

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

Public Comment -

Janet Drew – Resident of York County

Participant is hopeful that consideration of the ARPA monies is given to the smallest agencies that work on the least amount of money.

Larry Dansinger – Resident of Bangor

Participant questioned last week's report on the jail issues going on and where those monies are coming from to make these repairs. Participant referred to the 2022 Budget and the jail shortfall. Participant feels that these expenses should have been budgeted for and is concerned that ARPA monies are going to be used for these expenses.

NWDB Update –

NWDB Executive Director Joanna Russell presented the following:

- There is an appeal process currently taking place with EMDC related to the procurement that was done on the WIOA Youth Program contract. The proposal submitted was non-compliant with our formatting and had been accepted. The appeal hearing will take place tomorrow (March 2) at 1:00 p.m.
 - On March 10th, Commissioners and the NWDB members will meet in executive session to discuss the WIOA Youth Program RFP process, document and RFP review committee. NWDB members will move out of executive session to vote to approve or reject the process, document and/or the review committee during their regularly scheduled meeting.
 - Dan Tremble, EMDC Board Chair shared some information on the appeal.
 - Executive Director Russell stated that once EMDC submitted the appeal in writing to the Chair of the Appeal panel, it triggered the appeal process. The Board no longer has authority to make any decision.

NWDB Update – Continued:

- The second level of the appeal will go to the Maine Department of Labor and who will have established a committee to serve as an Appeal Hearing Committee to review the whole process and decide.
- The NWDB is not contesting whatever is directed by the legal entities, it will follow.
- Administrator Honey added, that as the fiscal agent, it is our responsibility to let the appeals hearing proceed as outlined. At this time, we have limited involvement.
- The Executive Director's position has been posted twice.
 - A job offer was made under the first posting and the candidate passed.
 - This current posting has received four resumes that contain the skillset and experience needed, however the salary requirements are over \$100K. Administrator Honey recommended to revise the ad and put in what our actual ranges lowest to highest on it.
 - The job ad was revised to provide the full salary range: \$70K to \$80K with benefits. The previous job ad stated the minimum salary of \$70K only. The change was made to prevent people requiring a higher salary from applying with no success.

EMDC Director of Workforce Development Erin Benson presented the following:

- Program year begins on July 1; the numbers presented are from July 1, 2021 until February 28, 2022 that have been served in Penobscot County
 - Clients Served Total – 184: 104 adults, 47 dislocated workers, 26 youth and 80 people enrolled in Connecting with Opportunities
 - Services – 115 Support Services (barriers such as auto repairs, medical issues, childcare, books, tools), 20 work experiences (we pay the wage; the employers provide the supervisor and mentorship to guide), 4 on the job training and 105 people are currently in training (Associates degree, CNA, CDL, etc.).
- Discussion was held with a state-wide leadership team from Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG).
- EMDC staff participated in the delivery of "Destination You" – a free 8-week course for adults in the Katahdin and Dover Foxcroft areas.
- EMDC has developed a focused youth initiative to recruit 30 youth for work experiences in the northeast region; 16 targeted for Penobscot County. Two incentives will be offered: \$25 to open a checking account for direct deposit embedded with some

NWDB Update – Continued:

financial literacy education, and a \$100 bonus for completion with a good evaluation. The average length of the experience will be ten weeks.

- PowerPoint presentations on the youth initiative to One Stop Partners and to the business community were held with great participation and interest
- Two EMDC staff members participated in the February PACE program delivering information about Connecting with Opportunities and WIOA program

ARPA Listening Sessions Summary –

Independent Consultant with LM Strategy, Laura Mitchell summarized the ARPA listening sessions and survey from December, 2021 to February, 2022.

- Penobscot County is set to receive \$29.5M in Federal ARPA funding. These funds are paid in two installments of \$14.75M in May 2021 and \$14.75M in May 2022.
- Penobscot County hosted ten listening sessions that had over 100+ unduplicated attendees
- The County simultaneously ran an online survey, as well as paper copies found at the listening sessions. One hundred fifty people took this survey with recommendations of where to invest the ARPA funds
- The following information was discussed and reported from the listening sessions: Values (What do you find most special, or value the most about Penobscot County); Vision (What do you envision for Penobscot County in the next 5-10 years); Challenges/Barriers (What concerns you in Penobscot County? What could get in the way of your vision?); Investment Priorities
- The following priority investments and vision input was received at all the listening sessions as well as the online survey: Housing, mental health and substance use disorder services, broadband, jail rehabilitation and space for services such as mental health care and substance use disorder treatment, transportation, infrastructure, emergency response services and education and training

A full report can be found at: <https://www.penobscot-county.net/arparesources>

Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers reported and provided resources on ARPA Maine State funding on different agencies.

This discussion can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/PenobscotCountyGovernment>

Administration Update -

Administrator Honey presented the following:

Communication:

- City of Brewer sent a letter speaking to regional booking and construction of a new Penobscot County Jail (found at end of minutes)
- Maine DOT regarding a Village Partnership Initiative for 2022
- A Medway project taking place

Last week:

- Communication and planning are taking place for implementing our new time clock system; hopeful it will be in place end of April
- Graduation took place on site for three new corrections officers – congratulations to those new officers

HR:

- Monitoring closely the State's CDC guidance and updates on masks following the federal guideline update last Friday. Penobscot County is still in a high level of community transmission, which CDC recommends wearing masks indoors in the public.

Miscellaneous:

- Last Friday, we were closed due to the snowstorm
- The jail kitchen should be functionable by the end of the week
- Administrator Honey raised the budget question from public comment by saying that it's a fair representation of what the counties have struggled with in funding their jail operations over the last few years. Discussion followed with the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Baldacci suggests that Brewer City Council include Sheriff in these types of correspondence. Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers reported the readings on how ARPA funding can be used in renovations and improvements.

Employment:

- With the Victim Witness Advocate position still not filled, the DA's Office is requesting 20 hours of overtime allowed over the next eight weeks. Commissioner Cushing made a motion to approve overtime for the next four weeks. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update – Continued:

Next Week:

- Administrator Honey will be attending a Drew Plantation special municipal meeting on de-organization next Tuesday.

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 02.25.2022: \$238,832.04
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 03.01.2022: \$ 801,088.09
- UT Warrant to be approved for 03.01.2022: \$118,540.98
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for 03.01.2022: \$4,074.95
- 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: Bobbie Pelletier – Deceased; Lynn Dwelley, Jason Raymond and Taylor Keeran - Payroll Status Changes.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contact Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey and Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 11:20 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:21 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contact Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey and Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 12:05 p.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:05 p.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contact Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey, Lisette Carrithers and Director Mallar. Session ended at 12:20 p.m.

Action Taken –

Sheriff presented for signature a criminal forfeiture request in the State vs Campbell. Commissioner Cushing moved to approve \$4,700 to the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Grant software with the vendor SmarterSelect in the amount of \$3K a year for five years. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Cushing moved to approve additional \$11,200 funding for Pine State Elevator Company, not to exceed \$111,200 for the modernization of the jail elevator. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Erika Honey

Laura J. Sanborn, Chairman

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner



Brewer City Council

February 15, 2022

Commissioner Laura Sanborn
Commissioner Andre E. Cushing III
Commissioner Peter Baldacci
Penobscot County Government Offices
97 Hammond Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Commissioners:

We are following up on our concerns about the need to restore access to regional booking and the construction of a new Penobscot County jail. In recent meetings you have heard from the Brewer City Council, Brewer Public Safety Director Jason Moffitt, Deputy Chief Chris Martin, and the Brewer Police Officers Union on the importance of this. These issues are of critical importance to public safety.

Have you or will you be asking our Congressional delegation for guidance and advocacy for the use of ARPA funds for jail construction? It does not appear that use of ARPA for construction of new correctional facilities is prohibited. According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's January 2022 document "Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule" that Treasury presumes that the construction of new correctional facilities as a response to an increase in rate of crime is generally ineligible. This leaves open the possibility that funding the construction of a new jail based upon our current region's specific need could be an allowable use of ARPA funds, especially when considering the impact of covid on: jail capacity due to a backlog in the courts, reduction of access to regional booking, and the reduction of programming in the jail to reduce recidivism.

What is the plan to restore and improve access to regional booking? This is a most urgent public safety issue that requires corrective action. It is our understanding that there currently is limited access to regional booking on a case-by-case basis, which is simply not good policy.

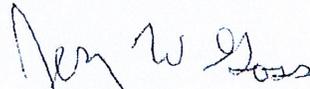
In closing, we are concerned about the limited and reduced access to regional booking and ask that you to employ immediate strategies to correct this.

We believe that the construction of a new jail facility to meet current and future needs is the best long-range solution and that seeking to apply ARPA funds towards this endeavor is a good investment. We offer our support as this moves forward.

Sincerely,



Michele Daniels



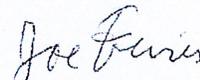
Jerry Goss



Soubanh Phanthay



Jenn Morin



Joe Ferris