

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes September 27, 2022 2403
9:00 AM Commissioners Laura Sanborn, Peter Baldacci and Andre Cushing 59°

Roll Call -

Commissioner Sanborn opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioner Baldacci, Administrator Adkins, and Dep. Admin. LaBree present.

Commissioner Cushing arrived 9:06 a.m.

Treasurer John Hiatt was absent

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve September 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes.
Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Public Comment –

Larry Dansinger – Bangor Resident

Participant requested a moment of silence for the individual who passed in the jail over the weekend.

Participant recognizes there are jail staffing shortages and poor conditions in the jail, but feels that ARPA funding should be used for support services with mental health, poverty and addiction to divert people from the jail. Punishment is not an effective way to change people's behavior.

Janet Drew – Citizen of York County

Participant echo's Larry Dansinger's statement. Participant is hopeful that ARPA funding will help with housing and transition care.

EMA Update –

Director Bradley Nuding reported the following:

- Deputy Director Chris Fox is away this week on training; GIS Data Manager Thomas Fennell participated in reporting
- EMA participated in the Rowling's Wind Farm exercise in Lincoln on contingency planning
- Today EMA will participate in the US EPA Region One emergency drinking water supply exercise

EMA Update – Continued:

- EMA hosted Maine's new Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisor, TJ Swenson for critical infrastructure collaboration
- Participated in a statewide energy emergency preparedness meeting with the Governor's Energy Office, Public Utilities Commission, ISO New England, Maine Emergency Management Agency and County EMA's
- EMA updated municipalities and public safety agencies on the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment
- Finished the Spilman Scope of Work; takeaways were provided for PRCC and IT
- Continuing public safety ride-along: Brewer, Lincoln and Hampden

EMA (Dept. 3) Budget Presentation –

Director Bradley Nuding presented his department's budget for the 2023 calendar year, with the following changes:

- EMA's proposed budget has a 29% overall increase. During a five-year study of each line item the changes have been justified based off of our strategic plan for this coming year.
- Staffing:
 - Would like EMA Director Payscale to be stand alone; not under the UT umbrella
 - Due to the size of Penobscot County and responsibilities requesting an increase in salary for both Director and Deputy Director
 - Requesting a 24 hours part-time financial position freeing up time for the Director to devote more time for outreach to the municipalities
 - Take \$12K off Homeland Security Grant monies from Thomas' salary and move to the County, \$6k of which would be covered by Emergency Performance Grant
- Increase funding of computer services and software for licenses for additional services
- Increase funding for telephone/internet utilities, building rental, training, supplies and equipment, and uniforms and clothing
- Combine Parts and Maintenance to read: gas, oil and tires
- Increase capital funding for motor vehicle
- New line items for capital funding for County Disaster
- Increase capital funding for EMA repeater (this fund already exists; it just hasn't been funded in years)
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to take this budget under advisement. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

UT Update –

Director George Buswell reported the following:

- Commissioner Cushing moved to approve road name change in lower Shin Pond to read Pleasant Point Rd. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- After review of the TIF Committee by laws, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve these as modified. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Maine Stream Finance, our TIF loan/grant manager, contract ran out in the beginning of September. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve to continue with Maine Stream Finance as Penobscot County's TIF loan/grant manager. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed. 3-0. Signed.
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve current contractor for the Millinocket Lake Road to include two roads between Millinocket and Brownsville for Norcross Rd and West Seboeis Rd, for an additional \$20K a year. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Commissioner Sanborn and Director Buswell met with the Springfield Board of Selectman on fire protection coverage for Drew Plantation and the town of town of Prentiss. We are currently trying to negotiate a contract with them.
- The solid waste contract with Neil Bonneville which was approved on May 31, 2022 was signed by the Commissioners.
- Both Director Buswell and UT Dep. Director Morrison will attend the Matagamom Dam Association dam celebration on Monday, October 3rd.

UT Administration (Department 14) Budget Presentation –

Director George Buswell presented his department's budget for the 2023 calendar year, with the following changes:

- UT Administration shows a slight decrease in the budget of \$8K
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 14 budget as presented. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Recovery Funds Request –

Administrator Scott Adkins presented a request for bullet proof vests in the amount of \$28,800. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve 15% taken from TIF funds and 85% from PILT funds. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update –

Communication:

- The first opioid check has been received. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve placement of these funds to be placed in the general fund with expenses being tracked. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- After discussion, it was decided that a caucus for budget committee members will be held October 11th 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers
- The Town of Garland has been contacted for a more official answer on the abandoned road issue

Employment within the County:

- Due to an upcoming opening in the Finance Dept., Commissioners support rehiring DJ Kirby on a temporary basis
- Updated spreadsheet is enclosed with updated positions within the County; two positions have been advertised today

Last Week:

- A meeting was held with CIGNA last week; waiting to hear back from our discussion
- A productive meeting was held with AFSCME; discussions will continue

This Week:

- A meeting for the PCJ Elevator Project will take place Thursday
- Working on resources to the staff over at the jail in response to the incident over the weekend

Next Week:

- The department head meeting will be held with de-escalation training

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 09.23.2022: \$ 259,696.40
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 09.27.2022: \$ 81,759.16
- UT Warrant to be approved for 09.27.2022: \$36,525.12
- UT TIF Warrant to be approved for 09.27.22: \$20,000.00

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: John McEwen and Daniel Gastia – Payroll Status Changes

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:28 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, Administrator Adkins, Dep. Admin. LaBree, John Nuttall, C/O Dearing and C/O Gardner. Session ended at 11:04 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:05 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 Adkins, Dep. Admin. LaBree, and Director Lavoie. Session ended at 11:11 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:12 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 Adkins, Dep. Admin. LaBree, and Director MacDonald. Session ended at 11:36 a.m.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:37 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, Administrator Adkins, and Dep. Admin. LaBree. Session ended at 11:47 a.m.

Public Session/Action Taken

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to deny the grievance, GCN #172, for the reason that the denial of the promotion was made on a sufficient basis. The Commissioners feel the Sheriff allowed for appropriate discretion along with other factors which supported a reasonable basis for the decision. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. The vote on the motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion for the three Sheriff's Office Patrol Clerical Specialists and the DA Investigator position a wage adjustment for pay period beginning October 2, 2022. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Scott A. Adkins

Laura J. Sanborn, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

Andre E. Cushing, III, Commissioner