

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 1, 2022 2369**  
**9:00 AM Commissioners Laura Sanborn, Peter Baldacci and Andre Cushing -1°**

**Roll Call -**

Commissioner Sanborn opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Administrator Honey present. Commissioner Cushing participating via Zoom.

Commissioner Baldacci and Treasurer Hiatt were absent

**Public Comment -**

***Kara Hay – President and Chief Executive Officer – Penquis CAP***

Participant reported on Penquis' Community Needs Assessment that was recently released. Results can be found on the Penquis website.

Participant has attended town meetings to talk about Penquis services that are available. There are people who need services that Penquis can support and assist with.

Participant reported on the function of the Penquis Steering Committee. These are advisory committees that have two major functions. One function is to help bring the voice of a community to our table to share what they are hearing in the world and what we are doing to support the communities. The second function is to feed into the governing board of directors who are people with specialized expertise.

Participant stated that the agency has grown significantly on expanding services. There is quite an array of mental health services as well as victim support services available to the communities.

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

Participant brought forth the following:

- Concern that recent communication reported that phone calls for inmates in the jail are being listened to and if Penobscot County conducts that sort of behavior
- The study regarding jail culture is just a discussion or actually taking place
- Lincoln County has formed a "Citizen's Advisory Committee" which Penobscot County would benefit from

Participant will send a letter to the Commissioners and Administrator Honey for follow up

**Public Comment – Continued:**

***Janet Drew – Resident of York County***

Participant is interested in the culture study and what data has been presented such as recidivism. Better resources are needed for people in crisis before they go to jail, as jail is not the answer.

**UT Update –**

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following for signature:

- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the Patten Ambulance agreement as presented. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0. Signed.
- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the Animal Control Agreement with the University of Maine. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 2-0. Signed.

**EMA Update –**

Director Bradley Nuding presented the following:

- Bulk PPE distribution went well with thanks to LT Jeff Currier, Maine forestry service. We supported 48 organizations in five counties.
- A plan meeting this week is taking place with the Maine Primary Care Association to work on a discussion-based exercise.
- We facilitated two sessions of the elected official FEMA training last week virtually with 50 people in attendance.
- Our Homeland Security money applications are due to EMA office by February 14 for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Interviews will be held this week for the GIS position. There were 22 applicants, with four being interviewed.
- The hazard mitigation plan was turned back by FEMA with a couple of minor edits. Those have been corrected and sent back to FEMA. We are hopeful that we'll get final approval for our multi jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan.
- There have been no issues in requesting PPE gear; organizations can still request PPE through the State and the CDC warehouse.

**Administration Update -**

Administrator Honey presented the following:

Employment within the County:

- DA's Office full-time clerical specialist closes today
- There are three PRCC Call Takers positions with interviews set for tomorrow
- EMA GIS interviews will take place Thursday
- There are 14 correction officer positions open
- Jason Mallar our new Finance Director starts Monday
- There has been some internal movement within the Sheriff's Office

This week's meetings:

- We will be holding our kick off meeting with Haley Ward and Jet Architects to discuss our campus renovation projects with our department heads tomorrow
- Our ARPA funding report for period March 2021 to end of 2021 was due yesterday and our grant manager Lisette Carrithers was successful in that submission. Those reports can be viewed by the public through the treasury portal as well. We will be presenting an update on some of those expenses next week.
- I will be working with IT to update our county website to include our DA's office to have it own specific page or at least tied into our website.
- I will be attending virtually a NACo sponsored county video showcase for Penobscot County tomorrow
- There will be AFSCME Corrections Line negotiations tomorrow
- There will be AFSCME general unit labor relations meeting tomorrow
- A big thanks to Facilities Director Brian MacDonald, Maintenance Technician Ray Harding and Corrections Custodian Seth Johnson for their great work over the weekend cleaning up following the blizzard.
- We are closely monitoring the storm coming at the end of the week for operations

Next week's meetings:

- Tuesday will be the last ARPA listening session held via zoom. We are anticipating a report out by the end of February at the latest.
- The Risk pool and MCCA meeting will be held next Wednesday
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 1.28.2022: \$283,157.12
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 02.01.2022 FY 21: \$ 87,810.91
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 02.01.2022 FY 22: \$ 244,116.60
- UT Warrant to be approved for 02.01.22: \$133,683.86

**Administration Update – Continued:**

- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for: NONE
- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.
- Payroll Change Notices signed for: Jason Mallar – Hired Full-time; Troy Morton and Jesse McCombs – Payroll Status Changes.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:25 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 2-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey, Sheriff Morton and Chief Deputy John Knappe. Session ended at 10:22 a.m. NO vote taken

**Sheriff's Update –**

Sheriff Troy Morton presented the following:

- In-house jail population is 175; 29 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates, no county swaps and **85** inmates in Pre-trial Services
- There is a Board of Visitors meeting held live on the Commissioners Facebook page on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30
- Two iPad's have been purchased for better accessibility for inmates to participate in virtual interviews
- The jail is back in outbreak COVID status; local law enforcement are trying to decrease the amount of people coming into the jail
- The law enforcement division has increased COVID numbers; with some positive tests and some are close contacts
- Ongoing discussion with the Maine State Police on resource sharing
- Sheriff's Office was involved in a standoff in the Town of Orrington this week which required many other law enforcement resources assisting
- There was another patrol vehicle and deer accident this week
- There is an increasing number of requests from snowmobile clubs for snowmobile races. State Inland Fishery Wildlife permits requires the presence of law enforcement. The Warden service does not cover those events, which leaves the burden to the county Sheriff's to provide those services. Snowmobile law and crashes are not the specialty of the Sheriff's Office.

**Meeting Adjourned-**

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

**Certified By:**

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Administrator, Erika Honey

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Laura J. Sanborn, Chairman

**ABSENT**  
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Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

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Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner