

Roll Call -

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

Commissioner Sanborn and Treasurer John Hiatt were absent

Public Comment -

Janet Drew – Resident of York County

Participant referred to the ARPA listening sessions when requests that funding is given to housing and substance use/mental health. Monies should not be given to expansion of the jail to build more beds. People don't need to be caged; they need love.

Commissioner Cushing clarified that Penobscot County does not put people in cages. These comments are unfair because it gives the impression that we do not care for the well-being of those individuals placed in our care. On the contrary, we are working on plans to improve the conditions of the jail that is already sadly beyond its useful life.

Commissioner Baldacci reiterated that Penobscot County is working to make a difference for the better for the inmates in the facility.

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Cushing moved to approve February 22 and March 1, 2022 Commissioner Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Deeds Update –

Register Susan Bulay presented the following:

- Document count for February was 14% above average with 2,872 documents
- February is traditionally our slowest month of the year; we were 14% above average in revenue with \$89K turned over to the general fund
- There is an employee out for three weeks; the remaining staff will be able to manage the additional workload
- Nomination papers have been filed to run again as Register
- When asked, Register Bulay has not spoken to Register Stupak on digitalizing records

Facilities Update –

Director MacDonald reported the following:

- Phase Two of the renovation project in the jail is continuing; waiting on pieces, parts and carpet tile. It was found to be more economical to use carpet tile versus paint.
- Multiple repairs have taken place this month in the jail; replaced a large section of the kitchen ceiling, multiple lighting repairs and holes in cellblocks, as well as several different plumbing issues. It has been a struggle to keep up with constant repairs needing to be addressed.
- Interviews were held last week for an additional employee; we should know by the end of week if our offer has been accepted
- Special thanks to Bouchard Restoration and Newcomb Building Construction for their quick response to work on our jail kitchen repairs
- The jail kitchen is now up and running as of Sunday
- Jail Custodian, Seth Johnson started working his detail yesterday after his Corrections Officer training
- We tested the generator and it ran fine; we do need to test the manual transfer switch to make sure that it is in working order before needed in an emergency
- The jail front steps have failed again; with no response from the contractor
- Lights have failed in the Wellness Center and some in this building are being investigated. Discussion on looking into a grant through Efficiency Maine on changing lighting to LED lights
- A meeting is scheduled to meet with the architect engineers and HOK on the entire campus project
- A list of questions will be provided to the department heads to pass on to the project team

AFSCME Corrections Line Unit Contract Signing –

Corrections Officer Eric Tripp and AFSCME Representative John Nuttall were present to sign the AFSCME Corrections Line Unit contract that will expire on December 31, 2024.

Administrator Honey highlighted the changes to this contract and stated that it was a pleasure working with this group.

- Clarification on holiday pay observed vs actual depending on different shifts
- Added Juneteenth as a paid holiday
- Added the next level of vacation accrual for one year earlier

AFSCME Corrections Line Unit Contract Signing – Continued:

- Sick leave that can be used upon hire rather than waiting for a probationary period
- One week of paid maternity leave has been added
- Employee contribution for health insurance has been decreased for those hired on or after January 1, 2009 by 1.5%
- Added a shift differential for those whose primary shift is at night
- We've increased the County deferred compensation contribution from 7% to 7.5%
- An eighth step has been included on the pay scale

Commissioner Baldacci thanked the group for the good work they provide and stated that the Commissioners are working to improve the working conditions for them.

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Troy Morton provided the following:

- In-house jail population is 133; 64 boarded out to other facilities, no federal inmates or holds and a one for one county swap. There are **192** inmates in pre-trial services; 92 were diverted from the jail.
- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the purchase of one patrol vehicle from Quirks reducing the number of cars being purchased this summer from 9 to 8. Funds received from the totaled vehicle will go to the capital account. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.
- Alabama vendor MTI reached out to the Sheriff to bid on parts for the control room project
- Sheriff thanked the Commissioners for putting together the Special Meeting with legislative delegation yesterday in regards to the State Police Resource Sharing Agreement that is due to expire on May 1.

There is uncertainty today as to where we stand. The only two options we have available that place burden on us either way unless we figure out how to receive state funding is: accept their offer with the 4 and 2 zoning; or do not accept that offer and the State will do whatever they want with no responsibilities to Penobscot County which is an even greater burden to the County.

Sheriff feels this has not been handled well; no real negotiations, but statements of what the State will do and what Penobscot County is going to do that. It's been disappointing that our patrol supervisors were contacted. The State Police wants to run

Sheriff's Update – Continued:

the interstate which looks like the State is moving away from their core historical mission of providing community policing to specialty policing. Sheriff is concerned about our operations which would greatly change. By stretching out one more zone, which is six or eight towns, this waters down our staffing making it more dangerous for our deputies; and certainly, it's not conducive for the citizens we serve.

Commissioner Baldacci stated that we cannot afford or should pay for three additional deputies because the State has vacated their responsibility. This increase to the taxpayers is not a one-time expense, it's an expense that will increase every single year and that's not fair to the County taxpayers.

Commissioner Baldacci states that if the State Police does nothing, then they should change the deadline to when it coincides with the budgets. That is not negotiating in good faith that they insist on the May 1st deadline.

- Sheriff reported on the body/vehicle camera request for the Patrol Deputies. The total project is \$460K over five years. A grant through BGA was submitted; however, will only fund for a one-year project (\$90K) so it has not been accepted. Discussion followed.
- The jail administrator position closes tonight; we received three applications

Administration Update -

Administrator Honey presented the following:

Communication:

- A research study was sent with a request to complete a survey; Administrator Honey will complete
- Information requesting an extension on the hydroelectric projects for Stillwater, Orono and Milford
- A tax abatement request from a citizen from Orono was received

HR:

- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve requiring employees or the public to wear face coverings inside the County building effective Wednesday, March 9th; with the understanding if Maine CDC changes guidance. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Administration Update – Continued:

Last week:

- Positive feedback has been received on the ARPA presentation last week from some towns
- The ARPA website has been updated
- Next week some proposals will be brought to you for your consideration
- Monitoring Legislative Bill 1654

This week:

- There is a meeting tonight in Drew Plantation
- Risk Pool and MCCA meeting will be held tomorrow via zoom
- NWDB will be holding their Board meeting on Thursday

Next week:

- Our monthly department head meeting will take place with discussion on the campus renovation project

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 03.04.2022: \$297,908.88
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 03.08.2022: \$ 363,411.93
- 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: David Kreutchic, Summer Sewall, Rhonda LeBlanc, Serena Dunroe, and Colton Almodovar – Hired Full-time; Amanda Sweden – Resignation; Shelley Carver – Payroll Status Change.

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 2-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey and HR Coordinator Michelle LaBree. Session ended at 10:55 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

