

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes November 23, 2021 2360
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Laura Sanborn & Andre Cushing 31°

Roll Call -

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

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve November 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Public Comment -

Janet Drew – Citizen of York

Participant is distressed that monies are intended to be spent on expanding the jail. There are people with mental illness that do not belong in jail as well as those are unable to get out because of bail. Participant feels that the Commissioners responsibility is for all the people, families and communities and solve the overcrowding problem.

Larry Dansinger – Resident of Bangor

Participant echoed Janet Drew sentiments and discussed today's BDN article written by Dylan Moore that questions whether or not the use of ARPA monies should be used in expanding the Penobscot County Jail. Participant believes ARPA funds would be better served by using them for public health programs for those with substance use and mental health disorders.

Participant feels that our new Grant Manager should be provided information on the issues and problems the county is facing and how ARPA funds could alleviate those problems.

Donna Gagne – Citizen of Greenfield Township

Participant was requesting an update of the Greenfield Township junkyard. Participant has been in communication with Director Shaw Weeks and would like more follow up on what is being done to resolve this problem that has been ongoing for the last nine months.

Special Amusement Permit Public Hearing – River Drivers Restaurant

Commissioner Baldacci opened the public hearing on the Special Amusement Permit for River Drivers Restaurant at 9:08 a.m.

Special Amusement Permit Public Hearing – River Drivers Restaurant – Continued:

Commissioner Sanborn moved to close the hearing at 9:10 a.m. with no further discussion. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the Special Amusement Permit for River Drivers Restaurant. Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

UT Update –

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following:

- Animal Control Officer's salary increases for three people that service nine communities in Penobscot County. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the increases as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Two new members were introduced to serve on the TIF Committee; Tyler Collins – Community and Economic Development Officer for the City of Bangor and Brent Folster – retired Banking Loan Officer who sits on multiple boards in the area and steering committees. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve Tyler Collins and Brent Folster to sit on the TIF Committee. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Presented were forms for Shin Pond/Matagamon Trail for signature. Application, agreement, certification, municipal and county grant-in-air program. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve these forms as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Presented was the snowmobile grant application for grooming winter 2022 to the Maine snowmobile program for the Shin Pond/Matagamon Trail. Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve these forms as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Presented for your review, a resident from 2292 Edinburg Road applying for a non-residential development application from LUPC. The proposal is for a sawmill shed and two solar kilns for drying lumber and firewood in Argyle. The application asks the operation to obtain a letter from Penobscot County detailing what impact that this operation will have on services.
- The junkyard located at 1896 Greenfield Road in Greenfield that Participant Donna Gagne spoke of was discussed. Director Weeks stated that he communicated with Ms. Gagne this morning that the DA's Office notified him late yesterday that the Sheriff's Office will be serving a summons to the residents. This case is now in the hands of the

UT Update – Continued:

District Attorney's Office and the Court. Commissioner Sanborn stated that it isn't an active junkyard, but has 6-7 unlicensed vehicles in different locations on the property.

- The Prentiss Auto Recycling Facility at 443 Tar Ridge Road was then discussed. Director Weeks is working with the DA's Office in drafting a letter and will follow a similar process as the Greenfield. Commissioner Sanborn reported that she was in the area last Saturday and the car crusher was there working and it seems that the operation is still in production. Commissioner Baldacci recommends that we get our lawyers involved as it seems that the parties involved are making no effort to comply with the rules.

DA Update -

With DA Lynch at Newport Court today, Office Manager Kristine Higgins presented the following:

- Two big cases closed in the past couple of weeks and we are hopeful that more cases will be closed out in the next two weeks
- Budget is on track to where it should be
- Looking forward to the new year and being able to get additional help for the Victim Witness Advocates in the office
- Bangor Court is still struggling with staffing of marshals which causes the delays of hearings
- In custody arraignments are being held Monday, Wednesday and Friday's
- Eastern Maine Community College has provided the DA's Office with two criminal justice students as interns. This has been very helpful with the workload in the office.

ARPA Update -

Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers provided the following:

- A bill has been introduced to amend The American Rescue Plan Act. This bill would give more flexibility to recipients on how they can account for and spend their ARPA funds. This bill would also remove the lost revenue calculation method from ARPA and replace it with a flat \$10M or 30% of the counties award, whichever is greater, that counties could use at their discretion.

ARPA Update – Continued:

- Internal County needs have begun with some ARPA funds being spent in compensation for premium hazard pay to essential county workers and the Grant Managers salary is being funded.
- Almost every county has/will have some forum around the public's priorities for spending ARPA funds. The three key pieces that we need to look at are:
 - Community engagement – making sure that we understand the will of the people. There will be ten or more community listening meetings which would be held in town halls throughout the county. We would work with the press to publicize them. There will be two or more virtual meetings as a catch-all for people who want the opportunity to voice their opinions outside the limitations of a survey. The virtual meetings can be used as a back up to any in-person meetings that might need to be canceled due to weather.
 - A dedicated webpage or website. There will be anonymous survey on the website which can be used to capture opinions of random people. The survey can only be taken once per device to avoid artificially inflating numbers.
 - Pre-application eligibility and full application process
- Our webpage: www.penobscot-county.net/arparesources went live two weeks ago
- The next steps are as follows: a six-question survey, bringing on a professional facilitator that will run those community meetings.
- Proposed application process will be modelled on what many other counties across the country have done. It will start with a pre-application; those requests deemed eligible will be notified and sent full applications. Scoring those applications will be on a predetermined rubric and once scored by staff they will be sent to the commissioners to: vote to Fund, Fund with Revisions, Do Not Fund as they see fit.
- To be Noted: Grants of less than \$50,000 do not need to be individually monitored but as the recipient, the County still needs to report on those grants in aggregate by Expenditure category. As such, some type of monitoring will be needed.
- Commissioners are requesting that there should be a public meeting to include members of the Budget Committee and a meeting with town officials, managers of municipalities.

Administration Update -

Administrator Honey presented the following:

- Communication:
 - Donation request from Big Brothers-Big Sisters
 - Annual financial statement for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter
 - Correspondence for the Lowell Tannery Project
 - Correspondence to Commissioner Baldacci from a resident in regards to some damage to a vehicle. Commissioner Baldacci addressed the letter stating that he didn't see any structural issues on our part to make it unsafe. Looking into the future, we may want to paint the final section an illuminating color.
 - Correspondence to Commissioner Sanborn of a notice of layout and taking of certain properties in Old Town
 - Correspondence from a member of the public following our November 9th meeting in regards to opinion of expanding the jail
- Employment within the County:
 - On the jail side: Assistant Jail Administrator, Intake Sergeant and Intake Clerical Specialist positions. There will be follow up discussions once the Sheriff is back in the office for considering decisions on those positions
 - Three call-taker positions will be starting on December 2nd
 - Maintenance Technician position has been posted to take place of the maintenance supervisor which closes December 10th
- Last week's meetings:
 - The Budget Committee meeting was held November 10; an ad for the hearing will be placed in the BDN for December 7th
 - Department head meeting was held last Thursday
 - Thank you to Commissioner Sanborn for attending the Sheriff's Department Staff Recognition last Friday
- Next week's meetings:
 - Continued negotiations with the Line Unit
- Miscellaneous:
 - December 14th we will host the Spirit of America awards for 39 honorees
 - Risk Pool has provided management training courses in which several of our department and employees took advantage of
- Friday, December 17th we will host the Annual Holiday Meal on the Third Floor
- County Offices will be closed this Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving
- Benefit and Health Fair was November 10th and there were 61 participants
- Financial Health and Investment educational session will take place December 9th

Administration Update – Continued:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 11.12.2021: \$253,135.63
- Manual Payroll Warrant to be approved for 11.12.2021: \$1,550.16
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 11.19.2021: \$268,749.99
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 11.16.2021: \$ 81,227.95
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 11.23.2021: \$ 210,694.81
- UT Warrant to be approved for 11.23.2021: \$57,921.02
- 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: Dylan Thompson, Stephen Clay, and Grace Butler – Hired F/T PRCC; Terence Sullivan, Richard Smith and David King – Resignations; Steven Mann – Deceased; Lisa Dwinal, Colby Garland, Ethel Ann Greenlaw, Robert Greenlaw and Jeff Dickey – Payroll Status Changes.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:11 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, Treasurer Hiatt and Lisette Carrithers. Session ended at 10:31 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Sanborn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:32 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 Treasurer Hiatt. Session ended at 11:08 a.m.

Action Taken –

- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve Clerical Staff in FOP to receive Hazard pay for the month of October as approved for FOP Patrol. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve the revised 2021 Holiday calendar and the 2022 Holiday Calendar as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Commissioner Sanborn moved to approve PREA Cultural Assessment provided by MOSS Group as presented with sole source justification. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve employees to roll over one week of vacation time to 2022. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Sanborn moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing 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