

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes April 13, 2021 2330
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing & Laura Sanborn 46°

Roll Call -

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. from the Commissioners Chambers with all three commissioners present in person.

Public Comment -

Larry Dansinger – citizen from Bangor

Larry explained that he is part of a group that primary concern is the inmate population housed at PCJ. This group believes that with people in the jail, the community is not safer, people are brought back to the jail and it is an added expense.

Larry revisited an email from March 8th sent to the Sheriff of concerns from inmates housed at PCJ that has been brought to this public group. Sheriff Morton has responded to some of the issues stating that those issues are not problems. Larry believes that there are three sides to every story, and would like a neutral third party to investigate these complaints.

Larry inquired whether the Commissioners have had the opportunity to visit the jail yet. After discussion, the Commissioners will go for a tour the first Tuesday in May after the Commissioners meeting.

Susan D'Alessandro – citizen from Millinocket

Susan is in agreement with Larry's discussion; however, Susan looking at the bigger picture and the substantial amount of money that will be received from COVID relief funds. Susan states instead of monies going toward building infrastructure, we should consider human infrastructure. Susan feels that a bigger jail is not necessary if we spend monies on prevention. There is a need for rehabilitation, mental health and substance abuse prevention, not a bigger jail.

Janet Drew – citizen from York

Janet stated that she feels both Larry and Susan covered all the bases in their comments. This group is looking for transformative solutions. Janet wonders why there are MOUs for multiple reasons, why isn't there one for communities? There is no commitment for struggling families; only volunteer services. Janet feels it is an unequal system – there is a need to work on partnerships. Please make a plan to take the relief funds seriously and use the county money to work on "human resources".

Public Comment – Continued:

Treasurer John Hiatt – speaking as a citizen of Bangor

Treasurer Hiatt stated that there seems to be a misconception on who is staying in the jail. John feels that the people that are housed in the jail need to be there and not released. We need to consider the victims of the current inmates. Those people need to be protected too.

Deeds Update –

Register Susan Bulay reported the following:

- There was a computer issue last week after a server was updated. It is now corrected.
- Former Register of Deeds (1977-1982) Shirley Hatch passed away last week.
- Compared to prior years, March was a good month. Typically, \$90K in deposits gets sent over; this year approximately \$132K.
- The Registry is down one employee who is out on leave. Register Bulay stated the employee should be returning to work shortly.
- There has been no word on when the maps will be done; which is not unusual.

TAN Bid Openings –

Commissioner Baldacci was presented with three bids 2021 Penobscot County TAN in the amount of \$5,200,000. The following three banks submitted their bid by the April 12th deadline.

1. First National Bank 1.66% as needed or on a lump sum basis
 2. Bangor Savings Bank 1.0% as needed or on a lump sum basis
 3. Machias Savings Bank .89% as needed or on a lump sum basis
- Commissioner Cushing moved to take these bids under advisement. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Finance Update -

Director Alexander provided her recommendation on the copier bids that were presented last week. Commissioner Sanborn moved to award A-Copy Kinney the purchase price for eight (8) Toshiba copiers in the amount of \$22,334. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Finance Update – Continued:

Director Alexander provided a report on expenditures and revenues through March 31, 2021:

- On expenditures:
 - There are three departments over the 25% spent; Administration who had a \$10K payment to MCCA for dues, Treasurer's Office of additional supplies needed because of our move downstairs and the IT department on software that is paid for in the beginning of the year.
 - Currently, overall, we have spent only 21.03% of our budget.
- On Revenue:
 - We have received taxes from one town; and interest from most of those towns that were delinquent.
 - Registry of Deeds income does not include March.
- On Capital:
 - Property Acquisition expenditures is on utilities that we've paid.

Facilities Update -

Facilities Director Brian MacDonald reported the following:

- Since last month's report, there has been an additional 30 maintenance tickets for the jail have been submitted. All but seven tickets have been completed; the challenge is that there are significant infrastructure failures. The expense for these failures is considerable because they are old and parts are difficult to come by. The Commissioners are supportive of upgrades when appropriate to replace with newer pieces; however, it is requested to be provided the cost of those pieces.
- The yearly inspection of fire extinguishers has been completed.
- Safety inspections have been restarted and has met with employees in the DA's Office and Registry of Probate.
- Roof Systems of Maine will be here tomorrow inspecting our facilities. This will allow a jump start on any issues that can be addressed before next winter.
- Brian is waiting for responses from contractors to provide window cleaning and property cleaning around our buildings.
- As soon as Director MacDonald is provided the type of light fixtures for the front of the Court House building, he will provide an estimate of cost.
- Director MacDonald is waiting to hear back from Bangor Code Enforcement Officer on what can be done in the back of the old Y building on the most recent complaint.

Facilities Update – Continued:

- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve Haley-Ward Engineers perform a walk-through on the old Y building in the amount of approximately \$500. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Director MacDonald met with Administrator Honey for changes in the Administration Office by adding a window in the office. Three contractors will be coming in for estimates.
- Commissioners decided on a style of a light fixture for outside the County Court building. Director MacDonald will get estimates on them to include the pole and installation.
- The electrical outlet on the outside of the County Building outside Mary Anne's window is being used by individuals on the street. Unfortunately, there is trash being left behind. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to a new trash receptacle for outside the walk area and for Brian to place a lock on the electrical fixture.
- Director MacDonald reported the air system in the jail has no recirculated air.

PRCC Update –

Director Chris Lavoie reported the following:

- This week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Director Lavoie thanks each and every member of his staff for their professionalism, dedication and commitment. This year has been especially challenging with all the protocol changes due to COVID. Everyone has been vigilant and careful with the safety measures in place to keep everyone healthy. Director Lavoie feels that he cannot express of how privileged he is to work with such a superb group of people.
- With Supervisor Liz Ryan's upcoming retirement in July, Director Lavoie is requesting that we post her position. This will allow an orderly transition into a supervisor's role. The Commissioners are in support of this request.
- One employee has been on military deployment since October for 13 months. Chris is requesting permission to add another dispatcher position which will not affect his budget since he is not paying one employee while out on deployment. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the creation of another dispatcher position. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- RCM will have a tower climber on site next week to replace and re-align the antenna's that we have had outages on. The approximate cost is \$10K which will be paid under the bond monies.

PRCC Update – Continued:

- There have been some system failures on the Springfield Tower in which RCM was able to correct the burned-up power supply.

PRCC Proclamation –

In thanks to our men and women in Penobscot Regional Communications Center, Commissioner Baldacci read a Proclamation signed by the Commissioners. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is this week and Penobscot County is grateful to have this fine group of dispatchers/call takers working our county.

Administration Update –

Administrator Honey reported on the following:

- She and Director MacDonald walked around the campus to discuss projects for the Commissioners consideration. Brian will be presenting estimates to you once they come in.
- Brian is waiting for assistance from the City of Bangor Code Enforcement Officer on the property behind the old Y building.
- Correspondence was received from a Mr. Wright on a request to rezone a piece of property in the UT.
- Employment within the County:
 - Andrea Foster has been selected as our new Assistant Finance Director and will start April 26th.
 - IT Systems Administrator and part-time DA Clerical Assistant positions have been reposted to include Facebook
 - Sheriff Deputy position is closing April 20th
 - Two new positions that were approved through the ASFSCME line contract for Jail Utilities Custodian and Training Officer have been posted and close April 22nd.
- Last week's meeting included:
 - Training with EMA Director Bradley Nuding on the Incident Command System for elected and senior officials.
 - It is Administrator Honey's understanding the ASFSCME Corrections Officers Supervisors unit three-year contract was ratified last Friday.
 - We are working on the final FOP Line contract and hopeful that will be completed in the next couple weeks.

Administration Update – Continued:

- Coming up meetings this week include:
 - Risk pool and MCCA meeting will be held tomorrow
 - MCCAM meeting will be held Thursday
- Administrator Honey presented a “NO SMOKING ON PREMISES” policy for consideration. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the policy with amendments made. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve moved 3-0.
- Monday is Patriots Day and the County Offices will be closed for non-essential personnel.
- AFLAC representative Steve Gilbert will be on campus tomorrow from 11-3.
- The soda machine located on the first floor is now operational and fully stocked.
- Sheriff Morton is in legislative meetings this morning, but provided the following: In-house jail population is 156; 31 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates, county swaps and there **184** inmates in Pre-trial Services. There were 34 new arrests brought in over the last 72 hours.
- Commissioners decided to arrange a jail tour May 4th at 10:00.
- 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: Colby Garland – hired Full-time; Gary Mehuren II and Torrie Overlock – Resignation; Francis Surdick, Cody Knight, Alexis Smith, Kayle Kennedy and Rebecca Ireland – Payroll Status Changes
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 04.06.26.2021: \$245,973.91
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 04.13.2021: \$115,381.14
- UT Warrant to be approved for 04.13.2021: \$104,346.79
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for: NONE

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:30 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, Nicole Fletcher, Director Alexander, Treasurer Hiatt and Administrator Honey. Session ended at 10:50 a.m.

Public Session –

Commissioner Cushing moved to apply col adjustment to Executive Director for NWDB to capture COL adjustments for 2020 and 2021 retroactive. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0

Commissioner Cushing moved to approve wage adjustment consistent with County employees for all NWEB staff. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:53 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 Honey. Session ended at 11:27 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 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