

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 May 31, 2022 Commissioner Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Public Comment –

Chief Jason Moffitt, Brewer Police Department came before the Commissioners voicing his concern with regional booking feeling that regional booking needs to be in the hands of the county and not to local departments.

Chief Moffitt states that the lack of consistent access to regional booking is causing a lot of safety issues both for staff and the public. The City of Brewer is not equipped to process arrestees safely; there are no holding cells and no bars to lock them up even temporarily so that paperwork can be completed. Chief Moffitt is looking for some sort of plan until modification of the jail is done.

Chief Moffitt stated that regional booking is available only if there is room in the jail. Although there have been times when there is someone with a violent crime, even if over bed capacity, they will be allowed in to process and house the arrestee.

Chief Moffitt was troubled as he felt the Commissioners had not provided information regarding plans for the jail. Commissioner Baldacci stated this information had been reported in our meetings, the newspaper and Sheriff has been involved in the development taking place. Commissioner reported that we put out to bid for services for engineering and architectural to renovate and design the jail. We're hopeful that we can report in a couple weeks the plan that our engineers and architects have come up with. We are looking to have a plan together to go out for bond to the voters in November.

NWDB Update –

Executive Director Galan Williamson presented the following:

- This is Director Williamson's third week as executive director of NWDB replacing Joanna Russell
- Director Williamson's background is 25 years in juvenile corrections
- Passion in working on workforce development; having a stable sustainable income is such a huge part of the success of a youth and in adults
- Goals were set and the first goal set was to meet everybody; has been to Piscataquis County. Will meet with Aroostook, Washington and Hancock Counties in July
- Looking to hear from employers and job seekers about what the challenges are
- The challenges in terms of sustaining a strong healthy economic workforce
- Will meet with Finance Director Jason Mallar on the 2022-2023 budget today

EMDC Director of Workforce Development Erin Benson presented the following:

- Program year PY21 began on July 1; the numbers presented are from July 1, 2021 until June 3, 2022 that have been served in Penobscot County
 - Clients Served Total – 218: 128 adults, 53 dislocated workers, 36 youth.
 - There is a struggle recruiting people that are unemployed (Dislocated Workers). We have met with the RESEA staff (a program for rapid re-employment of those on Unemployment Insurance to explain our program for referral purposes, and sent emails to those in the Maine Job Link (MJL) who might qualify for the Dislocated Worker Program.
 - There is also a struggle with connecting youth into our programs. Some are getting work at higher wages than we can provide through a work experience. Getting work is good! However, our youth program teaches the employability skills that many employers say are lacking; the value of being on time, to keep showing up for work, and the value of communicating with an employer when you don't feel well. Once these skills are learned, it helps youth build good work behaviors which curtail their movement from job to job to job.
 - There are 97 people enrolled in Connecting with Opportunities which will end December 31, 2022. This grant has been instrumental in providing valuable support services to these clients to help them succeed, i.e. dentures. There is nothing that can bring confidence to a person more than a nice smile.

NWDB Update – Continued:

- Services – 141 Support Services (barriers such as auto repairs, medical issues, childcare, books, tools and gas money), 30 work experiences (we pay the wage; the employers provide the supervisor and mentorship to guide), 5 on the job training and 119 people are currently in training (MA, CNA, CDL, etc.).
- Ms. Benson participates in the PACE program that the Sheriff's Office offers
- EMDC was awarded the WIOA Youth contract for the Northeastern Workforce Development Board region
- MDOL Commissioner Laura Fortman participated in a Facebook live event with two of EMDC's youth ambassadors. Commissioner Fortman was very impressed with those two young ladies.

UT Update -

Director Shaw Weeks presented the following contract for approval:

- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the Shin Pond Municipal ATV grant for the Shin Pond Trail Riders. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Deputy Buswell is at Straggly Lake with our contractor to finish the project with the deadline set for July 1st.
- We've been meeting with regional fire departments; met with Mt. Chase last week to meet regarding a potential solution to some of our solid waste issues
- Have been working with the TIF Committee on updating the bylaws
- Am working on an internal TIF proposal for assistance with the Kingman/Prentiss area for a fire tanker

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Troy Morton presented the following:

- In-house jail population is 154; 64 boarded out to other facilities, 1 MDOC inmate, no county swaps, no federal inmates and **86** inmates in Pre-trial Services
- In 2011 Sheriff Ross was talking about the overcrowding challenges of regional booking; these challenges are still going on a decade later
- Mental illness in the jail is the greatest struggle; these inmates involve additional staffing as well as our psychiatrists spending all of their time with one or two individuals versus the many that could be seen in the facility.

Sheriff's Update – Continued:

- People with mental health issues or substance abuse issues back on the street is not in their best interest, nor the public's best interest. We are a resource rich area, but you cannot force a person into accepting some help.
- Special thanks to Administrator Honey and the HR department with all their assistance in advertising positions, scheduling interviews, promotions, and transfers for our department.
- Applications are being accepted for both Patrol Deputies and Correctional Officers
- Securus tablets have arrived and should be in place by the end of June for programming
- Courts are returning to some normal practices; hoping that courts will decide to either run video services in the jail or transporting to the courts. There is not enough staffing to do both
- Law enforcement has seen an increase of calls for service and the complex issue calls coming in; overdoses, medical causes of death, suicides, and traffic related crashes. We're starting to see some of the impact of reduction of resource sharing.
- There has been an increase in community demand to participate in municipal events. We're trying to find a balance with community involvement.
- With the cost of rising prices on everything, it has been challenging on the budget.
- Continued discussion on regional booking conversation that took place with Chief Moffitt.

Administration Update –

Communication:

- We should be hearing final numbers on the County Campus renovation project in the next couple of weeks
- Hydroelectric project communication in Commissioners folders
- We will be sharing communication to you from residents who are not from Penobscot County that would still like to express their concerns; just not through public comment

Employment within the County:

- Updated spreadsheet on open positions
- Hoping in the next month or so an internal career fair here on campus
- Met with PRCC on a strategic plan on recruitment

This week:

- Risk Pool and MCCA Meetings will be held tomorrow
- Discussions with AFSCME and FOP groups

Administration Update – Continued:

- Administrator Honey will be attending the Drew Deorganization meeting this Thursday
- A jail funding meeting will be taking place this Friday
- Director Weeks will help us put together an application for PILT funding
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve \$12,171.85 from ARPA funding to purchase an upgrade to TRIO, our finance software system. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Last Week:

- Our monthly department head meeting was held last week and we will be focusing heavily on our budget process
- The shared services survey went out to all the municipalities last week and so far, we've had 14 replies

Next Week:

- A grievance is scheduled for next week

Miscellaneous:

- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the County paying registration costs to the NACo Conference on July 21-24 in Colorado for Commissioner Cushing to attend. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0. Commissioner Cushing abstained.

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 06.03.2022: \$ 264,133.11
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 06.07.2022: \$ 835,542.93
- UT Warrant to be approved for 06.07.2022: \$ 41,304.89
- 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: Gary Decker and Jordon Norton – Promotion; Stephen Clay, Jesse McCombs, Blake Miller and Cliff Warren – Resignation; Brandon Deans, Ian Libby, Rachel Libby, Ruel Libby, John Neff, Johnathan Nesmith, Anya Sproule and James Williams – Payroll Status Changes

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:11 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, Administrator Honey and Office Manager Kristine Higgins. Session ended at 10:15 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:16 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, Administrator Honey, Director Chris Lavoie and Director Mallar. Session ended at 10:23 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:24 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners and Administrator Honey. Session ended at 10:29 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Jail tour commenced after adjournment

Certified By:

Administrator, Erika Honey

Laura J. Sanborn, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner