

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 31, 2022 2386
9:00 AM Commissioners Laura Sanborn, Peter Baldacci and Andre Cushing 51°

Roll Call -

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

Commissioner Cushing arrived at 9:04 AM

Treasurer John Hiatt were absent

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve May 24, 2022 Commissioner Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Public Comment –

Commissioner Sanborn introduced Kyra Armitage, a Criminal Justice student at Husson College. Kyra is shadowing Commissioner Sanborn to see how the county government interacts with her course of study.

Probate Update –

Registrar Renee Stupak reported the following:

- The Probate office is interviewing for a new Clerical Specialist
- A Probate Judge has yet to be appointed replacing Judge Amy Faircloth. The Probate office is currently working with other county Judges to cover cases. Discussion followed.

DA Update –

ADA Chelsea Lynds reported the following:

- ADA Lynds attended the National Cyber Crimes Conference in Boston with members of the Sheriff's Office. This conference focused on digital evidence, electronic devices and issues faced. This conference was broken into two tracks – prosecutor and law enforcement. What was interesting and helpful was hearing other prosecutors having issues that we're just starting to see here in Penobscot County.

DA Update – Continued:

- SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners) Training took place here with a great turnout of nurses. SAFE isn't limited to just sexual assault, but all Domestic Violence cases, particularly when there's a strangulation component involved. These individuals go through a lot of training to gather evidence, while creating a safe space for the victim. For our SAFE Training exercise, we conducted four mock trials. This was helpful for the prosecutors, since trials are just starting back up and we were able to provide and receive feedback.
- ADA Lynds reported on the Crimes Against Women Conference she attended in Dallas. This was a multidisciplinary training that consisted of prosecutors, law enforcement advocates, SAFE nurses and medical examiners. What ADA Lynds found most helpful was the pre-conference day that focused on strangulation. ADA Lynds primary focus on the sessions that were trial focused and how to most effectively work with and present the victim to the jury or the judge. Discussion followed.

Solid Waste Bid Opening –

Commissioner Sanborn opened up the solid waste bids for the Unorganized Territory. The following two vendors submitted their bids by the requested deadline.

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Total
Ireland's Rubbish Service	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$228,000
Maine Waste System	\$43,800	\$44,440	\$45,000	\$133,200

Commissioner Baldacci moved to take these under advisement. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

PILT Request for Millinocket Regional Hospital –

EMDC Economic Development Director Amy Collinsworth presented the following:

- Millinocket Regional Hospital is looking to have a feasibility study to grow and expand services in the emergency care area. Director Collinsworth is requesting \$20K from PILT funding to complement the \$20K accommodated by the TIF application. Discussion followed.
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve \$20K from PILT funding for the feasibility study for Millinocket Regional Hospital. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

UT Update -

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following contract for approval:

- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve the Grand Falls snow removal contract with Sunset Development. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Deputy George Buswell presented the following:

- Deputy Buswell presented a spreadsheet on the road work estimates; along a standard list of work that is looking to get accomplished this summer. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the work plan as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Deputy Buswell and Director Weeks will be meeting with members of the Mattawamkeag Fire Department tomorrow afternoon. Then tomorrow evening will meet with the selectmen of Mt. Chase on solid waste discussions.

After Action –

After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Maine Waste as the Solid Waste vendor for the Unorganized Territory. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

EMA Update -

Director Bradley Nuding presented the following:

- GSI Manager, Thomas Fennell was introduced to the Commissioners.
 - Thomas has been extremely busy by mapping out our hazardous material facility sites; the findings have been communicated to each of the fire and police chiefs
 - Thomas is working with the Maine State Police on some special mapping projects
 - Thomas is mapping out our critical infrastructure here in Penobscot County; such as high hazard dams and hazardous material sites
 - When ready, the plan is to reach out to municipalities to provide mapping services
- EMA provided support to UMaine for Maine Day and their commencement
- EMA will be providing support for Special Olympics
- An exercise at Bangor International Airport took place with a large turnout

EMA Update – Continued:

- Director Nuding met with Newport Town Manager Jim Ricker and a ride along with Newport Fire. Immediate concern discussed was the rising cost of fuel oil costs and where that lies in emergency management as opposed to social services need. We need to find out what constitutes as a disaster.
- We supported the Red Cross “Sound the Alarm” campaign which was installing smoke detectors and giving some general awareness on them
- Assisted in coordinating some resources for the Piscataquis County wildfire
- Deputy Director Lynn Dwelley has submitted her resignation and the position closes on June 6th.

Administration Update –

Communication:

- Invitation to participate in the Race for Recovery that will be held in September
- Request from the Administrative Office of the Courts to participate in a total compensation study.
- Request from AFSCME bargaining unit audit and has requested an extensive list of information about our employees

Employment within the County:

- Updated spreadsheet on open positions
- A follow-up meeting with PRCC on a strategic plan on recruitment and retention

Last Week:

- Met with our insurance broker to discuss our health insurance renewal
- After a web demo with TRIO, we are waiting on estimates on a conversion process and accounts receivable module estimate
- Working on time clock upgrade
- Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers and Administrator Honey are working on the PREA Grant process with the jail cultural assessment being completed on July 13th.
- Met with AFSCME representatives to discuss different possibilities for scheduling and promotion of openings in our clerical division

Next Week:

- The jail tour has been rescheduled for next week
- Two grievances are scheduled for next week

Administration Update – Continued:

This week:

- Our monthly department head meeting will be held tomorrow discussing the budget process; with a mid-year review in July of our budgets
- Our municipal survey will be going out today with a last-minute question which came as a follow up conversation with Community Health Leadership Board Laura Mitchell. If there is interest in Penobscot County facilitating discussions around regional issues.

Miscellaneous:

- The month of July is going to very busy for us. In order for the County to consider having the referendum on the on the November ballot, we must have the question submitted to the State by August 30th. The plan would be we need to bring it to the Budget Committee; then each Commissioner will hold a hearing in your own district to present the question.
- Discussion on the communication of the NACo Conference that is being held July 21-24 in Colorado.
- Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers reported that applications for the county ARPA grant funds close at 5:00 p.m. June 15th. To date, there are 14 sub-recipient applications started; two have been submitted. Eighteen beneficiary applications have started, with 12 submitted. In July, applications are going to be read and the Commissioners will be voting on them.

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 05.27.2022: \$ 259,241.32
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 05.31.2022: \$ 136,295.14
- 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: Melodie Farren - Hired Part-time; William Lovejoy – Resignation; Lisa Dwinal – Payroll Status Changes.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.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, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner