

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes October 24, 2023 #2453
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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the October 17th, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Voted to approve 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment –

Janet Drew – Resident of York County stated that a new building would be a dehumanizing environment. The cultural study needs to be addressed with more oversight.

Probate Update –

Judge Brandmeir and Registrar Stupak presented the following:

- Judge Brandmeir attended a meeting with other Maine Probate Judges Friday, October 20th in regards to court oversight. There has been a lot of media attention on this topic and guardianship is a hot button for the probate office.
- Guardianship cases affects Penobscot County more due to the volume of cases. Since 2019 there are currently 700 active guardianship cases in Penobscot County.
- Health and Human Services is holding a committee meeting on Wednesday, October 25th; county probate offices provided a list of questions and concerns
- Commissioner Cushing recommends drafting a letter to the Judicial Committee with support of the Commissioners

DA's Office Update –

ADA Lynds and Office Manager Higgins presented the following requests:

- Discussion to approve the purchase of an adult female forensic mannequin in the amount of \$850 plus shipping to be paid from funds from the DA forfeiture account.
- Discussion to approve funding ADA Lynds to attend the National Cyber Crime Conference that will be held in Massachusetts in the amount of \$1,456 to be funded from the DA Forfeiture account. Commissioner Marshall moved to approve these two requests as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve ten forfeitures presented in the amount of \$10,014.79 to the DA's Office. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- State vs Clements in the forfeiture amount \$207.00 to the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve this request. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

UT Update –

Director Buswell presented the following:

- Discussion on the Central Maine Highlands Fire District with Thursday being the final review on the Charter. Commissioner Baldacci moved to appoint Director Buswell on the Board of Directors and Deputy Morrison as the alternate. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Discussion on a meeting held last week in Millinocket for Fire & EMS Contracts. The initial meeting did not go well with many contractual changes. The following changes were discussed. Instead of a three-year contract, it would be a two-year contract with the second years prices jumping an additional \$3K; all prices have doubled and it looks like they are not willing to negotiate on pricing.
 - Commissioner Marshall will go speak to the Town
 - Commission would like to look at other options for Fire and EMS in that area
- An offer has been made for the UT EMS Consultant; currently ironing out the details now

PRCC Update –

Director Lavoie and Deputy Fitzgerald presented the following:

- A public thank you in appreciation for Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison for their hard work with fire service consolidations
- An update on the radio project was discussed. At this time, it is 1/3 of the way completed and with hopes that by the end of December it will be 2/3 of the way completed.
- Director Bragdon presented a detailed bond update to the Commission
- After discussion on National Q Services, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve \$48,000 to start in December. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- After discussion on the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Project with Aspen-Morse, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve up to \$86,500 as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Tracey Erickson visiting hours and funeral will be held this Thursday in Newport

ARPA Update –

Grant Manager Dana and Finance Director Bragdon presented the following:

- Discussion on sub-recipients took place with a request to come back next week October 31st to identify which sub-recipients the commissioners would like to support, or decline to support, as well which applicants the commissioners would like to work with the City of Bangor on.
- Grant Manager Dana will provide a one-page report on obligated and expended funds up to September 30th.

County Tax Collections –

Treasurer Mower and Finance Director Bragdon discussed the most current county tax collections received up to date.

Administration Update –

Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree presented the following:

- Director MacDonald led the discussion on the Y Building demolition RFP bids that took place last week. Joel Butler/JE Butler, a vendor was in the audience with issues on the RFP and specification. Mr. Butler submitted questions regarding those concerns, prior to bidding. Director MacDonald stated that he got his information, answering Mr. Butler's questions, from the City of Bangor Engineering and Code Enforcement offices. No decision has been made on who will be awarded the job at this time.
- Director MacDonald also reported the following:
 - The asbestos removal of the old Y building is about 1/3 of the way through. The entire project should be done by December 1st.
 - Heating leak is being worked on in the tunnel between the boiler room and the Annex building.
 - Potable water problem in the annex has been resolved
 - Dryer in jail is not working; after evaluation realized it was bad wiring
- After review of the 2024 Budget Committee Members, Commissioner Marshall is working on his last member
- After discussion, the 2024 Budget Review will take place next week with updated numbers

Approval of Warrants-

- Payroll Warrant (10.20.23) **\$344,009.56**
- A/P General Fund (10.24.23) **\$ 78,239.60**
- A/P TIF (10.24.23) **\$4,545.00**
- A/P Unorg Terr (10.24.23) **\$ 9,192.94**
- PRCC Bond (10.24.23) **\$300.00**

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

Payroll status changes signed for: Richard Bryant, Isiah Davis, Lisa Dwinal, Alan Reese, Louis St. Pierre and Garrett Watt

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:05 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) Acquisition of Real Property. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator LaBree, Treasurer Mower, Sheriff Morton and Facilities Director MacDonald. Session ended at 11:55 AM

Action Taken:

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve Haley Ward to proceed with a written proposal for the County to review. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:57 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator LaBree, Treasurer Mower, Sheriff Morton and Facilities Director MacDonald. Session ended at 12:17 PM

Action Taken: NONE

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 PM 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