

Roll Call -

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with all Commissioners present via team viewer. (Not sure if you want everyone listed that was present showing)

Public Comment -

Susan D'Alessandro –concerned citizen from Millinocket

Participant discussed the importance of funding more children services in order to keep them off the streets and healthy. There is a need for more after school programs since more parents are sometimes working two jobs to survive. Sadly, some parents are suffering from their own addictions and/or mental health issues. Jail is not the only solution when people fall since it destroys people, families and towns when that happens. We need to find a way to support these families.

Participant is requesting that the Commissioners dedicate some of the funding for solutions to help our youth with more opportunities. More importantly for caring adults and positive role models. Prevention should be our top priority.

Commissioner Sanborn spoke and said that there is work to be done in getting more councilors in your area. We are working with PENQUIS to help with children's activities in the Millinocket area. Commissioner Sanborn has given Susan's name to those that are working in trying to provide resources in that area. Participant is very thankful to Commissioner Sanborn's words and will be more than happy to assist and provide any information she can.

Probate Update –

Register Renee Stupak reported the following:

- Probate's new staffing is working well; there is one more clerical specialist position that will close tomorrow.
- The MAR meeting was held last Friday. Those using the program ICON were having difficulties using it. ICON is working technical issues.
- LD 480 – An Act to Establish a Presumption of Entitlement to Counsel for a Person who is the Subject of an Adult Guardianship, Conservatorship or Other Protective Arrangement Proceeding. This bill was carried over.
- LD 366 – An Act Regarding Emergency Guardianship. This bill has been accepted.
- Probate fees have been approved by the legislature

Probate Update – Continued:

- Name Changes – currently all name changes are published in the newspaper As of June 29th, name changes for minors will no longer be published.
- Informal Intestate can be probate after 3 years.

UT Update –

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following:

- Commissioner Sanborn has written a letter of support for the Town of Millinocket and the Katahdin Tourism Partnership in regards to a grant application for the National Recreation and Parks Associations' "Resilient Park Access Grant." Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve supporting this partnership. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Request from Chief Rob McGraw at East Millinocket Fire Department regarding earmarked funding for emergency medical response for East Millinocket Fire Department in regards to services for the Unorganized Territories.
 - From Congressman Golden's office: The US House Appropriations Committee will be accepting Community Project Funding requests. These are project specific funding requests for municipalities and others in Maine's 2nd district. Projects need community support, including letters of support from elected community leaders.
 - Chief McGraw's request includes two 4x4 ambulances to help service the Unorganized Territories.
 - Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve a letter of support for East Millinocket Fire Department. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Notice of Taking in Carroll Plantation from the Maine DOT on Route 6 in the Rip Rap Apron.
- Update on Benjamin Campbell Bridge TIF Grant
 - From John Raymond, President of the Northern Timber Cruisers. "The Town of Millinocket Rec Director putting in a request for \$100,000 MacKenzie Grant and if we make it to the second round, I will update you on that. We requested the most with of hopes of getting something in between. I have also had conversation with Brian Bronson of the ATV Division for a portion of this grant from the county, I'm hoping \$25,000 to \$50,000 and will get an answer soon he said that they will do something. I am also in conversation with Joe Higgins of the snow sled division for this project so I think we are looking good to receive something from these entities."

UT Update – Continued:

- From John Raymond, President of the Northern Timber Cruisers. “The Town of Millinocket Rec Director putting in a request for \$100,000 MacKenzie Grant and if we make it to the second round, I will update you on that. We requested the most with of hopes of getting something in between. I have also had conversation with Brian Bronson of the ATV Division for a portion of this grant from the county, I’m hoping \$25,000 to \$50,000 and will get an answer soon he said that they will do something. I am also in conversation with Joe Higgins of the Snow sled Division for the same donation to this project so I think we are looking good to receive something from these entities.”
- The County has agreed to be part of the cost sharing group in the amount of approximately \$200K in the construction of the snowmobile bridge.
- Location Option Vote Determination as required by PL 2019 c. 672 for the sale of beer, wine and spirits:
 - The Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages is notifying municipalities of the local option vote regarding the sale of all liquor at on premises and off premises establishments.
 - PL 2019 c 672 requires that by July 1, 2022 each municipality, or county commissioners, must submit proof that the sale of liquor for on-premises or off premises consumption has been authorized by the municipal officials, as provided by current law in Title 28-A, chapter 5, local option.
 - Title 28-A, section 123, outlines activities that liquor license holders may be permitted or not permitted to conduct in which the municipal officials may grant or deny the activities.
 - Currently the Unorganized Territories has no information on file regarding the local option vote by municipal officials.
 - Penobscot County needs to post a public notice and conduct a public hearing to approve or deny any and/or all of the local vote activities listed above.
 - I am requesting approval to post legal notice of this hearing and schedule it for May 25th, 2021. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

UT Update – Continued:

- Millinocket Solid Waste Contract
 - Millinocket is requesting a substantial rate increase for collection and hauling of solid waste from 3% to 10% for the next three years with the increase over six years to be 40%.
 - Officials state that an extra expense of \$9,000 was incurred last year to grind brush. “More activity around the lakes with buying camps, tearing them down and building new ones.”
 - Officials cited the County Tax bill increased by 12%.
 - This contract services the Unorganized Territories of IP3, IP4, TA R7 WELS, Cedar Lake, Long A, Hopkins Academy Grant, Veazie Gore, T1 R8 WELS and T2 R8 WELS
 - Director Weeks will speak to his counterpart in other Counties to see if there have been any changes to their contracts.
- Director Weeks presented the Argyle Alton Salt Sand Building Roofing Project Contract for signatures. Signed.
- Kingman Cemetery – Update and Guidance from the Commissioners:
 - The Kingman Cemetery Association’s members resigned from their positions this past fall, effectively dissolving the Cemetery Association.
 - We received the balance of the Kingman Cemetery Associations funds to be deposited back into the Cemetery Funds.
 - Last week we had a call regarding a burial at the Kingman Cemetery. I informed the caller that the cemetery association was no longer operating and we are, by law, obligated to maintain the cemetery but are not conducting burials or plot sales.
 - The former president of the association called shortly after to inform me she was taking the family seeking a burial to the cemetery to pick out a plot, on her own accord, no longer being a member of the cemetery association. She requested to be paid \$1,500 to maintain the cemetery, in addition to the necessary maintenance, which is \$8,330 for FY22.
 - We currently provide funding for 4 cemeteries, including Kingman.
 - Approval for paying for the volunteer cemetery associations will likely lead to the other volunteer association also asking for compensation; for all four cemeteries, an estimated additional cost of approximately \$6,000. Current total cemetery funding is \$25,530.

UT Update – Continued:

The Commissioners thought is hiring one person contracted that would handle multiple cemeteries. Commissioner Cushing's recommendation is to check with funeral homes in that area for their advice.

- Legislative updates:
 - LD 80, HP0046 - An Act to Provide Critical Communications for Family Farms, businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet and Broadband Infrastructure - LATEST – In taxation committee work sessions.
 - Bill "Resolve, Authorizing the State Tax Assessor to Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory" LATEST – Signed into Law April 7, 2021
 - LD 324 (HP 228) "An Act to Limit Public Land Ownership in Maine" Committee voted ought not to pass
- Special Projects
 - Northern UT, Kingman, Prentiss Solid Waste Bid
 - Bid opening May 4th (Current contract with Ireland's Rubbish)
 - Cooperative Salt Purchase Bid
 - Bid opening June 1st
 - Grand Falls Snow Removal Contract
 - Bid opening June 15th
 - Greenfield Snow Removal Contract
 - Bid opening June 15th
 - Kingman/Prentiss Snow Removal Contract
 - Bid opening June 15th
 - Millinocket Snow Removal Contract
 - Bid opening June 15th
- Financial standing:
 - Director Weeks reports that we are doing well at 81% spent

EMA Update -

Director Bradley Nuding reported the following:

- Assisting a long-term facility with a recent COVID outbreak to include testing supplies and personal protective equipment. In speaking with our CDC liaison, 75% of the staff and residents are fully vaccinated.
- Homeland Security Grant – notice of funding opportunity went out this month with a focus on regional projects. Applications will be due to our office by the end of June.
- FEMA Mobile Vaccination Clinic will be coming to the City of Old Town May 22-25 to provide the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. We're supporting the planning and logistics of this asset coming to Penobscot County.
- We held our quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee this month. Two biggest updates were the \$16.5M expansion of Northeast Paving of Hermon to increase their liquid asphalt storage as well as a new buyer for Coastal Resources of Maine recycling plant. Both facilities are required to report their chemical storage as part of the emergency planning and community right-to-know act.

IT Update –

Director Cliff Warren presented the following:

- The Systems Administrator position had been readvertised in hopes of generating more of an applicant pool. This new advertisement produced more applicants and interviews will be held Wednesday.
- The only project was from last month on the zero ~~data~~ day threat to exchange servers. We are looking into homeland security money that may be available to us that would allow us to upgrade us to Exchange 2019 and bringing the total population of the county on board to the new Exchange server.
- We've completed a little over 200 tickets this month. We are still working on some of the projects.

PRCC Update –

Director Chris Lavoie reported the following:

- As announced in the media recently, we have four members of our team that have tested positive for COVID. All personnel have been given the PCR test and will be tested again next week. Currently, we have all non-essential staff members working remotely.

Administration Update –

Administrator Honey reported on the following:

- Adding to Director Lavoie's Update, we have provided universal testing to all employees in our building on Wednesday. We will be conducting the second round of universal testing this Friday. PCHS promptly responded within two hours of my call to provide someone to test 66 employees. Of the 66 employees tested, all came back negative.
- Due to COVID in our building we are limiting traffic into the building while still being operational. The department heads have been flexible and our staff very accommodating.
- Employment within the County:
 - Interviews this week will be held for the part-time clerical assistant position in the DA's office, IT system Administrator position and the Jail Custodian position. These are being held on Franklin Street at NWDB's conference area. A big thank you for allowing us to use your space.
 - We will be moving quickly on the Probate Clerical Specialist position that is closing tomorrow.
 - Another position that has been posted is for the DA Clerical Specialist position and that is closing next Wednesday.
- Negotiations are continuing with the FOP line and supervisors.
- We are finishing up on the final draft of the AFSCME Corrections Supervisor contract and should have that to you in the next week or two.
- I participated in the Board of Visitors meeting last Thursday via zoom.
- 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: Andrea Foster – hired Full-time; Branden Musgrave and Rebecca Woodard– Resignation; Joanna Russell – Payroll Status Changes
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 04.23.2021: \$245,119.85
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 04.27.2021: \$146,850.26
- UT Warrant to be approved for 04.27.2021: \$24,695.90
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for 04.27.2021: \$2,132.38

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:52 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 10:22 a.m.

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Morton reported the following:

- In-house jail population is 177; 30 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates, county swaps and there **182** inmates in Pre-trial Services. Although the number of inmates is high, the charges brought against them are substantial. Law enforcement agencies are still issuing summonses when applicable, and bailing from their offices.
- There was a walk through of the jail with Director MacDonald & Administrator Honey identifying areas of concerns that need to be addressed.
- The new conference area project is moving along nicely. Once completed it will open up many positive changes for the inmates and attorneys which will speed up the processes.
- We are trying to find a work around and open up various services for the inmates such as religious services and recreation.
- The COVID outbreak with four inmates was limited to those four and no other inmates had been involved. At the Board of Visitors meeting held last week, we included our jail medical team reporting on our medical practices used and why they work.
- Vaccinations are being held again today for our inmate population. We are finding about 50% wish to be vaccinated.
- We are continuing with our MAT program; our educational program has continued on a limited basis.
- We have two retirements coming up this summer from our law enforcement division. We are in the process of proceeding forward with the hiring process.
- Sheriff reported on a chase that occurred last week where another agency had in-car cameras to document the incident. Sheriff is hopeful that with some federal funding available, cameras will be part of use of those monies.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 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