in staffing include Carlene Engstrom is retiring end of the month from VWA and Jonathan Tenney is transferring to Registry of Deeds. The part-time clerical assistant position has been posted; VWA position will need to be filled as well as a Clerical Specialist position. A new prosecutor Danielle Pokaw started yesterday as an assistant district attorney.

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Troy Morton reported the following on Corrections:

- In-house jail population is 172; 16 boarded out to other facilities and 203 inmates in Pre-trial Services. The charges over the weekend were very significant; Individuals could not have been served a summons.

Sheriff's Update – Continued:

- Sheriff participated over the weekend in the Chamber of Commerce Hot Stove discussion. This is an informative discussion held with a variety of representatives of government at the local, state and national levels for business and nonprofit chamber members.
- We still face a challenge due to our limited space available in our facility, as to where to quarantine inmates after being moved out of the facility. Sheriff believes exposures are reduced after each incidence of being moved because of the processes used. i.e. quarantine 14 days, isolate, and perform PCR tests on inmates before they are allowed into general population.
- There are still very few facilities that are willing to accept any of our inmates due to Covid related staffing issues.
- DOC shared some numbers last week on what they believed to be all the County Jail populations. Sheriff called DOC concerned that the numbers provided are not accurate and did not reflect inmates boarded out or participating in Pre-trial services. If you add in those inmates, it greatly changes our population numbers. With the numbers not being accurate, it changes funding formulas, etc.
- MSA is moving forward with the legal challenge on the ruling that was made on the new set of standards. Our attorney feels there were legal issues in the manner DOC imposed these standards with substantial costs to the counties.
- In answering Mr. Dansinger, there are no inmates being vaccinated at County or State levels at this time. Inmates 70 or plus years of age may qualify following the prescribed guidelines; we have zero in Penobscot County that meet that criteria. Sheriff investigated other county jails in the State of Maine are there are very few that fit the criteria of 70 or older.
- One of our Deputies received a call on a welfare check on an adult female that had not returned home from work. Family members called her work and cell phone with no luck to get ahold of her. The deputy backtracked from her home to business to make sure she hadn't run off the road; at 2:00 a.m. found her at the business. She was outside in frigid weather for a couple hours and it looked as though she had a medical event. This is another example of the benefits of community policing.
- There are several bills moving forward in which the Sheriff has testified on.
- Kudos to EMA Director Brad Nuding and his communication to our offices.
- There are 5K bookings a year; 70% are Maine Pre-trial.
- The website design and mobile app should be launched end of this month, first of next. This will be a great investment and be helpful to the community we serve.

Opening of Certified Police Vehicle Bids

Administrator Honey opened three bids that were submitted for eight (8) certified police vehicles. These bids were received by the date and time requested.

- Darlings Ford of Bangor – 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility \$36,225 per vehicle for a total of \$289,800
- Darlings Ford of Bangor – 2021 Dodge Durango Pursuit \$31,860 per vehicle for a total of \$254,880
- Quirk Ford of Augusta – 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility \$36,535 per vehicle for a total of \$292,280
- Quirk Ford of Augusta – 2021 Dodge Durango Pursuit \$34,766 per vehicle for a total of \$278,128
- Varney GMC – 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe \$39,386 per vehicle for a total of \$315,088

Commissioner Sanborn moved to take the bids under advisement. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Facilities Update –

Director Brian MacDonald presented a bid for the Jail Video Conference Room Project. Aaron Newcomb's bid in the amount of \$62,500 for phases 1-4 and phase 6. Commissioner Cushing moved to approve this amount on the Jail Video Conferencing Room as discussed to include 2-part epoxy flooring. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0

Wellness Center Equipment Bid Opening –

Administrator Honey presented opened the bids for the following equipment:

Smith Weight Machine –

Rebecca Woodard	\$400
Jamie Kennedy	\$230
Mike Surdick	\$50
William Sheehan	\$50
George Buswell	\$150

Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the Smith weight machine bid of \$400 to Rebecca Woodard. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0

Wellness Center Equipment Bid Opening – Continued:

Bowflex Tread Climber –

Nick Hardwick	\$250
Mike Surdick	\$30
Mary Anne O'Kelly	\$133

Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the Bowflex Tread Climber bid of \$250 to Nick Hardwick. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0

Finance Update –

Director Alexander provided a report on expenditures and revenues through January 31, 2021.

- On expenditures:
 - There is only one department over the 8.33% spent; Administration is paying out our former Administrator his sick and vacation time.
 - Currently, overall, we are underspent at 6.1%
- On Revenue:
 - It is still early in the year to be receiving revenue, as most communities pay in the fall near the due date.
 - Reflected in jail funding receipts includes the \$179K received and the majority of our jail funding is received in July
 - Registry of Deeds and Probate are above the 8.33% received.
 - Gas Tax reimbursement will be going out shortly and it takes 6-8 weeks until receipt.
 - PILT funding too, is usually received in June.

Director Alexander reported the following departmental update:

- There is still some shortage in staffing within the office; very grateful to have DJ Bowden come out of retirement and provide her expertise in assisting us.
- Director Alexander reported that it will probably be mid-April when we will need the TAN.
- The 10-year \$6M PRCC Infrastructure bond loan was discussed.
 - Director Alexander states we have paid out \$279K thus far on this project for equipment and a preliminary consultant fee.

Finance Update – Continued:

- The \$6M is being held in a separate account at First National Bank. Similar to TAN funds, we don't owe anything until we start drawing down funds.
- How we will pay ourselves back will be discussed further at next week's meeting.

Administration Update –

Administrator Erika Honey reported on the following:

- Lynn Dwelley, our new EMA Deputy Director starts Monday with us. She comes with a wealth of experience from Washington County as their EMA Director.
- I am assisting with interviews with the DA's Office with the shifts taking place.
- Filling our jail custodian position has been placed on hold until we further discuss with the Union issues that have recently come up. This will be brought back up to you at next Tuesday's meeting.
- HR and the Sheriff are strategizing on the second round of COVID vaccines in case there are any side effects as to how to process employees from different shifts to avoid staffing problems.
- The decision on the Tax Abatement hearing from January 26th has been sent out via Docu-sign.
- Gentle reminder that the FOAA training for our elected officials needs to be completed as soon as possible.
- Our County Offices are closed today due to inclement weather for non-essential employees.
- Commissioner Baldacci reported that he and Administrator Honey participated in MCCA video conference last Wednesday. An item of interest is that Washington County wants to have their own District Attorney and separate from Hancock County. Commissioner Baldacci observed that we should not have any position on this matter; it should be between those Counties.
- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Payroll Change Notices signed for: Lynn Dwelley, Christopher Alley and Dillon Coleman – Hired Full Time; Jonathan Tenney – Transfer; Nicholas Covell, Toni Davis, Gary Decker, Daniel Gastia, Anthony Heal, Beau Seekins and Francis Surdick – Payroll Status Change
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 02.12.2021: \$259,194.49
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 02.16.2021: \$96,353.15
- UT Warrant to be approved for 02.16.2021: \$29,320.61
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for 02.16.2021: \$7,700.07

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:15 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 and Administrator Honey. Session ended at 11:25 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 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