

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes October 12, 2021**      **2355**  
**9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Laura Sanborn & Andre Cushing**      **55°**

**Roll Call -**

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioner Sanborn, Commissioner Cushing, Administrator Erika Honey and Treasurer John Hiatt present.

**Approval of Minutes –**

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve October 5, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**UT Update –**

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following:

- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the Salt/Salt Macwahoc agreement to reflect the new contract amount. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the snow removal agreement with Hancock County. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- A broadband expansion survey that will be sent out to Greenfield residents. This will go out this week with hopes to receive replies by the end of the month.
- Director Weeks is awaiting the signed contract with MO Harris for the Scraggly Lake Road gravel project.
- LUPC will be holding a virtual meeting tomorrow on the Wolfden Picket Mountain rezoning petition. The staff has recommended not to approve the rezoning petition but the LUPC commissioners will decide tomorrow.

**Public Comment –**

***Larry Dansinger – Citizen of Bangor***

Participant discussed the jail overcrowding crisis. Participant reiterated last week's discussions that ARPA monies should go to mental health, substance use and housing versus building a new jail or hiring more officers. Participant stated that there may be a law going effect on some Class E crimes not beingailable offenses.

***Janet Drew – Citizen of York***

Participant discussed the struggle of addiction in Penobscot County and how funds should be provided to those people working on helping people with their addictions.

Participant states that we should explore the effects of 5G broadband and collect evidence of the harm it can cause.

**Facilities Update –**

Director Brian MacDonald presented the following:

- The parking lot has still yet to be repaired due to lack of staffing.
- The Kenduskeag stream project is nearing completion. Director MacDonald will check with those contractors to see if they can repair the parking lot.
- PRCC Radio Room HVAC system will be finished today.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve Carmel Electric to install a level 2 electric car charger in the amount of \$5,380. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Repair to the jail stairs may happen this week, but might be delayed due to lack of help.

**EMDC (Department 30) Budget Presentation –**

Lee Umphrey, Director of EMDC presented Department 30 budget for the 2022 year requesting the same funding as last year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the request of \$63,000 with an additional \$ 2 K coming from the PILT fund to fulfil the request of \$65,000. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Cushing inquired about regular reports on activity of the economic development director, Mr. Humphrey indicated they are provided to UT director with invoice. It was noted that they would be sent to Commissioner Cushing.

**Penobscot County Extension Services (Department 35) Budget Presentation –**

Administrative Support Supervisor, Theresa Tilton presented Penobscot County Extension Services (Department 35) Budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the request of \$81,870. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Donations (Department 34) Budget Presentations –**

**Rape Response -**

- Tamar Mathieu, Executive Director presented the Rape Response Budget for the 2022 year with a \$1,000 increase. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$3,000 for Rape Response as requested. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Bangor Area Shelter –**

- Boyd Kronholm, BAHS Executive Director presented the Bangor Area Shelter Budget for the 2022 year requesting the same funding as last year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$15,000 for Bangor Area Homeless Shelter for the 2022 year as requested. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**B.I.L.L.S. –**

- Director Ben Treat presented B.I.L.L.S (Bangor, Inter Library Loan System) Budget for the 2022 year requesting \$2,410 increase. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$9,710 for B.I.L.L.S for the 2022 year as requested. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Orono Haz Mat Team –**

- Director Judy Alexander presented the Orono Haz Mat Team Budget for the 2022 year requesting the same funding as last year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$24,000 for Orono Haz Mat Team for the 2022 year as requested. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Bangor Area Recovery Network (B.A.R.N.) –**

- Executive Director Robert Fickett presented the B.A.R.N. Budget for the 2022 year requesting a \$2,500 increase. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$20,000 for the B.A.R.N. 2022 year as requested. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Pine Tree Hospice –**

- Executive Director Kristen Sutherland presented the Pine Tree Hospice Budget for the 2022 year requesting the same funding as last year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$1,00 for Pine Tree Hospice 2022 year as requested. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Hirundo Wildlife Refuge –**

- Executive Director Jen Brooks presented the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge Budget for the 2022 year requesting the same funding as last year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$10,000 for Hirundo Wildlife Refuge 2022 year as requested. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Penquis C.A.P (Department 36) Budget Presentation –**

- Kara Hay, President and CEO of Penquis C.A.P. presented Department 30 budget for the 2022 year. Penquis C.A.P. is requesting level funding as the last eleven years. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$18,500 for Penquis C.A.P. (Department 36) 2022 Budget. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Loan/Interest (Department 31) Budget Presentation –**

- Finance Director Judy Alexander presented Loan Interest (Department 31) Budget for the 2022 year. The requested amount has been increased from last year due to PRCC Bond Interest. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$656,542 for Loan/Interest (Department 31) 2022 Budget. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**HR (Department 2) Budget Presentation –**

- Administrator Erika Honey presented HR (Department 2) Budget for the 2022 year. The requested amount is a 5.82% decrease from last year due to an employee declining health benefit. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$187,216 for HR (Department 2) Budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Administration (Department 6) Budget Presentation –**

- Administrator Erika Honey presented Administration (Department 6) Budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve \$349,740 for Administration (Department 6) Budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Finance Update –**

Finance Director Judy Alexander presented a report on expenditures and revenues through September 30, 2021:

- On Expenditures:
  - IT's expenditures are over budget for this time period due to two invoices that were not paid in 2020 because of a discrepancy in the billing which were not resolved until the year 2021
  - The contingency line is the figure in regards to the final pay out for vacation/sick time and benefit expenditures upon the retirement of the former Administrator
  - Currently, overall, we have spent only 65.88% of our budget.
- On Revenue:
  - Tax commitment monies are starting to come in; reminder letters will be sent out next week to those towns that have yet to pay
  - No change in the PRCC Bond funds
  - Gas revenue reimbursement will be going out the end of this month and submitted to the State by the end of October
- On capital:
  - Capital balances were provided for the Commissioners to review

Director Alexander presented the following:

- The TAN is being paid down from \$5.2M to \$3M
- Along with the Sheriff's Department budget presentations next week; departments 5, 11 and 15 will be revisited

**Sheriff's Update –**

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

- In-house jail population is 173; 51 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates, no county swaps and **189** inmates in Pre-trial Services. Six State inmates have been transferred to MDOC with 4/5 remaining. None of the mentally ill inmates have been transferred out.
- Correctional officers have been subpoenaed by DHHS with very little notice to go to court; our lawyers are providing advice on this issue.
- Our mental health care provider Dr. Shaeffer is retiring end of November
- Commissioner Baldacci sat in on a meeting last week with the Courts; we requested that those incarcerated be a priority
- Working on protocols on diversion; whenever possible, the CDC recommendation is that we shut down regional booking services
- As of today, there are 24 inmates and ten staff members that are COVID positive; universal testing is taking place

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

- We have a conditional offer of employment for a deputy sheriff from New Hampshire
- A discussion took place with the Glenburn Town Manager to have a schedule adjustment to have more hours during when school is in session
- Seven of the eight Ford SUV's have arrived
- Sheriff asked if the Commissioner may consider us going through Central Maine Auto Auction in Hermon. Commissioners asked to look a proposal and would make a decision quickly.
- Sheriff's crime scene van is a 2005 diesel van with 22K miles that would like to receive approval to place that vehicle out to auction
- Discussion on the offer of sharing of the new electric vehicle

**Administration Update –**

Administrator Honey reported that our Commissioners Meetings are held live streamed through Facebook for those that want to watch our meetings. We limit our zoom platform for those who want to present during the meeting. We have asked that those who wish to make a public comment, to contact Mary Anne in the Administration Office and she will provide the zoom link and place the name on the agenda to speak. Information on how to request zoom invitation for public comment will be on our website although previously posted.

**Administration Update – Continued:**

- Communication:
  - Correspondence from Brookfield Renewable with supplemental information and responses to stakeholder questions on the Ripogenus Hydroelectric project and Lowell Tannery Project – requestion and extension of time to file comments on draft license application.
- Employment within the County:
  - A conditional offer has been offered for the part-time Grant Manager position
  - Jail Utility position has been a challenge to fill due to the person needs to be a corrections officer, or be able to be trained as a corrections officer
  - An MOU with AFSCME was signed last week for the Intake Clerical Specialist II position to be posted
  - Assistant Jail Administrator position has been posted and will close October 21<sup>st</sup>
  - We are still hiring for corrections officers. There are nine open positions; three currently in training and 14 applications in process
- Last week's meetings:
  - Participated with the MACCAM ARPA round table discussion
  - Participated with the Maine Managers meeting in Orono which was a good opportunity give an overview of where we are with ARPA funds
- This week's meeting:
  - MCCA Meeting will be held via zoom tomorrow; however, Administrator Honey will be able to attend the Risk Pool meeting
- Next week's meetings:
  - AFSCME negotiations for the line unit will be held
  - Department head meeting will be held next Thursday
- Miscellaneous:
  - Due to the critical staffing in the jail with the recent COVID outbreak, we no longer are able to quarantine those close contacts for the 14 days. After discussion, Commissioner Cushing moved to approve a hazard/premium pay for Corrections Officers beginning October 1, 2021 and ending October 30, 2021 for \$3.00 per hour worked for all Corrections Staff Corrections plus an additional \$1.00 per hour worked for Corrections Staff who have been vaccinated or have approved exemption. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

**Administration Update – Continued:**

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 10.08.2021: \$254,246.35
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 10.12.2021: \$561,701.57
- Katahdin Region A/P to be approved for 10.12.2021: \$1,354.01
- UT Warrant to be approved for 10.12.2021: \$64,795.81
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for 10.12.2021: \$4,062.02
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Payroll Change Notices signed for: Bernie Smith – Resignation - Corrections; Jordanna Sprague, Andrew Mailman and Joshua Marotta – Payroll changes.

**Approval of Minutes –**

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve September 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:23 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, Administrator Erika Honey and Director Brian MacDonald. Session ended at 11:37 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:38 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, Administrator Erika Honey and Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 11:49 a.m.

**Action Taken – NONE**

**Meeting Adjourned-**

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Certified By:**

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Peter K. Baldacci, Chairman

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Laura J. Sanborn, Commissioner

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Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner

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Administrator, Erika Honey