

Roll Call -

Commissioner Sanborn opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioners Baldacci, Cushing and Treasurer Hiatt present.

Administrator Erika Honey was absent

Public Comment –

Janet Drew – Resident of York County

Participant thanks our County for having a criteria on the ARPA spending. Please consider placing funds that will help people versus using those funds to punish.

Larry Dansinger – Resident of Bangor

Participant was requesting a response on communication Dylan Moore sent to the Commissioners regarding the additional criteria on the ARPA funding. Participant is hopeful that as County Commissioners you will decide that the additional criteria is not necessary as it will eliminate groups.

Participant referred to communication regarding a study looking at jail culture. Commissioner Baldacci reported this information was discussed and can be found on the website on posted minutes.

Deeds Update –

Register Susan Bulay presented the following:

- Document count for March were 13% below average with 3,065 documents
- Revenue was up 16% with \$118K turned over to the general fund
- Registers met with Maine Revenue Property Tax Division last week; it was disclosed that transfer tax will not be included in the new tax portal until 2024
- Department will be fully staffed starting next week

UT Update –

Deputy George Buswell presented the following:

- The solid waste contract in Greenfield for curbside pickup solid waste is ready to go to bid. There will be one change which will be extending the contract on the Myra Road which will cause an increase. The bid opening date will be at the May 31st meeting.
- With the heavy rain this past weekend, there was some damage to the Myra Road and those culverts will be reset
- Director Weeks and Deputy Buswell have worked this week on communicating with municipalities on collaboration on certain services

Northern Timber Cruisers Bottle Club License Public Hearing –

Commissioner Sanborn opened the public hearing on the Northern Timber Cruisers Bottle Club License.

Director Weeks stated that Northern Timber Cruisers had held that license in the past, due to COVID related issues that it had not been renewed for the past two years. This is part of the snowmobile-ATV club in T-3 Indian Purchase Township.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to close the public hearing after no public comment. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the Northern Timber Cruisers Bottle Club License as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

TAN Award –

Eaton Peabody Attorney Dan Pitman and Finance Director Jason Mallar presented the tax anticipation note paperwork.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve awarding Machias Savings Bank for 2022 tax anticipation note in the amount of \$4,740,964 with the interest rate of 1.99% as needed or on a lump sum basis. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Finance Update –

Director Jason Mallar presented a report on expenditures and revenues through March 31, 2022:

Finance Update – Continued:

- On Expenditures with following lines are a little overspent:
 - Commissioners from a large legal bill paid and MCCA dues
 - County Buildings with sand and salt costs
 - Jail due to outsourcing when the kitchen was closed down
 - IT contracts that are funded in the beginning of the year
 - Currently, overall, we have spent only 25.19% of our budget.
- On Revenue:
 - Deeds revenues are on track
 - Tax commitment payments typically start coming in July
 - We have received 2021 and 2022 Penobscot Nation tax payments

Director Mallar further reported:

- Confirmation that the County Audit for 2020 will be conducted April 20 and 21; Our contractor Sara McLaughlin will be available during this time

Deputy Treasurer Appointment –

Treasurer John Hiatt exercised his right as County Treasurer to nominate Finance Director Jason Mallar as his Deputy Treasurer with the Commissioners consent.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Finance Director Jason Mallar as Penobscot County Deputy Treasurer. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Facilities Update –

Director MacDonald reported the following on the Y property:

- Continued daily cleaning of used needles and other debris from our neighboring property
- A neighbor that has also been picking up needles in the area inquired as to what we are planning to do with the property
- Bangor Police will increase trips through the property
- It has been suggested we possibly turn back on the lights since people are making shelter on the property during the evening

Facilities Update – Continued:

Director MacDonald also reported:

- New maintenance technician Stephen Crocker who started yesterday was introduced to the Commissioners
- The jail renovation project is moving slow with the second phase finishing soon
- Repairs in the post office flooring in the lobby are being considered with types of flooring that would be best and when it can be done without disruption to service
- There are a number of jail issues with plumbing going on and looking for solutions
- Director MacDonald will meet with Haley Ward's project team this afternoon
- Using the information as provided in Haley Ward's report, we need to come up with what is best in serving the needs of the county

EMA Update –

Director Bradley Nuding reported the following:

- Mutual aid support to Waldo County for the St. George canoe races were provided
- An offer to support the upcoming Kenduskeag canoe race was provided to Bangor Fire Department. They will have the rescue boat and the mobile command vehicle on-scene.
- A GIS specialist has been hired with a start date of next week
- EMA facilitated a healthcare disaster exercise focusing on business continuity with 50 participants from across the State
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the purchase from RCM two radios and programming in the amount of \$1,275.38. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Troy Morton reported the following:

- In-house jail population is 164; including 5 Department of Corrections, 1-for-1 County Swap, 3 waiting for transfer on out of state extradition; 53 boarded out to other facilities.
- MAT program needs to be increased; however, this is time consuming and staff intensive with the physical layout of the building
- We are in discussion with PCHC in transitioning individuals on bond release with counseling and in person counseling when available

Sheriff's Update – Continued:

- The upgrade for the Securus iPad program has been postponed until the first week in June
- Department of Corrections extended our occupancy license for six additional months
- Two Bridges Correctional Facility sent us an MOU of how many inmates they will accept
- The prescription drug take back and paper shredding event will be held the last week of April at the Airport Mall parking lot
- Civil courts are slowing opening up. There is some concern over how the mileage increase is being calculated. Sheriff is asking the Commission to consider a set rate versus the variable rates that were proposed, as this is causing additional clerical processing.
- Patrol hiring for open contracts are continuing
- A full-time clerical specialist position closed last week
- Sheriff participated in a meeting with region 5 Chiefs discussing regional booking
- Sheriff is in early discussion with Maine Pre-Trial for contract renewal. At this time, they are looking at a 17% increase in services.

Sheriff reported on the Maine State Police Resource Sharing agreement:

- Our contract expires with MSP April 30th; this leaves us two weeks to make a decision on this reduction of services from them
- The Burdens of rural patrol should not fall on the Penobscot County taxpayers
- Requesting that this information has been forwarded to Penobscot County's Budget Committee so that they are aware of this situation
- Commissioners are hopeful that within the next week they'll be an understanding what the State may be willing to do. The State is in the final review of supplemental budgets this week.
- Sheriff stated that he was authorized on adding an additional deputy and two vehicles from the reserve account
- Commissioner Baldacci requested from the Sheriff an operational plan in case that the State does not provide additional funding
- Commissioners had recommended that the Sheriff signs the agreement

ARPA Update –

Ms. Carrithers discussed some of the concerns on the eligibility criteria received from the open session on Saturday. These clarifications have been made on the pre-qualification eligibility form for the Sub-Recipient program.

ARPA Update – Continued:

The questions relating to an organization's legal business status were clarified and wording added to specify that organizations who might not be non-profits may opt to use a Fiscal Agent to administer their funding.

This information was reiterated with respect to the requirement of previous Federal funding. Wording was also added to specify that Federal pass-through funds from the state would count as Federal funding as the accounting and reporting requirements would be similar.

Ms. Carrithers discussed the criteria for an organization existing for five years, if they are non-profit, this was made clearer on the prequalification questionnaire. Again, an organization in business for less than the 5 years may use a Fiscal Agent.

No changes were made to the Beneficiary program. The clarifications were made on the Sub Recipient program. Those eligibility criteria are required because of the need to adhere to federal funding requirements for organizations functioning as Sub-Recipients under 2 CFR 200.

Administration Update -

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 04.08.2022: \$ 247,352.51
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 04.12.2022: \$ 332,058.96
- UT Warrant to be approved for 04.12.2022: \$73,360.31
- 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: Adam Lowe Hired Full-time Corrections and Galen Williamson – Hired Full-time NWDB Executive Director; Joseph Baillargeon – Resignation; Samuel McCarty, Michael Morin, Anastasia Davis and Nichole Matthes – Payroll Status Changes.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:18 a.m. a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Director Mallar, Treasurer Hiatt and Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers. Session ended at 10:55 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:56 a.m. a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Director Mallar, Treasurer Hiatt, Attorney Tim Pease, Director Weeks and Deputy Buswell. Session ended at 11:24 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 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