

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes September 28, 2021 2353
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Laura Sanborn & Andre Cushing 55°

Roll Call -

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. remotely, Commissioner Sanborn in the Commissioners Chambers.

Commissioner Cushing present at 9:06 a.m.

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve September 14 and September 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Public Comment –

Janet Drew – Citizen of York

Participant discussed correspondence sent to the Commissioners responding to last week's meeting that supported a new jail. Participant wants money allocated for a new building to be used for services to support people instead.

Susan D'Alessandro – Citizen of Millinocket

Participant requests that funding for human infrastructure be used versus building buildings. In this crisis, the state needs and county needs to come together and be creative in supporting communities in crisis.

Toby White – Resident of Greenfield Township

Participant came before the Commissioners concerning of having a junkyard in Greenfield. Participant states he has moved 55-60 cars, leaving antique cars that are being rebuilt. Discussion followed.

Donna Gagne – Resident of Greenfield Township

Participant came before the Commissioners concerning the discussion at last weeks Commissioners meeting on Broadband in Greenfield Township. Discussion followed. Commissioner Sanborn will assist participant in guidance with connecting residents whom worked on the Argyle Broadband Expansion with from the connect-ME grant.

Public Comment – Continued:

Patti Francis - Resident of Greenfield Township

Participant added to the junkyard conversation as fiancé of the property owner. When the BMV official came in to count cars and issue fines, those cars were junked and fines were paid. The six cars left on the property are three registered cars and three antique that are being rebuilt.

EMA Update –

Director Bradley Nuding presented the following:

- EMPG FY21 application has been approved by the state. Allocation is the same as last year: \$92,987.50
- HSGP FY18 close-out at the end of the month. No anticipated issues as all sub-recipients have already spent down their allotments.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan updates I sent to the state have come back with comments. I've posted the revised sections on our website for public review and comment, shared them with the municipalities, and provided an update on social media. The plan needs final approval from FEMA by February 2022.

EMA (Department 3) Budget Presentation –

Director Bradley Nuding presented his department's budget for the 2022 calendar year, with the following changes:

- GIS (Geographic Information Systems) added position; \$29K in grant monies, \$5,500 re-allocated from the IT department and funds previously used for our part-time employee
- Increase of \$3K for necessary software licenses for the GIS position
- Small increases for parts and maintenance, office equipment and dues and fees

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve EMA (Department 3) budget as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

UT Update –

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following:

UT Update – Continued:

- Revisiting last week's meeting, Director Weeks is working on establishing a broadband working group for the broadband expansion in that area with providers.
- UT did not issue any citations to the White junkyard; those came from the State BMV.
- There will be a corrective action plan from Mr. White with hopes that something can be worked out that will be acceptable to both parties.

Hammond Ridge Development Discussion –

Matt Polstein presented an overview to the Commissioners on the Hammond Ridge Project.

This project is to re-zone 1,409 acres in T 1 R8 WELS, just south of Millinocket Lake and is expected to happen in phases. The goal is to design, develop and operate a resort to include recreation trails, activity centers, lodging, other recreational opportunities, residential lots and commercial space. This project will bolster economic activity in the Katahdin Region. Penobscot County maintains the Millinocket Lake Road which will see an increase in vehicle traffic due to the project. The other access roads, Katahdin View Rd, Gravity Lane, and Black Cat Rd are operated privately by Hammond Ridge. Penobscot County has an agreement with the town of Millinocket for Fire and Ambulance service to the area and the developers have sent a request to Millinocket asking about the impacts on public safety coverage. Penobscot County Sheriff's department provides law enforcement for the area and the developers will send a request to the Sheriff's department for law enforcement coverage. Millinocket schools has confirmed they are able to take on more students in the school system. Solid waste will be handled by the project developer, contracted through Plourde's Rubbish and Recycling. The Town of Millinocket could potentially see an increase in services and compensation for those services. The increase in tax assessments is expected to offset any service cost increases.

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve a letter supporting Hammond Ridge Development with the amendment to include contingency on compliance with any requirement from the Maine DOT regarding the Millinocket Lake Road. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

UT Administration (Department 14) Budget Presentation –

Director Shaw Weeks presented his department's budget for the 2022 calendar year, with the following changes:

- Slight increases of payroll (cost of living) and training

UT Administration (Department 14) Budget Presentation – Continued:

- Payroll benefits increase due to going from single to family in health care benefits
- Reduction in travel, utilities, equipment repair and maintenance, office expenses

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve UT Administration (Department 14) budget as presented with modifications. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

IT Update -

Director Cliff Warren presented the following:

- Cellular coverage has been reviewed for the IT Department. Discussion followed. Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to approve AT & T as the cellular vendor for the IT Department. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- The VM infrastructure project have been reviewed for the IT Department. Discussion followed. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$14, 674.12 to update the VM infrastructure project. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

IT (Department 15) Budget Presentation –

Director Cliff Warren presented his department's budget for the 2022 calendar year, with the following changes:

- Request for a full time IT tech position
- Slight decreases in travel expenses, utilities and office services
- Slight increase in computer repair and maintenance and registration and training
- Capital expenses has gone up for computer equipment

Commissioner Baldacci commented that the entire county budget needs to be reviewed before they can approve any additional positions. Will be revisited.

Facilities Update –

Director Brian MacDonald presented the following:

- During the monthly generator test, the generator did not start. Director MacDonald is requesting reconsideration of the purchase of the emergency installment backup generator switch.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve Carmel Electric to install this piece in the amount of \$30,800. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed.

HR Update –

HR Coordinator Michelle LaBree presented the Penobscot County Safety Plan for approval and signature.

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve Penobscot County's Safety Plan as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Administration Update –

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 09.24.2021: \$255,846.88
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 09.28.2021: \$174,674.39
- Unorganized Territory Warrant to be approved for 09.28.2021: \$35,876.67
- Unorganized Territory TIF Warrant to be approved for: NONE
- 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: Shawn Levasseur – Resignation; Troy DeRoche – Retirement; Lisa Dwinal, Anthony Dougherty, Mackenzie Madden, Johannah Sirois, and Kendrick McCarthy – Payroll changes.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

ABSENT

Administrator, Erika Honey

Peter K. Baldacci, Chairman

Laura J. Sanborn, Commissioner

Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner