

Roll Call -

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

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve October 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Public Comment –

Janet Drew – Citizen of York

Participant discussed the amount of overdoes in the last 12 months in the State of Maine. Participant is requesting Commissioners to consider funding other initiatives.

Shaw Weeks – Director of the Unorganized Territory

Director Weeks provided background on the auto junkyard in Prentiss Township. Most recently that was a letter sent to the operators as well as DMV explaining that we will not be able to issue a permit based on the proximity of wells and location of the site to the road. DMV rescinded the license that was previously issued to the operation at that time. There was no hearing to issue or revoke the license of the business. At this time, we have asked the operators to provide us with a detailed plan for cleaning up the violations by November 5, 2021.

There was some confusion about the permit. We did sign a land use clearance form noting that a permit would be issued contingent on the regulations and the rezoning petition being filed and completed.

Director Weeks has pulled geographic maps the land use planning commission outlining the map the zone and the road and the location of wells and proximity to the location of the operator's location. No one has physically measured, but the maps are fairly accurate of the proximity of wells and the road. Statute states 300 feet from any private or public well source & there are two that are withing 300 feet. The road is 100-foot setback from any public way.

Commissioner Baldacci inserted that this is not a hearing on the issue, but public comment. We need to get some clarification if there is a right to a hearing or not.

Public Comment – Continued:

The following individuals were in the audience in support of the business “Up in Smoke Auto Recycling”: Ashley LaDuke, Dustin Gordon, Jennifer Gordon, Lisa LaDuke, Steve Smith, and Willard Hanington.

Ashley LaDuke –

Participant is part owner states that the business has been commercially zoned for the last 25+ years for small businesses. From April 23, 2021 until July 14, 2021 business was conducted as usual until a letter was received addressing zoning. Participant provided a timeline of communication and receipt of paperwork. Participant has been in communication with LUPC and Director Weeks trying to get the LUPC rezoning; still awaiting the report from the soil scientist in order to get the rezoning petition sent out.

Participant questioned how these points addressed in the letter received have been verified and proven guilty of breaking these laws. Community members that have come in to speak on behalf of the Community, do not speak for all of them. Participant provided 40 signatures that were received in the last couple days by community members supporting the business.

Participant request that since this was a county error, and the business has done everything asked to do, that the county correct their actions to have our license reinstated for the time being so the business can financially solve these issues or relocate the business.

Jennifer Gordon –

Participant spoke as property owner of 443 Tar Ridge Road in Prentiss Townships for the last 24 years and leases to the business in question. Participant gave permission to make changes to the property to accommodate this style of business to the business owners. Participants states there have been multiple inspections and every inspection has passed.

Commissioner Baldacci stated that the Commissioners role is to follow the law. There was genuine confusion at the start of this that we certainly want to clarify. We don't want to hurt any people who are trying to run a business. If there were any errors in that process, we want them corrected. What needs to be done is review the information and make sure the law is followed. We need to be fair to all parties; therefore, I think we should take all information we've heard under advisement. We will get to you as promptly as we can.

UT Update –

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following for signature:

- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve MO Harris for Scraggly Lake Road gravel project agreement as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the agreement with the Town of Burlington and Lowell for use of the transfer station by residents of Grant Falls and Summit Townships. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the control for financial review and oversight of the TIF District with Main Stream Finance. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

2022-2023 UT Budget Presentation –

Director Weeks presented the following:

Expenses:

- Cemetery requests: two were flat funded and one a modest increase
- Fire protection and ambulance services – modest increase
- Solid waste – substantial increase

Capital Accounts:

- Vehicle replacement (Year 1 of 6)
- Road Construction Projects
- Road Paving Projects
- Salt/Sand Shed

Revenue:

- FY23 revenue projects are up from an increase in anticipated excise tax.

As presented, the 2022-2023 tax assessment is \$1,521,141, which puts the UT Budget well under the tax cap. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the UT Budget for the 2022-2023 with modifications. Commission Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Sheriff's Update –

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

- In-house jail population is 177 (146 males, 31 females); 50 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates, no county swaps and **194** inmates in Pre-trial Services.
- Reporting daily the COVID outbreak to CDC and MDOC
- Currently, there are 19 inmates and three staff members that are COVID positive; universal testing is taking place
- DOC received our inspection review report
- Commissioner Liberty extended the occupancy license for 30 days
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve Sheriff Morton's recommendation to accept Alternative Correctional Healthcare as the medical contractor for the jail. The first-year cost is \$1,686,080; second year cost is \$1,753,523; third year cost is \$1,823,663. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update -

Administrator Honey presented the following:

- Communication:
 - Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve a letter of support to EMDC's EDA Build Back Better project application. Commissioner Cushing seconded the following. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
 - Penobscot County Extension Services (Department 35) Summary Report following last weeks budget presentation.
 - Correspondence from Black Bear Hydro, Brookfield Renewable, 2020 Dam Safety Surveillance/Monitoring Reports, BKO notifications, Hydroelectric applications filed with the Commission and Communication from the City of Brewer addressing the current jail facility.
- Employment within the County:
 - Jail Utility Custodian interviews were held yesterday
 - Central patrol position looking to fill
 - Assistant Jail Administrator
 - Two call taker positions are currently open
 - Jail Intake Clerical Specialist Position has been posted
 - Corrections is down approximately 10 officers; several still going through the interview/background check process
 - Grant Manager for ARPA funds – Lisette Carrithers was introduced

Administration Update – Continued:

- Last week's meetings:
 - Monthly MCCA meeting was held last week; risk pool was notified of our occupancy extension to the jail
- This week's meeting:
 - New departmental credit cards will be issued at our department head meeting this Thursday
 - Corrections Line negotiations start tomorrow
 - Commissioner Sanborn, Director Weeks and Administrator Honey will be meeting this Friday with Peter Jamieson from the Katahdin Region Development Board
- Next week's meetings:
 - AFSCME negotiations for the line unit will be held
 - Department head meeting will be held next Thursday
- Miscellaneous:
 - Progress is being monitored on the COVID cases in the jail. We will be offering another COVID vaccination clinic with the intention to open up to the public like last vaccination
 - Discussion on the Spirit of America Awards Ceremony that was going to take place November 2nd, was decided to look at another date in December.
 - State Department of Education recognized their 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year to Kelsey Stoyanova from Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 10.15.2021: \$278,272.76
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 10.19.2021: \$105,589.85
- UT Warrant to be approved for: NONE
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for: NONE
- 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: Sara Rogers – Resignation; Lisette Carrithers – Hired Part-time Grant Manager; Althea Baker and Jeffery Hunter – Payroll changes.

Civil (Department 13) Budget Presentation –

Sheriff Troy Morton and Lt. Keith Hotaling presented Civil (Department 13) budget for the 2022 year. The requested amount is a 4.63% increase from last year due to employee insurance. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve modifications for Civil (Department 13) budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Wolfen Mining Project Discussion –

Jeremy Ouellette, Vice President of Project Development for Wolfden Resources Corporation, came before the Commissioners to present the Pickett Mountain project.

Mr. Ouellette informed the audience on why mining in Maine, the project itself, review of the impacts or theoretical impacts that have been studied to date and then talked about the backside around employment and education.

Discussion followed Mr. Ouellette's presentation.

Sheriff's (Department 12) Budget Presentation –

Sheriff Troy Morton and Lt. Keith Hotaling presented Sheriff's (Department 12) budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve as presented for Sheriff (Department 12) budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Jail (Department 9) Budget Presentation –

Sheriff Troy Morton and Lt. Keith Hotaling presented Jail (Department 9) budget for the 2022 year. The requested amount is a 15.30% increase from last year due to additional employees for the intake division as well as additional boarding costs. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve modifications for Jail (Department 9) budget for the 2022 year. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:10 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, Director Alexander, HR Coordinator LaBree, Mark Gagne and Dick Hansen. Session ended at 11:26 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:30 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E) Legal Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Erika Honey, Sheriff Morton and Attorney John Hamer. Session ended at 11:54 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:55 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 Erika Honey. Session ended at 12:06 p.m.

Action Taken –

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.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