

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 19, 2023
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing & David Marshall**

#2460

Roll Call -

Commission Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioner Baldacci, Treasurer Mower & Administrator Adkins present. Commissioner Marshall arrived late.

Pledge of Allegiance – Bangor City Council Chair Pelletier

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the December 12th, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve 2-0. Signed. (Commissioner Marshall absent)

Public Comment – Via Zoom / Emerald Fournier. The citizen mentioned her support of Acadia Hospital programs. Lost connection part way through comments.

Bangor City Council - Council Chair Pelletier, Councilor Fournier & City Manager Laurie present. The members of the Bangor City Council were welcomed to the table for discussions regarding collaborative efforts in the use of the remaining ARPA funds. Several projects were talked about and reviewed. In the end, the County Commission is tasked with formulating a proposal to be presented and reviewed by the entire Bangor City Council at a later date. The proposal is to outline each of the County & City commitments to specific projects. Commissioner Cushing set the goal of mid-January 2024 to get the proposal completed.

Probate – Registrar Stupak sent Administrator Adkins an email earlier in the morning indicating to cancel her appearance before the Commission. The Registrar was having flooding issues at home as a result of the major storm on Monday into Monday evening.

UT Update – Director Buswell presented the following:

- EMDC / Katahdin Regional Economic Development Director / Extension of contract between the County and EMDC. This item was tabled from the prior week of 12-12-2023. Amy Collinsworth, Katahdin Regional Economic Development Director was also in attendance for this discussion.
 - Commissioner Marshall made several comments with regards to his questions from last week and those answers were provided since the last meeting.
 - Would like to see Director Collinsworth's salary adjustments & the rent addressed
 - Commissioner Marshall made the motion to "approve the 2-year extension with EMDC"; Commissioner Baldacci with the 2nd & a vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Paul Froman, Fire / EMS Coordinator was introduced to the Commission by Director Buswell.
- Penobscot County CLE – Commissioner Marshall made the motion to approve; Commissioner Baldacci with the 2nd & a 3-0 vote to approve. Signed by Administrator Adkins.
- UT Director Buswell gave a status report of road and conditions in the UT after the storm.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mower & Finance Director Bragdon presented the Commissioners with a 3rd Quarter report of the County's financials. All things are in order at this time.

Sheriff's Update – Sheriff Morton

- Jail Population Update – 151 / In House; 73 / Boarded Out & 101 / Me Pretrial
- MAT – Sheriff Morton gave an update on the increasing participation and associated costs
- Patrol Staffing – 4 openings at this time / Continue to work on new applicants
- Building Project – Sheriff gave the Commission a brief summary of the work to be done in the Administration offices. The project should be under \$40,000 in total. Vendors are lined up to proceed with the work. Funded by the \$1 M / Jail & Campus / ARPA account. Commissioner Baldacci motioned; Commissioner Marshall seconded & a vote to approve the project of 3-0 ensued.
- Jail / Increased Visits & Phone Calls – Sheriff reminded the Commission that the cost of these items is in question at times. This time of year, the Sheriff and staff help defray some of those costs with the funding from sources outside the budget.
- Secret Santa – A brief presentation on this program from the Sheriff's Office which creates the Community Connection by going out into the surrounding towns to deliver a little cheer.
- Letter to Justice Murray – Administrator Adkins presented options on the listing to accompany the letter from an item of the prior weeks' meeting. The choice was to go with the shorter list and monitor the response of the Justice and courts to the County Jail population issues.

Administrative Update – County Administrator Adkins

- RCC Tower / Patten Purchase – Administrator Adkins delivered, on behalf of Director Lavoie and Deputy Director Fitzgerald, the details of the counter offer from the property owner. Commissioner Baldacci motioned to “accept the \$195,000 negotiated price and the County covering closing & title costs with the Canadian Pacific Railroad for the Patten Tower / Land / Building site”; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion and a vote to approve of 3-0 was taken. The approval puts the project in motion through PRCC Director Lavoie. Contract / paperwork will be brought before the Commission at a later date.
- Project Manager / Buildings – After a discussion on how to approach the current absence of Facilities Director MacDonald, along with some large projects on campus, the following was decided.
 - Former Y Building – Now that the asbestos removal is complete, a concern over who will be monitoring the activity of the vendor to demolish the building. Administrator Adkins recommended that he would get in contact with Dennis Kingman / Haley Ward and see about any availability.
 - Franklin Street – The lower part of Franklin Street rentals is going to be available at the first of next year. The Commissioners wish for Administrator Adkins to develop an RFP regarding design work of the upgrade. The new use will be by the Maine Pre-Trial programs under the Sheriff's Office.

Administrative Update – Continued:

- FMLA Policy – This is an item reviewed in prior weeks and simply needed official approval. Commissioner Baldacci motioned “approval of the updated FMLA Policy”; Commissioner Marshall seconded & a vote to approve of 3-0 took place by the Commission.
- MCCA (Maine County Commissioners Association) / Representative & Proxy – Commissioner Marshall motioned for Commissioner Baldacci as the representative and Commissioner Cushing as proxy; vote of 3-0 to approve.
- MCCA – Risk Pool / Representative & Proxy – Commissioner Marshall motioned for Commissioner Cushing to be the representative and Commissioner Baldacci as proxy; vote of 3-0 to approve.
- 2024 / Commissioner Meeting Schedule – A discussion over the number of monthly meetings took place. In the end, the Commission decided that the first, second & third Tuesdays of each month would be designated as meeting days. The goal would be eventually to get to only two meetings / month. Commissioner Baldacci motioned; Commissioner Marshall second & 3-0 vote to approve.

Approval of Warrants-

○ Payroll Warrant	(12.15.23)	<i>\$295,585.02 and \$576.40</i>
○ A/P General Fund	(12.19.23)	<i>\$88,574.90</i>
○ A/P ARPA	(12.19.23)	<i>\$4,250.00</i>
○ A/P Unorg Terr	(12.19.23)	<i>\$14,150.12</i>
○ A/P UT TIF	(12.19.23)	<i>\$1,635.00</i>

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

Executive Session - Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:29 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) / Labor Negotiations – Discussion on negotiations regarding FOP Supervisor & Line Contracts and the AFSCME Supervisor Contract. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins and Treasurer Mower. Session ended at 11:42 AM.

Action Taken: None

Payroll status changes signed for: Brandon Watson

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 AM with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Scott A. Adkins

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner