

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes January 2nd, 2024 #2461  
9:00 AM Commissioners Baldacci, Cushing (Chair) / remote via Zoom & Marshall**

**Roll Call** -

CA Adkins opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all three Commissioners (Chair Cushing via Zoom), Treasurer Mower, CA Adkins & DCA LaBree present.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Administrator Adkins

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the December 19<sup>th</sup>, (Agenda listed incorrectly as December 26<sup>th</sup>), 2023 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

**County Commission** – Election of Chair

This item was listed as “D” on the agenda; however, an adjustment by Commissioner Baldacci to move ahead of scheduled “C / Public Comment” was approved. Commissioner Marshall nominated Commissioner Cushing for Chair; Commissioner Baldacci made the second and a 3-0 vote was taken to approve Commissioner Cushing as Chair for 2024.

**Public Comment** – No public comment was made

**UT Update** – Director Buswell & Deputy Director Morrison presented the following:

- Howland Fire / EMS District – Update & Reminder of the upcoming Public Information Meetings on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 / 6:00 pm each date
- Director Buswell stated that he hoped a representative of the Commission would be attending at least the first couple of meetings and gauge the need for further attendance.
- Commissioner Marshall indicated that he would be attending the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings.
- In addition, Paul Froman, County Fire & EMS Coordinator, will be attending the meetings.

**District Attorney's Office** – ADA Lynds & ADA Lewis presented information:

- An update from both ADA's on the upcoming legislative and funding changes / concerns for the Child Advocacy Center which operates in cooperation with Penquis.
- The loss of funding could really negatively affect these cases involving the abuse of children

ARPA Funding – Grant Manager Dana brought forth the following projects:

**County Commissioners and City Council of Bangor Cooperative Agreement**

- The following were presented, discussed and voted upon during today's meeting. Grant Manager Dana will draft a proposal; reviewed by Administrator Adkins & the Commissioners and forwarded to the Bangor City Council.
  - **Bangor Nursing & Rehabilitation** – After some light discussion, Commissioner Marshall made the motion of awarding \$50,000; Commissioner Baldacci with the 2<sup>nd</sup> & a 3-0 vote to approve.
  - **Community Care / Shaw House** – Commissioner Marshall motioned the award of \$550,000, based on the applicant's amounts for HVAC @ \$475K & Interior / Exterior Improvements @ \$680K, Commissioner Baldacci made the second and a 3-0 vote to approve.
  - **United Way (HOME)** – Commissioner Marshall made the motion to award \$350,000; Commissioner Baldacci with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3-0 vote to approve.
  - **Wellspring** – Based on the updated ask, Commissioner Baldacci motioned to award \$220,000; Commissioner Marshall made the second & 3-0 vote to approve.

Commissioner / Sub-recipients –

- Grant Manager Dana presented the following projects for review, discussion & decision.
  - **Acadia Hospital** – A short discussion, including Kimberly Boucher / Acadia Hospital, surrounding the current status of projects and funding needed. While there was some support for the project, Commissioner Cushing suggested that the matter be tabled until Grant Manager Dana could get updated information for the Commission; Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion and a 3-0 to table was made.
  - **Heart of Maine (Dexter)** – After some conversation about the applicable line items of the request, Commissioner Cushing made a motion to table until Grant Manager Dana can get updates from applicant, Commissioner Marshall made a second & a 3-0 vote to table.
  - **Northern Forest Center** – Commissioner Marshall informed the Commission that the \$250,000 request was one of the last steps in finishing this project. Commissioner Marshall motioned to approve the \$250K; Commissioner Baldacci with a second & 3-0 vote to approve.
  - **Our Katahdin** – Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Marshall motioned to table until Grant Manager Dana can get updated information; Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion & 3-0 vote.
  - **Penobscot Valley Hospital** – Due to time lapsing since last discussion on this project, the Commission asked Grant Manager Dana to get updated data. Based on this, Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to table; Commissioner Marshall seconded & 3-0 vote to table.

**ARPA Funding – Commissioner / Sub-recipients Continued:**

- **Patten Veteran's Memorial Library** – Commissioner would like to have more information. Commissioner Marshall motioned to table; Commissioner Baldacci seconded & 3-0 vote to table.

**Commissioner Fund / Round 3**

Grant Manager Dana brought forth the following requests:

- **Brewer Fire Dept.** – The request was for a CPR / Lucas device for the city's Fire / EMS Dept. After some discussion referencing what the Commission had done for other departments, the amount of \$10,000 was decided upon as a maximum contribution. Commissioner Baldacci made the motion for \$10K; Commissioner Marshall with the second & 3-0 vote to approve. **(See below)**
  - **Later in the meeting**, Sheriff Morton indicated that he had updated information from the City of Brewer / Jason Moffitt, Safety Director. The city did not have one of these machines already. They wanted two and were turned down by other funding sources. Based on this new information, along with the regional support by Brewer Fire / EMS, the County Commissioners adjusted the award to \$15,000. Commissioner Baldacci with the motion; Commissioner Marshall with a second & **3-0 vote to approve @ \$15K.**
- **Manna** – A request was made for assistance with interior improvement costs that were unexpected. Commissioner Baldacci made the motion to approve the \$5,000 request; Commissioner Marshall with the second & 3-0 vote to approve.
- **Corinna, Town of** – The town has requested assistance with a major component of their sewer / wastewater system. After a short discussion, Commissioner Cushing made the motion to approve \$26,000; Commissioner Marshall with a second and a vote of 3-0 to approve was taken.

**Sheriff's Update** – Sheriff Morton

- **Jail Population Update** – 167 In house
- **Body Scanner Use & Video Visitation Updates**
  - Sheriff presented the Commissioners with some examples of the extremes people will go to in order to smuggle drugs into the Jail facility
  - An increase in the offer of FREE video visitations and phone calls during the holidays
- **Rural Patrol / MCCA Meeting**
  - A brief conversation on this topic and the discussions to be held at the next MCCA mtg.
  - The thought process is to work off of last years' progress and apply to a collective effort amongst the County Commission & Maine Sheriff's.

**Sheriff's Update – Continued:**

- **Vacant Positions / LE & Corrections / Staff Retiring**
  - Sheriff Morton reported that three key personnel have either retired or schedule to in the near future.
  - Currently, there are four vacant openings in Law Enforcement
  - Corrections continues to look good with new personnel coming in
- **Year End Data / Special Requests**
  - Sheriff Morton asked the Commission and Administration if there is something specific they would like to see in regards to statistics.

**Administrative Update** – County Administrator Adkins

- Administrator Adkins updated the Commission on the pending Old Y Building demolition. Currently, scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Administrator Adkins is working on utility disconnects with vendors.

**Approval of Warrants -**

○ Payroll Warrant	(12.22.23)	<b>\$347,899.78</b>	(12.29.23)	<b>\$313,473.09</b>
○ A/P General Fund	(12.26.23)	<b>\$212,075.43</b>	(01.02.24)	<b>\$464,552.80</b>
○ A/P ARPA	(12.26.23)	<b>\$225,225.50</b>	(01.02.24)	<b>\$ 15,102.74</b>
○ A/P PRCC Bond	(12.26.23)		(01.02.24)	<b>\$ 80,486.82</b>
○ A/P Unorg Terr	(12.26.23)	<b>\$ 98,906.28</b>	(01.02.24)	
○ A/P UT TIF	(12.26.23)	<b>\$ 8,543.79</b>	(01.02.24)	

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

**Executive Session** - Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:49 AM under **1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) / Personnel**; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion & a 3-0 vote was taken. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Sheriff Morton, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator / HR LaBree & Finance Director Bragdon. Session ended at 11:22.

**Action Taken** – Commissioners requested Sheriff Morton work with HR Director LaBree on solutions.

**Executive Session** - Commissioner Baldacci made a motion, at 11:22, to go into Executive Session under **1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) / Labor Negotiations**; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion & 3-0 vote was taken. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Sheriff Morton, Administrator Adkins & Deputy Administrator LaBree. Session ended at 11:41.

**Action Taken** – Administrator Adkins was directed to continue with negotiations and report back.

**Executive Session** - Commissioner Baldacci made a motion, at 11:41, to go into Executive Session under **1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) / Acquisition of Real Property**; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion & 3-0 vote was taken. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Sheriff Morton, Administrator Adkins & Deputy Administrator LaBree. Session ended at 11:45 AM.

**Action Taken:** Administrator Adkins directed to contact vendor for information.

**Payroll status changes signed for:** H. Terrel & A. Orcutt

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Certified By:**

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Administrator, Scott A. Adkins

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Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

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Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

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David S. Marshall, Commissioner