

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 13, 2022 # 2414
8:15 AM Commissioners Laura Sanborn, Peter Baldacci and Andre Cushing 19°**

Roll Call -

Commissioner Sanborn opened the meeting at 8:18 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioners Baldacci present along with Administrator Adkins and Deputy Admin. LaBree present. Commissioner Cushing present at 8:30 a.m.

Treasurer John Hiatt absent.

Opening Statement –

Commissioner Baldacci opened the meeting to state their intent to continue to work with the City of Bangor to discuss additional details in regards to projects that fall under the ARPA Grant program. The County continues to collaborate funding efforts with the City of Bangor.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:19 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) Contract Matter. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 2-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins and Deputy Admin. LaBree and City of Bangor Councilor Rick Fournier. Session ended at 8:55 a.m.

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Opioid Settlement

Shayna Sacks, Napoli Law, met with Commissioners to discuss the Opioid Litigation Settlement. Ms. Sacks gave an overview of how the case against the manufacturer and distributors of opioids came to be. A document outlining how the funds can be spent was provided- primarily it is for abatement. Abatement criteria is very broad, but assistance can be provided to us when we fit our needs to align with the settlement criteria. Ms. Sacks then explained how the funds are broken down and the annual reporting requirements. This information is all in the summary of information provided to Administration & Commissioners.

Commissioner Sanborn would like to propose the County create a committee to oversee the funding that we will acquire over the next several years and expressed interest to serve on the committee.

Registry of Deed's— Registrar Susan Bulay presented the following:

- Document count 32% below average and funding is down 35% on average. Revenue projection of \$ 1.175 million was met in October. Susan will go back and see historically when she met her revenue projection annually.

UT Update – Director Buswell reported the following:

- Millinocket Snowmobile Club provided the agreement for Commissioners signature. This was approved at a previous Commissioners' meeting. Signed.
- ACO contracts have been sent out to all the towns for 2023. This includes the increase in wages for the ACO Officers. Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the ACO Contracts for Bradley, Clifton & Dedham for 2023. Commissioner Cushing seconded, vote to approve passed 3-0.

Facilities Update – Director Brian MacDonald presented the following:

- Facilities continues to work on heating within the County Building.
- Dishwasher replacement in the jail is complete.
- M, N & P Block work ongoing in the jail.
- Elevator project is on schedule.
- Boilers are online as of last Friday. Rental boiler will be returned.

Administration Update – Administrator Adkins and Dep Admin LaBree presented the following:

- Commissioners Fund Applications will be provided to Commissioners via hard copy. Commissioners will review at next weeks' meeting.
- Administration would like to invite the newly elected Commissioner & Treasurer to the January Dept. Head Meeting. This would be an opportunity to meet and get to know the staff.
- The Holiday Luncheon is this Friday, 16th at 11:30 in the 3rd floor space.

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 12.13.2022: \$ 288,012.35
- A/P Warrant to be approved for 12.12.2022: \$ 683,766.28
- A/P Tif Warrant to be approved for 12.12.2022: \$93,936.46

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: C. Cepelak Jr., J. Hiatt, L. Sanborn & E. Bearor.

Public Hearing- 2023 County Budget

Commissioner Sanborn opened the public hearing on the 2023 Penobscot County Budget at 10:01 a.m. Administrator Adkins summarized the County budget at \$ 26,881,576. with a tax assessment of \$21,087,005. The increase in taxes is \$1,550,709 which is a 7.94% increase. The Commissioners have approved a 1-year override of the cap, which was 6.67%

Commissioner Cushing made a motion to close the hearing at 10:04 a.m. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to close the hearing passed 3-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m., under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) Contract Matter. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Chris Lavoie, Brad Fitzgerald, Administrator Adkins and Deputy Admin. LaBree. Session ended at 10:44 a.m.

Action Taken – None

Meeting Adjourned-

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 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