

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes August 31, 2021 **2349**
9:00 AM **Commissioners Peter Baldacci & Laura Sanborn** **72°**
Commissioner Andre Cushing - ABSENT

Roll Call -

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioner Sanborn present.

Public Comment –

Janet Drew – Citizen of York

Participant reiterated her concerns that across our nation, statewide and every county, there are housing, wages and mental health crisis's. First and foremost, we need transitional and permanent housing for substance use disorder treatment. There is an organizational group meeting Thursday to look at where the gaps are and where the State monies can be used to expand these processes. Participant does not believe that expanding the jail is going to make things better.

Commissioner Baldacci reported that there will be discussion at today's meeting of hiring a person to assist us in the COVID fund expenditures and to make sure they conform to the federal rules. Once that person is in place, we can then talk about getting input from community groups.

PRCC Update –

Director Chris Lavoie presented the following:

- This past July we experienced a commercial power generator failure. Supervisor Chris Fox researched an alternative method that would be able to work through telephones and internet systems. This system we are requesting is a standalone unit with a Tesla battery inside that will run eight to ten hours. This purchase would cancel out the existing system we are currently using and end up saving us money.
 - Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the request as presented.
Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.
- There are five open positions that are being finalized and will bring the department to full staff.

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Troy Morton reported the following from the corrections side of the house:

- In-house jail population is 184; 64 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates, no county swaps and **197** inmates in Pre-trial Services.
- Sheriff had an extensive meeting with Maine Pre-Trial Services for inmates being released. A challenge for the case managers is that it has been difficult to track those inmates out who are homeless or transitional.
- Staffing is down ten correctional officers
- Inmates are continuing to be evaluated for serious mental health issues; there is ongoing difficulty getting them into beds
- The outline that was submitted to MDOC is being followed daily
- A meeting will be held with Chief Justice Stanfill tomorrow in hopes that we can figure out how to move cases along so that we can reduce the jail population
- The MAT program is continuing, with a couple technical hiccups with the outside provider. Sheriff states that decisions for MAT should not be correctional decisions, but medical decisions which need to be worked out.
- The first stakeholder meeting was held last week for the mental health grant. At the first meeting we learned that some people should be added to the group, which will be the next step. Two vendors that were originally outlined in the grant will be included to talk about how to move forward. It is the hope that this can be up and running January of next year.
- Sheriff is working to get seats filled on several committees for legislation; opiate overdose review panel, hate bias crime review panel and Maine housing stabilization housing review panel.

Sheriff Morton reported on the law enforcement side of the house the following:

- Continued responses to two overdose incidents; one overdose situation occurred while a male was traveling on the interstate in which the deputy had to administer Narcan.
- Hiring process for the deputies is continuing with a great response for the south/central zones; however, we are struggling for the northern position since we are looking for someone that resides in the Greenbush north area.
- Deputies are monitoring school traffic around school openings and bus pickups
- Deputies are responding to an unusual large amount of traffic complaints
- Commissioners are invited to attend on October 5th the PCSO Employee Recognition Barbecue

Sheriff's Update – Continued:

- Sheriff is organizing a “Faith in Blue” initiative. This initiative reinforces the connections between law enforcement and the communities that we serve through our houses of worship.
- The 20th anniversary of September 11th is around the corner and we have been asked by multiple communities to provide community details.

UT Update –

Director Shaw Weeks shared the following –

- Director Weeks requested signature on the 2021-2023 Grand Falls Snow Removal Contract.
- The Straggly Lake Road gravel project has gone out to bid and there is a mandatory meeting this week
- Director Weeks is working with ADA Mark Rucci on the Greenfield Township junkyard

Administration Update –

Administrator Honey reported on the following:

- Communication:
 - A resident agreement letter from DOT regarding pavement projects in a number of areas
 - 2020 Annual report for Eastern Maine Electric Cooperatives
 - Phone call from Bill Varney from Premium Choice Broadband who is requesting time to present before the Commissioners. Administrator Honey plans on connecting Mr. Varney with UT Director Weeks to see if there are any projects in that area. Commissioner Baldacci feels that instead of each vendor come in, it would be better served to coordinate these requests
- Employment within the County:
 - Corrections will be holding a couple interviews this Friday
 - Our side of the house is fully staffed with no vacancies posted
 - Mr. Collins is enjoying retirement and has declined assisting the county with managing the ARPA funds. A draft job description for the Grant Manager of ARPA funding was provided. This part-time position will be fully funded by ARPA.

Administration Update – Continued:

- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve this position as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.
- Last week's meetings:
 - Administrator Honey and Director MacDonald met with the Sheriff's Office to discuss a breakroom remodel in the jail. Director MacDonald will gather costs and bring the final proposal once completed.
 - Administrator Honey participated in the stakeholders meeting last week for the mental health grant.
- This week's meetings:
 - Lt. Hotaling, Director MacDonald and Administrator Honey met with the City of Bangor to discuss a pre-application process of any potential project or expansions in our lower parking lots on our campus.
 - Administrator Honey, Director MacDonald and Sheriff's administration will tour today in the local areas for additional space this afternoon.
 - There will be an ARPA roundtable discussion held tomorrow morning with other County Administrator
 - Administrator Honey will be participating in the meeting tomorrow with Chief Justice Stanfill and the Sheriff's Office
 - Administrator Honey will be participating in a Maine PERS meeting regarding LD1103 this week
- Next week's meetings:
 - Administrator Honey will be meeting with Town Managers of Orono and Veazie
 - MCCA Risk Pool and Board of Directors Meeting will be held next Wednesday via Zoom
- Miscellaneous:
 - Monday is Labor Day with the County off for all non-essential personnel
 - Tuesday's Commissioners meeting will include the bid opening for the Medical RFP taking place and the Public Hearing on Remote Meetings will be held at 10:00
 - There were some interruptions to our phone and internet yesterday afternoon. It took until midnight to get that up and running; thank you to our IT department.
 - Administrator Honey will confer with other Administrators to see if they've been contacted from the State to re-district all the legislative, congressional and county districts.

Administration Update – Continued:

- Payroll Change Notices signed for: NONE
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 08.27.2021: \$250,468.34
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 09.01.2021: \$476,669.29
- Unorganized Territory Warrant to be approved for 08.31.2021: \$3,676.23
- Unorganized Territory TIF Warrant to be approved 08.31.2021: \$19,208.37
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:40 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 2-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Erika Honey, Treasurer Hiatt and Director Judy Alexander. Session ended at 9:47 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:48 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 2-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Erika Honey, Sheriff Morton, Lt. Hotaling and Director MacDonald. Session ended at 10:15 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn 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 Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 2-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Erika Honey, Sheriff Morton, Lt. Hotaling, and Director MacDonald. Session ended at 10:45 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:46 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 2-0. Present were: Commissioners and Administrator Erika Honey. Session ended at 11:15 a.m.

Action Item –

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the purchase of a patrol vehicle off the lot to not exceed the original bid price of \$39,386 for a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Sanborn moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Erika Honey

Peter K. Baldacci, Chairman

Laura J. Sanborn, Commissioner

ABSENT
Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner