

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes June 21, 2022 2389
9:00 AM Commissioners Laura Sanborn, Peter Baldacci and Andre Cushing 61°

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 June 14, 2022 Commissioner Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Public Comment –

Brian Pitman – Resident of Orono

Participant requested updates on the possibility of expanding the Penobscot County Jail. Participant would like Included in the updates, Haley Wards proposed design and costs and how the county plans to pay for this and if ARPA funds will be used.

Participant stated ARPA fund were given to local governments to “enable them to continue to support the public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery”. Expanding a jail does not actually serve that function; those funds would be better suited for mental health treatment, healthcare and housing.

Participant raised concern that residents outside of Penobscot County are not allowed to publicly comment during these meetings.

Larry Dansinger – Citizen of Bangor

Participant voiced his concern of censorship of individuals outside Penobscot County not allowed to voice their opinion during Public Comment. Participant is requesting a link from Maine State law that excludes public meeting participation from those outside Penobscot County.

Participant is requesting more transparency in regards to the jail. Would like to know when the jail culture study and the Board of Visitors meetings reports will occur.

Participant is requesting Commissioners show prevention and care; not punishment and pain.

DA's Office Update –

Office Manager Kristine Higgins presented the following:

- There are two staff openings that close next week; hopefully we will be fully staffed by end of summer
- Today is a busy workday with 17 new lockups (13 new arrest; 4 arrested on warrants)
- DA Lynch is participating in Red Flag Law training at Bangor Police Department
- Court has been extremely busy; Court Clerk Peter Schleck is no longer with the Court and there is a temporary replacement taking over those responsibilities
- Court is understaffed and is extremely busy. The weekly court list is coming late which is making the DA's office scramble notifying victims and witnesses

Finance Update –

Director Jason Mallar presented the Commissioners two spreadsheets with an 10% overall increase and 10% supplies increase from May until end of year. Discussion followed on inflation and next year's budget.

PRCC Update –

Director Chris Lavoie and Deputy Josh Lilley presented the following –

- PRCC is part of the implementation of the 9-8-8- crisis hotline which was supposed to be live July 1, 2022; that is not going to happen as there are bugs to be worked out
- The northern microwave equipment will be here end of this month; equipment will be cut over in the new building the week of July 11th
- A new policy will be developed and provided to the two tenants (Town of Lincoln and Penobscot Valley Hospital)

Facilities Update –

Director Brian MacDonald reported the following:

- There is no advantage to having dual fuel for the boilers; quotes have been requested for natural gas burning boilers

Facilities Update – Continued:

- There is a possibility that one of the boilers will be able to repaired. If able to do so, we would be able to forego a rental
- There were power issues Thursday and the generator had to be used and nothing in the jail control room was damaged

Administration Update –

Communication:

- Communication from the Enfield hydroelectric projects
- A member of the public inquired to the cultural study of the jail. The PREA grant has scheduled an on-site cultural study on July 13th
- The art mural on the Franklin Street wall was completed over the weekend
- A Commissioners Meeting Policy draft is almost complete
- Shared services survey had 24 participants

Employment within the County:

- IT Director position closes today with interviews being held end of this week; in the interim, we are working on filling the gap in the interim

Grants Update:

Grant Manager Lisette Carrithers thanked Sheriff Morton, Lt. Hotaling and Chief Knappe for their assistance in getting information for the COPS policing grant; this grant was submitted June 15th which if awarded will be \$250K over three years to fill two deputy slots.

Discussion was held on the ARPA grant program. There were 17 subrecipient applications and 30 beneficiary applications received by the June 15th deadline. Those have been assigned for review. Discussion followed on the process going forward.

Last Week:

- The second disbursement of ARPA funds from the Treasury were received

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 06.17.2022: \$ 279,632.33
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 06.21.2022: \$ 105,692.40
- UT Warrant to be approved for 06.21.2022: \$20,317.50
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for: NONE

Administration Update – Continued:

- 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: Edmond Bearor - Hired Probate Judge; Joanna Russell – Resignation

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Troy Morton reported the following:

- In-house jail population is 164; 4 inmates being held for MDOC; 65 boarded out to other facilities and there are **95** inmates in pre-trial services.
- Discussions were held last weeks with the State of Maine, DHHS regarding funding for the MAT program; funding is not the problem, staffing is
- There are four inmates currently awaiting a mental health facility
- There are no designated medical beds in PCJ; we need extra beds to place those with substance use and mental health disorders away from the other inmate population. We are looking for a facility that's designed so that we can house individuals appropriately, and provide the services needed such as education and treatments.
- Several schools have reached out to Sheriff for trainings and school resource officers
- Staffing for deputies is a challenge; along with the recent changes to State Police resource sharing, town contracts are coming in. Sheriff is worried that there will not be enough deputies to fulfill all those needs.
- Thank you to those involved working on the COPS policing grant
- A resource has been found on cruiser availability in the event we need to purchase more
- Our Search and Rescue team assisted an area police department last night for a gentleman with dementia lost in the woods. With our new technology, he was located within minutes
- The change in legislation on Civil fees were adopted in our department; notification will be sent out to those that use this service
- Maine Pre-Trial proposed fiscal year budget was presented to the Commissioners to include a 17% increase (\$195K to \$228K) to this budget. The increases are for housing, a supervisor position, pay structure to current employees and testing supplies.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey, Director MacDonald, Director Jason Mallar, Sheriff Morton, Lt Hotaling, Captain Hardwick and HOK Designers. Session ended at 10:55 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:56 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Honey, Director Lavoie and Deputy Lilley. Session ended at 11:15 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Cushing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:16 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners and Administrator Honey. Session ended at 11:37 a.m.

Action Taken -

None

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 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