

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 5, 2023 #2458
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing and David Marshall

Roll Call -

Commission Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM remotely with Commissioner Baldacci, Commissioner Marshall, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree present in the Commissioners Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance – Deputy Administrator LaBree

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the November 28th, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

District Attorney's Office –

ADA Lewis and ADA Lynds reported the following:

- This Unit consists domestic violence, sexual assault and the crimes against children's
- This Unit is assertive and seeks the truth first, while looking at the big picture and a balanced view for the victims
- ADA Lewis and ADA Lynds would like to present monthly updates. Commissioner Baldacci appreciates the update; however, would like DA Almy to report on alternative measures on how to help with the jail overcrowding.

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 1 -

Bangor Historical Society – Risteen Bahr & Matthew Bishop - \$40,000

Bangor Humane Society – Susan Prendergast & Kathryn Ravenscraft - \$45,000

City of Brewer – Chris Martin - \$25,000

District 2 –

Kenduskeag Union Church – Irving Carter - \$49,999

Town of Etna – Tim Hall - \$49,999

Town of Newburgh – Cindy Grant - \$19,287

NWDB & EMDC Updates

Executive Director Williamson discussed the following highlights over the last quarter:

- MDOL monitor for 2021 and 2022 activities showed that we're in good shape; our record keeping has improved dramatically with some good quality measures in place
- Youth policies are being updated; to include once they discharge from the program to continue to follow them for a year and provide services. Ages for youth are 16-24.
- Finalized Youth Incentive and Earn While You Learn stipend policies for Board to vote on.
- Opioid grant is near competition with 220 people serviced through this grant; allowing up to \$9K per person for further education, training and other expenses that come along with education

NWDB/ EMDC Updates – Continued:

- Working on a partnership with Maine Apprenticeship Program and looking to see how to integrate services. Summer 2024, we are working with AGC to prepare for continued success of the pre-apprenticeship trades course with Brewer High and expand into Houlton area.

Youth Program Director Karyssa Murchison reported the following:

- Discussion on what is done to empower the youth; such as work while you earn with a mentor
- Programming that offers job coaching, resume building, leadership & development
- A program that offers online workforce development class that helps prepare for their career path
- Connecting with agencies to gain practical skills, build their resumes and to explore different career options.
- Work experience can be anywhere from 75 to 300 hours
- Offer a wide range of support services that range from financial assistance for accessing trade tools, scrubs, transportation and health
- Discussion on a Maine Children's Grant that was used to start a pre-apprenticeship program with Associated General Contractors of Maine.

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve a \$.50 raise for animal control officers. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the Howland Fire and Ambulance Agreement as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the 1-year solid waste agreement with the Town of Mt. Chase. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Update on the Broadband Connect for Kingman, Prentiss, Mattamiscontis, Greenfield, Grindstone Township, Indian Purchase 3 and 4, and Long A
- PERC, which will be called Grace has send a new interim contract to the County

Administration Update –

Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree presented the following:

- The 2024 County Budget Public Hearing takes place next Tuesday at 9:45 AM
- The Spirit of America Award Ceremony will take place at 10:00 AM next week
- Y Building Update - Asbestos removal should be completed late this week. Administrator Adkins has notified the demolition vendor of this information.
- Discussion on the stairs by the post office
- The FMLA Policy will be presented at next week's meeting for review
- Discussion on bi-monthly Commissioner's meetings versus weekly

- Discussion with the City of Bangor on ARPA sub-recipients is tentatively placed for December 19th.

Approval of Warrants-

- Payroll Warrant (12.01.23) ***\$409,468.01***
- A/P General Fund (12.05.23) ***\$211,242.06***
- A/P PRCC Bond (12.05.23) ***\$2,070.00***
- A/P Unorg Terr (12.05.23) ***\$75,543.81***
- A/P UT TIF (12.05.23) ***\$58,751.53***
- A/P ARPA (12.05.23) ***\$234,586.20***

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the warrants as presented as Item I listed on the agenda. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

Payroll status changes signed for: Michelle Leathers, Bradley Nuding, Alexis Malone, Seth Johnson, Mitchel Peets, Ezra Haines, Hannah Craig, Christopher Urquhart, Derek Samoluk, Tracie Wasson, Deborah Sargent, Seth Rolfe, Corey Cepelak, Noah Tamulonis and John Knappe.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:12 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 and Dick Hansen. Session ended at 10:46 AM.

Action Taken: None

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 AM 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