

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023 #2422
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing and David Marshall

Roll Call -

Commission Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree present.

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Baldacci

Public Comment –

Larry Dansinger, resident of Bangor, discussed the report “Beyond Jails” that was sent to the Commission. This report focused on funding prevention versus incarceration.

Janet Drew, resident of York County, discussed the Moss Group report that was placed on the county website. Participant had a differing opinion of some the results of the report; however, felt there were some good suggestions reported.

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve January 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Deeds Update -

Register Susan Bulay reported the following:

- Document count for January was 25% below average with 2,051 documents
- Revenue for January was 25% below average with \$73,789 turned over to the general fund
- There is ongoing discussion with Administrator Adkins on reducing the Deeds Office space requirements
- Looking to change vendors that produces microfilm for our office as our current vendor is behind in production

UT Update –

Director George Buswell presented the following:

- Most of the roads are posted for spring; there are a few roads left far north
- The Howland Fire and Ambulance contracts (Grand Falls in Summit Township and Mattamiscontis) were discussed. Director Buswell will be meeting with them tomorrow and will be able to report more information to the Commission.
- Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the ACO Contract for Edinburg as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the ACO Contract for the Town of Hudson as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- With rising fuel prices, the fuel adjustment clause has been used on some of the contracts
- Every shed has sand and salt left over

Patriot Consulting –

Zachary Lingley from Patriot Consulting reported what he and Jim Mitchell will be working on in Augusta for the County. This six-month contract was approved on January 31st with focus on country related services for rural patrol funding and regional health facility for mental health/substance abuse treatment.

Discussion continued on how to engage our legislators to bring awareness. Mr. Lingley proposes holding zoom meetings every two to three weeks.

It was originally thought that payment for this consulting contract would be paid from ARPA funds; it was found later they were not. Administrator Adkins will report to the Commission some options where funds can be taken.

EMA Update –

Deputy Director Chris Fox reported the following:

- GIS Specialist Thomas Fennell completed an extensive overhaul of public safety response zones within Spillman
- EMA is coordinating a volunteer fair at the Brewer Auditorium March 25th from 10 AM – 2 PM for nonprofit and civic organizations to help them gain additional volunteer for their organizations as well as bring a little exposure to what EMA does
- EMA hosted a regional project management training with both public and private sector partners in the county with the purpose of developing comprehensive emergency plans and staffing professional development goals. The next training will be March 21-23
- Thomas Fennell and Deputy Fox attended a meeting at the CMP headquarters in Augusta regarding the recent winter storms & how CMP liaisons can be folded into EMA operations during events
- EMA facilitated a discussion amongst regional public safety partners in the Lincoln area regarding responding to incidents on Interstate 95 and how to better coordinate them

Public Hearing –

Commission Chair Cushing moved to open the Public Hearing on a Special Event Permit for the Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race at 9:30 AM Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

This event will take place on June 3, 2023 and proved to be a great success in the past. It's professional and well run. All necessary paperwork and fees have been filled out.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to close the Public Hearing at 9:33 AM with no further discussion. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Public Hearing – Continued:

Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the Special Event Permit as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

PRCC Update –

Director Lavoie and Deputy Fitzgerald presented the following:

- Staffing is 16 trained positions down; there are currently 7 people in training with potential in March to have up to 11 in training. It takes 18 weeks to train a new employee. Further discussion on a temporary increase in FTO pay; this will be continued at the next Commissioner meeting.
- Penobscot was the busiest 911 call center in the State of Maine last year with 68,443 calls
- All of the electrical work for the radio project sites have been completed with exception for a site in Millinocket.
- The tower on this roof has failed; working with the engineers to come up with solutions
- Wireless construction has started the geo probe of the soil in Lincoln for that tower to be built out; ground breaking on construction of the new tower should start in early spring.
- Maine EMS has implemented a new ruling stating that a registry for public use AED's need to be staffed for RCC. Discussion continued; Commission felt a letter be sent and Administrator will send a letter in support of PRCC.

2023 Commissioner's Order for Tax Assessment –

Finance Bragdon presented for approval the 2023 Commissioner's Order for Tax Assessment. After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve a late charge of 6% to those municipalities with unpaid taxes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update –

Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree presented the following:

- EMDC is holding their Annual Luncheon & Awards Thursday, February 23rd at noon
- Discussion on the communication received from St. Joseph's Healthcare regarding opioid funding
- PCHC ARPA request will be discussed at next week's workshop
- TRIO web database was finalized Friday; trials will be taking place along with training
- Administrator would like the option to explore outsourcing payroll services at a later date. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve going out to RFP for payroll services. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Administrator Adkins stated at last week's MCCA meeting he reported to the Speaker of the House, Senate President and Commissioner Fournier regarding the jail funding issue

Administration Update – Continued:

Warrants:

- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 02.10.2023: \$289,100.12
- Payroll Warrant to be approved for 02.17.2023: \$297,049.59
- Accounts Payable Warrant to be approved for 02.14.2023: \$319,374.26
- Accounts Payable Warrant (ARPA) to be approved for 02.14.2023: \$380,171.21
- Accounts Payable Warrant to be approved for 02.21.2023: \$258,560.09
- Accounts Payable Warrant (ARPA) to be approved for 02.21.2023: \$4,620.00
- Accounts Payable Warrant (Civil) to be approved for 02.21.2023: \$26,779.00
- UT Accounts Payable Warrant to be approved for 02.14.2023: \$88,587.99
- UT / TIF Warrant to be approved for 02.21.2023: \$252,075.07

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the warrants as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Payroll Change Notices signed for: Ryan Buck, Andrew Hall and Amy Smith

ARPA / \$300K Commissioner Fund Awards –

Commission and Grant Manager Wendy Dana presented the following awards to the following organizations. Each representative informed the Commissioners of their intentions for the award monies.

District 1:

- Bangor Area Youth Choirs - \$5,000
- Bangor Land Trust - \$30,000
- Crosspoint Church - \$25,000
- St. Andre Home - \$20,000

District 2:

- Plymouth Recreation Department - \$49,500
- Town of Charleston - \$49,700

District 3:

- Breaking the Cycle - \$24,999
- Burlington Food Pantry - \$35,000
- Caring Community Cupboard - \$35,000
- Orono Land Trust - \$15,000
- PIR2Peer Recovery Center - \$9,000
- Town of Enfield - \$15,000
- Town of Howland - \$34,500

Recess

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:00 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator LaBree, Treasurer Mower, Director Lavoie and Deputy Fitzgerald. Session ended at 11:05 AM

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:06 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator LaBree, Treasurer Mower, Sheriff Morton and Capt. Hardwick. Director Bragdon arrived at 11:20 AM. Session ended at 11:37 AM

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:38 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree, Treasurer Mower and Director Bragdon. Session ended at 11:55 AM

Action Taken –

- Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the change in the current pay scale for the PRCC QA Tech to that of a scale as a dispatcher. Commissioner Marshall seconded, vote to approve 3-0.
- Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve a new position for corrections that will be split with finance. Commissioner Marshall seconded, vote to approve 3-0.
- Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to update the policy from 8/28/2018 in regards to the County paying 50% for a spouse of an employee with 30 years of service towards the retiree plan. The language stating that “upon an employee’s death” will be removed from the policy and the updated policy will be effective March 1, 2023. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion, vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the Revised Supplemental Taxation Policy (AKA Separate Check) that was presented effective February 21, 2023. Commissioner Marshall seconded, vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 AM with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner

Administrator, Scott A. Adkins