

Roll Call -

Commissioner Sanborn opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all Commissioners present

Administrator Honey and Treasurer Hiatt absent

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve January 4, 2022 Commissioner Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Public Comment -

Christopher Martin, Deputy Chief of Police – Brewer Police Department

Chief Martin reported on the Brewer FOP letter of support for the construction of a new jail in Penobscot County.

Chief Martin then shared comments about the jail. He states that this jail has outlived its functionality and is ill equipped to meet the current and future needs. Contemporary jails must be able to offer critical programming and space needed to reduce recidivism by focusing on rehabilitation, particularly in the areas of substance use disorder and mental health. This requires a medical section, classrooms and transitional programming connecting those leaving the jail with resources to reintegrate successfully back into our community. Chief Martin believes that use of the ARPA funds would be a good investment for Penobscot County as a much-needed community resource.

Commissioner Baldacci stated that the US Treasury has provided final guidance on ARPA funds. ARPA funds cannot be used for construction of a new jail; however, funds can be used for renovation of an existing jail.

Chief Martin requests that the Commissioners be bold in decision making and lead the way. Look at a facility with a functional layout which can change the whole experience to give a foundation to those inmates to be offered programs to help them.

Janet Drew – York County Resident

Participant states that she had been participating in the meetings on the ARPA funds and is hearing a lot of support for funds working in the communities and not for a new facility.

Deeds Update –

Register Bulay presented the following:

- December revenue was up about 25% from our December average. \$147K will be turned over to the general fund
- Document count for 2021 was 10% above our yearly average and 15% above the average amount of money turned over
- Currently it looks like we are tracking at \$1.6M for the year
- The 2020 budget reported the wrong revenue
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve \$50K of funds from the surcharge account for restoration of plan books by Kofile. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Facilities Update –

Director Brian MacDonald reported the following:

- New staff members Ray Harding has joined us as a maintenance technician and Seth Johnson as the corrections custodian. Both men are exactly what we were looking for as far as attitude and teamwork.
- Phase Two in the jail is scheduled to start the middle of this month
- The post office floor issue has not been resolved as has been difficult to coordinate a time that fits in with both the post office and the contractor
- The electrician will be here either this week or next to get work on the manual transfer switch for the generator, electric car plug in and several issues in the jail including their lighting concern from the state inspection
- The generator battery charger was replaced last week and appears to be working normally
- The jails front steps have been repaired again
- The bathroom at 10 Franklin Street has not been repaired; still waiting for responses from vendors to look at how to repair the floor
- Air Quality Management was here yesterday to do some air testing here in this building
- Water testing will be conducted in several locations in the courthouse next week

Penobscot County Facility Renovation Project Award -

Facilities Director Brian MacDonald reported on the proposals received on the recent RFP for the jail design and addition.

Penobscot County Facility Renovation Project Award – Continued:

Two proposals had been received from King Construction Services and Haley Ward. Using the evaluation criteria, as identified in the RFP, Haley Ward's proposal is the most thorough and shows they understand what the County is trying to achieve. They have built a team to include an engineer, architect and jail expert as part of their proposal. Haley Ward also offer an alternate option to be the design bid team. This would bring us right through construction by providing the project management, the construction management right through construction and the warranty period. When we're done, we will have a new jail facility, and I recommend that we accept the Haley Ward proposal, the alternate proposal to provide the design bid-built team.

The original RFP was looking for a project manager that would help us go find a design bid team. During the pre-bid meeting, people there commented that it would be better if we take a little different course and suggested we look for a construction management team. That team would be with us for the entire project. After discussion with Administrator Honey and our Attorney, it was decided this would be better for the county to do so, so we let all bidders know we would accept alternative delivery methods in their proposals.

Commissioner Baldacci moved that we accept the bid of Haley Ward not to exceed \$50K for tasks one through five, at the end of which we would have a budget presented and make decisions from there. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

PRCC Update –

Director Chris Lavoie and Deputy Josh Lilley presented the following:

- There has been work on the new tower shack in Lincoln with hopes that it will be operational in three to four months
- The last of the radio consoles have been delivered
- Two of our dispatchers went to Lincoln County to dispatch so that employees could attend the funeral of one of their supervisors who passed away
- The Maine NENA meeting will be held here Thursday
- No change in staffing with five openings. Interviews will be held at the end of the month and we are looking at holding interviews every other Wednesday

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Morton brought forth correspondence he received from Col. Cote from the Maine State Police. The letter indicated that if a final agreement was not reached, the Maine State Police would reluctantly move forward without a Resource Coordination Agreement starting on May 1, 2022.

The call sharing agreement started in the late 1990's. It began with an eight-zone map which was modified to six zones. A few adjustments had been made over the years, but essentially the six-zone divide remain intact. The Sheriff's Office has taken several supplemental law enforcement contracts which has drastically reduced the burden to the Maine State Police. These changes shifted many of those services to the Sheriff's Office. Aside from an increase in calls for service, the number of cases investigated by our criminal investigative division has greatly increased. The State is requesting the Sheriff's Office take on four zones, while they manage two. This change would require an additional three to six deputies immediately.

The posed change not only impacts the Sheriff's Office and its support, it would further impact the regional dispatch center.

Commissioners feel that this policy change needs to be brought up to the State Legislature and the public needs to know. Governor Mills should be provided this information which is a policy change, not a staffing change. This is a growing problem with public safety and staffing issues.

Sheriff will draft a letter from the Sheriff's Office and send it to Administrator Honey. The County will also send out a letter.

Sheriff Troy Morton presented the following:

- In-house jail population is 173; 34 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates, no county swaps and **193** inmates in Pre-trial Services. There are 5 Maine Department of Corrections inmates in our facilities.
- Two of our deputies will be deployed for military leave
- New deputies are in place and doing very well
- Sheriff feels that the Criminal Justice Academy needs to have a better process to certify out of state people interested in working in Maine in law enforcement/corrections
- A couple of our officers have applied for MDEA fully funded open positions
- Newly appointed Chief Deputy Knappe is working out well with his
- An assault took place in Patten where the person assaulted a couple of deputies and damaged the cruisers windshield
- Maine DOE wrote an article on Penobscot County's PACE program

Sheriff's Update – Continued:

- The February and March PACE programs are already full
- There are ongoing meetings with our new medical provider
- Sheriff's Office and Medical attended the State meeting on modified MAT plans and how protocols are slowly changing
- They're some challenges in the methadone treatment and we're looking how to fund it
- There are seven inmates a day participating in methadone treatment
- Staffing issues remain a challenge; if someone drops off an application in the jail, we are attempting to interview that day
- Legislative session is back in session
- Sheriff Dale Lancaster will be the new Maine Sheriff's Association President
- Working with Senator Baldacci on a bill in helping to fund part of law enforcement or corrections student loans

Administration Update –

- There will be no County Commissioners meeting next Tuesday, January 18th
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 1.7.2022: \$294,392.14
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 01.11.2022 FY 21: \$ 180,911.60
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 01.11.2022 FY 22: \$ 37,935.68
- UT Warrant to be approved for: NONE
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for: NONE
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Payroll Change Notices signed for: Danielle Prosser – Hired Part-time DA's Office; Milynda Johnston – Promoted; Joel Reynolds - Resignation

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:30 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 Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 10:40 a.m. NO vote taken.

Executive Session--- Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:41 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, Treasurer Hiatt and Administrator Erika Honey. Session ended at 10:58 a.m. NO vote taken.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

ABSENT

Administrator, Erika Honey

Laura J. Sanborn, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner