

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 22, 2022 2372**  
**9:00 AM Commissioners Laura Sanborn, Peter Baldacci and Andre Cushing 28°**

**Roll Call -**

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

Treasurer John Hiatt was absent

**Approval of Minutes –**

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve February 15, 2022 Commissioner Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Probate Update –**

Register Renee Stupak reported the following:

- The Probate Office is currently working to manage an increase of estates and guardianships
- Department is fully staffed
- Will be participating in the MARP meeting this week discussing Probate Courts and State court integration
- Chris Berry adoption training will take place

**Sheriff's Update –**

*A moment of silence was held for Staff Sergeant Bobbie Pelletier.*

Sheriff reported on Staff Sergeant Bobbie Pelletier who passed over the weekend in a snowmobile accident. SSGT Pelletier has been with the County since 2008, moving up the ranks to his current position supervising Hermon's policing for the last six and a half years. Bobbie was a team player covering other zones when needed and instrumental in some of our specialty units for our department. Bobbie was just a really good individual with a great smile and infectious laugh. Many thanks to Aroostook County Sheriff's Office and Maine Game Warden services for their roll they played on the accident as well as the other agencies who have come forward and help us through this time.

**Sheriff's Update – Continued:**

Sheriff Troy Morton presented the following:

- There is a staffing shortage on the law enforcement side of the house with injuries, COVID and military leave
- In-house jail population is 145; 59 boarded out to other facilities, **92** inmates in Pre-Trial Services
- Our new medical provider relationship is working out well due to their relationships with other facilities
- Our MAT program is growing
- There has been some ongoing dialogue with PCHC to bring them back into the fold so when inmates are released that programming can continue for them
- In the past, there have been multiple reports of concerns with the physical jail falling apart. Currently there are three issues that must be resolved immediately.
  - An Elevator that runs 24/7 is repeatedly out of service
  - The kitchen has had a catastrophic failure and is not operational right now; we are farming out food services and boarding out inmates to other facilities to reduce population at an incredible cost
  - Failure of our control room electronic system

Administrator Honey shared the following on the jail projects Sheriff:

- An elevator proposal was presented to the Commissioners. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Pine State Elevator not to exceed the amount of \$98,460 to modernize the elevator. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Part of the ceiling in the back part of the kitchen has been demolished and we are looking to get some answers on some longer-term fixes. We are working closely with Director MacDonald and will keep the Sheriff updated on that.
- The first phase of the control room is replacing mechanisms that are instrumental in daily functions. We will be working with our Project Manager for the second phase in developing an RFP.

**Public Comment -**

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

Participant request that we support community work and be visionary with rescue funds.

**PRCC Update –**

Director Chris Lavoie and Deputy Josh Lilley presented the following:

Lincoln Shelter:

- The manufacturer felt a roof would not be wise, since there would be a chance of rust if moisture sits underneath it. Going forward, preventative maintenance will be used to keep the building in good shape for a number of years.
- This shelter is not in use yet; waiting for the electrician to hook up the generator
- The old system is fragile and we have had a couple of outages in the last couple weeks. RCM has been up doing some rewiring and replacing equipment.

Interviews will be held by the Supervisors and Deputy Lilley on the first Wednesday of each month going forward until positions have been filled

**IT Update –**

Director Cliff Warren presented the following:

- Total tickets for the month are 171; 10 from Piscataquis County
- Projects – Network
  - Contracts with Consolidated have been signed by Administrator Honey
  - The initial meeting with CMC Technology Group took place with a follow up meeting to follow
  - The initial payment of deposit was paid
  - Will dovetail with our VMWare rollout so we can virtualize the phone system at the same time
- Project – Piscataquis County Network Systems
  - Still trying to deploy the CSAT system for internal network review for security
  - Completed a survey on behalf of the EMA department that helped do a self-assessment
  - Deployed a new Spiceworks server specific to Piscataquis County
  - Worked on writing PowerShell scripts and group policies to automate the deployment of both TeamViewer and the Spiceworks agent
- Penobscot County Projects
  - Working on a CSAT server for Piscataquis, once our VMWare infrastructure is in place
  - Although we have been using Spiceworks for some time, we are using more of it's programming available to have at our disposal

**UT Update –**

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following:

- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the ACO agreement with the Town of Hudson. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Deputy Buswell and Director Weeks will begin posting roads this week for heavy loads
- Katahdin Region Economic Development Director position update - We received a letter from EMDC President/CEO Lee Umphrey saying that Peter Jamieson left the role on December 31<sup>st</sup> and are requesting payment for that month. There will be no funding requests for January and February. They are in the process of filling that position.
  - Commissioner Cushing moved to approve disbursement from TIF account in the amount of \$5,433.27. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Legislative Updates –
  - LD1756 – Authorizes the Bureau of Parks and Lands to sell interest in specific parcels of land in T4 R8 in Penobscot County. Voted ought to pass on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - LD1513 - An Act to Require the Maintenance of a Discontinued Public Road That Provides the Sole Access to One or More Residences. Voted ought to pass on February 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Director Weeks will investigate what roads that could fall into that category; as well as how many residents are on that road
- Financial Standing –
  - As of February 18<sup>th</sup>, we are at 61% of our budget with the only concern to watch is our ambulance service
- There is no further update at this time on the Up in Smoke Auto Recycling as we are working with legal on this

**EMA Update –**

Director Bradley Nuding and Deputy Lynn Dwelley reported the following:

- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the Homeland Security grant applications to be submitted to the State. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the hazard mitigation plan as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

**EMA Update – Continued:**

- Town of Orrington used our mass casualty trailer over the weekend for a full-scale exercise.
- Director Nuding facilitated the after-action report from the Bar Harbor fire
- Roundtable discussions will be held this week with the airport for their triennial exercise
- The GIS position has been re-posted for another three weeks

**Administration Update -**

Administrator Honey presented the following:

Communication:

- Bangor Planning Board is holding a public hearing on March 1 at 7 p.m.
- West Enfield Hydroelectric Project
- Penobscot Mills Hydroelectric Project – Green Bridge Boat Access

Employment within the County:

- HR is working at recruitment and finding the right candidates for countywide positions
- IT position is being prepared to be placed out for advertisement

Last week:

- After review from our legal counsel, the Consolidated Communications agreement was signed
- Director Honey will submit two claims with the Risk Pool on the recent events at the jail
- Our monthly department head meeting was held last Friday and went well

Finance:

- Municipalities 2022 tax warrants were mailed out last Friday
- We will be working on TAN funding and hopeful within a couple of weeks bring you the dollar amount needed
- Director Mallar is working diligently on getting acclimated with our finance processes. His focus right off is preparing for the 2020 audit which should be in the next couple of weeks.

Next week's meetings:

- Laura Mitchell will be presenting her report from the ARPA listening sessions at next week's commissioners meeting.

**Administration Update – Continued:**

**Warrants:**

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 02.18.2022: \$261,979.20
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 02.22.2022: \$ 364,530.02
- 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: John McEwen and William Lovejoy - Payroll Status Changes.

**ARPA:**

Project Manager Lissette Carrithers stated that Laura Mitchell's report next week should help us outline where people in the county would like to see ARPA funds distributed. There is a process for external funding to disperse some of those funds. On the online portal, there was a two-tiered application system because with federal money, there are requirements that smaller nonprofits may not be able to meet, and we wanted to try and make it as equitable as possible.

As nonprofits, they are considered a privileged class, but they are considered a class in of themselves; and they are eligible for funding as beneficiaries. So conceivably, we could give funding to them without the rigorousness of the reporting and accounting, that would be necessary for larger amounts. We would need to talk about what would be kept out and what we feel comfortable with. Once we understand what the county's internal budget is going to be, then we will have an idea of how much we will be able to distribute at that point.

On the question on how much the jail renovation would qualify, Lissette stated that the total project costs are a few months off. However, with the interim finding or the final rule out, that would give us some clear guidelines on what we can allocate towards that.

There are other programs that is being looked at such as broadband, workforce development and housing. Director Honey will reschedule a meeting with the City of Bangor for March.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:10 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners and Administrator Honey. Session ended at 10:40 a.m.

**Meeting Adjourned-**

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Certified By:**

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Administrator, Erika Honey

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Laura J. Sanborn, Chair

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Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

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Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner