

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023 #2448
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing and David Marshall

Roll Call -

Commissioner Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioners' Marshall, Baldacci & Cushing present along with Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, and Jennifer Snow representing Deputy Administrator LaBree.

Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Jen Snow, HR.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Voted to approve 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment – Janet Drew, York County, spoke of her concerns regarding assumed violence by people in positions of power and urged Commissioners to spend money on mental health needs and not on jails.

Bid Opening - Asbestos Abatement / Former Y Building –

Chair Cushing opened the four bids that were submitted by the requested deadline.

| Vendor | Bid |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| AEC- Lewiston | \$321,000 |
| County Abatement- Caribou | \$317,870 |
| Alloy Group- North Reading, MA | \$376,905* |
| Lakeside Concrete Cutting- Cumberland | \$198,710 |

Commissioner Baldacci moved to take these bids under advisement. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

ARPA Sub-Recipient Discussion -

Grant Manager Dana presented the following:

- Penobscot Valley Hospital- infrastructure, IT Security and internal communications request.

ARPA / \$300K Commissioner Fund Awards –

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

District 2 -

Newburgh Regional Community Food Pantry - \$44,712

Town of Hudson - \$15,000

Corinth Historical Society - \$8,476

*Original bid figure was announced as \$306,905 and then later in meeting Facilities Director MacDonald came to the microphone and advised Commission that in his preliminary review he had discovered a difference in the proposed cost from that listed on the first page of the RFP and actually amount was \$376, 905

ARPA Commissioners Fund / Third Round Discussion –

Grant Manager Dana presented the following Commissioners Fund (third round) applications for discussion:

District 1 –

- 19th Century Curran Village- Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve funding of \$45,000 for education center renovations. Commission Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.
- Welcome to Housing (it was noted this was their third grant application)- Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve \$10,000 for solar arrays. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

District 2 –

- Town of Etna Volunteer Fire Dept. Request put on hold, pending further information.
- Town of Newburgh (it was noted this was their second grant application)- Commissioners have requested additional info.
- Town of Stetson- Commissioner Cushing made a motion to approve \$25,000 for a boiler replacement. Commissioner Baldacci seconded. Vote to approve 3-0.

District 3-

- Katahdin Area Trails- Commissioner Marshall amended original motion of \$29,500 to \$22,500 to approve for a rope tow & grooming equipment. Commissioner Baldacci seconded. Vote to approve 3-0.
- Town of Lee- Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve \$10,000 for a CPR device. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Director Brian MacDonald provided an update on the Y Building to Commissioners.

EMA Update –

Director Nuding and Deputy Fox presented the following:

- Introduction of Fred Nickerson / Lead Communications Volunteer
- Amateur radio equipment & supplies acquisition request of \$36,000 from soft match account. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- Tree Cleanup in Greenfield & Prentiss from the last storm. This is generally provided by some of our current contractors
- The Old Town Ambulance Agreement for Argyle Township was discussed. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- The Howland Fire and Ambulance Agreement for Grand Falls, Summit and Mattamiscontis Townships were discussed. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

UT Update – Continued:

- The Lincoln Ambulance Agreement for Drew Township was discussed. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- The Lincoln Fire and Ambulance Agreement for T2R8 NWP was discussed. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- The Mt. Chase Volunteer Fire Department grant agreement that was voted and approved on December 20, 2022 was brought for signature. Signed.
- A report on the Bowlin-Mattagmon Snowmobile Club reimbursement to TIF funds was discussed. They had applied for funds and are now able to reimburse the TIF fund \$80,000
- Pickett Mountain mining project re-zoning application and a public hearing notice was discussed. Date of the Millinocket public hearing will be October 16-18.
- The ACO contractor reports an issue in Prentiss of Scottish cows repeatedly getting out of their pens and roaming on adjoining properties and in the roadway, it was discussed and recommended that the UT explore legal options. Administration will reach out to legal and possibly the DA in reference to sending a letter to the owner.

Dept. 14 – Unorganized Territories 2024 Budget Presentation

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the Budget for Dept. 14 / Unorganized Territories. Overview includes:

- For budgetary planning, Commissioners support a 3.5% cost of living for non-union
- 2024 / Proposed Expenditures - \$202,701 Revenues - \$ 70,000

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to take the budget request under advisement. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update –

Administrator Adkins and Deputy Admin LaBree presented the following:

Dept. 2 Human Relations / 2024 Budget Presentation. Overview includes:

- 2024 / Proposed Expenditures - \$272,480 Revenues - \$ 0
- The request for a part time clerical position to assist the department & an Employee Recognition Program.

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to take the budget request for Dept. 2/HR under advisement. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update – Continued:

Dept. 6 Commissioner / 2024 Budget Presentation. Overview includes:

- 2024 / Proposed Expenditures - \$427,060 Revenues - \$ 0

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to take the budget request for Dept. 6/Administration under advisement. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- Update on IT Director Open Position- Administrator Adkins would like to promote IT Systems II Brandon Tenney, to the Director Position. Commissioners support promotion. Administration will work with Brandon and bring back to Commission.
- Update on RFP for Payroll Services- Demo to be held following the Commissioners Meeting.

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant (09.08.23) ***\$318,667.07 & \$1,798.55*** (09.15.23) ***\$360,423.35 & \$ 692.19***

A/P General Fund (09.11.23) \$ ***668,201.34*** (09.19.23) ***\$82,688.89***

A/P TIF (09.11.23) ***\$164.16*** (09.19.23) ***\$65,416.02***

A/P Unorganized Territories (09.11.23) ***\$30,613.98*** (09.19.23) ***\$ 22,312.18***

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

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Troy Morton presented the following:

- Current Jail count is 165 in the facility with 79 boarded out.
- Kitchen equipment update on fridge, steam kettle & convection oven
- MAT Grant & the use of opioid funds to possibly fund the position.
- Discussion around the use of Narcan and how the information is provided to inmates
- Breakdowns within the criminal justice system, forming a committee and challenges we're facing.
- DOC inspection reviewed- license for 2 years received.

Payroll status changes signed for: C. Heaps, K. Howard, D. Beaudry Jr., T. Davis, B. Sheperon, A. Canwell, A. Roberts, C. Gray, D. Gatcomb, J. Knapp, H. Terrel, D. Ireland, R. Peary, C. Volta, O. Devine, R. Whitford, F. Surdick, A. Mailman, and R. Shaw

Executive Session-

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to enter executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6) (D) Labor Negotiations at 11:27 a.m. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

Commissioners Baldacci, Marshall & Cushing present along with Treasurer Mower, County Administrator Adkins & Deputy County Administrator LaBree. Executive session ended at 12:05 p.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m. with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Scott A. Adkins

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner