

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes January 30,2024
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing & David Marshall**

#2463

Roll Call -

Commission Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all Commissioners, (Baldacci via Zoom) Treasurer Mower Administrator Adkins & Deputy Administrator LaBree present

Pledge of Allegiance – Administrator Adkins

Moment of Silence-

Commissioners took a moment of silence in honor of Kevin Howell, Carmel Town Manager, whom died in a tragic drowning accident last Friday. Commissioners also honored Detective Norton, whom responded on scene and saved the wife, whom also fell in trying to save Mr. Howell.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

Registry of Deed's –

Registrar Bulay briefed the Commissioners on the following:

- The proposed changes by the Maine Registry of Deed's for the upcoming legislature. These changes include surcharge & having the party be non-partisan.
- Registrar Bulay is requesting to use surcharge funds in the amount of \$75K to restore another set of plans in 2024. This is an ongoing project that wasn't done in 2023. The current balance in the surcharge account is \$432,169.94 and surcharge revenue in 2023 was \$57,987.00. Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve up to \$75K for the plan restoration. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

Finance Update–

Director Gary Bragdon presented the following:

- Discussion around the payroll conversion and challenges during the process. Administrator Adkins has reached out to Dave Rosania, whom is currently on vacation, about the issues we've faced and hope to get resolution ASAP.
- Administrator Adkins requested Director Bragdon be prepared to look at cash flow for the next meeting.

Facilities Update –

Director MacDonald presented the following:

- The Y Demo should begin the week of February 5th

Facilities Update – Continued:

- The 2 wall hung furnaces down at Franklin Street failed last week, however; both are now operational after parts were ordered. Commissioner Baldacci asked Brian to be proactive and put together a bid package so we can get a jumpstart. Discussion followed with options that we can request as part of the process on what will fit best in that building.

UT TIF Application Review –

Dee Williams came before the Commissioners and presented the following TIF applications:

- Howland Fire/Ambulance- \$10K an ATV. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.
- Mattawamkeag/Kingman Fire- \$33,500 for JAWS of Life- After discussion, Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Baldacci seconded. Vote to approve 3-0.
- Ms. Williams revisited the Mt. Chase application for a fire truck request from 2023 with the Commission. The town has raised funds from other sources, to include their own budget but are still \$25K short from the \$272K truck. After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve \$25K from TIF funds. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

UT Update –

Director George Buswell & Deputy Director Morrison presented the following:

- Lakeville Solid Waste & Recycling contract for Pukakon Twp. The contract is a 3-year contract- \$560 for the 1st year, with a \$100 increase the remaining 2 years. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.
- George is seeking approval to go out to bid to replace the shingled roof at the Matagamon sand shed with metal. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.
- Discussion around the properties obtaining with the de-organization of Drew Plantation to include 2 land lots and a lot used for sand/salt for Drew.

ARPA Update –

Grant Manager Wendy Dana presented the following:

- Confirmation that the City of Bangor have approved the 4 grant applications as a joint effort with the County.
- The remainder of the grant requests for sub recipient awards will need to be contacted for additional information. Those include:
 1. *Northern Light/Acadia*-Wendy needs to work with them on revising current request for any potential future projects and possibly set up meeting with their leadership, the Sheriff and herself.
 2. *Heart of Me/Dexter*- Chair Cushing will reach out as he would like a tour of the facility.
 3. *Our Katahdin*- Commissioner Marshall would like someone present when the vote is done so we can afford those an opportunity to answer any questions. Commissioner Marshall will reach out to set up.
 4. *Penobscot Valley Hospital* - Commissioner Marshall will follow up on their request as well.
 5. *Patten Memorial Library*- Commissioner Marshall will follow up.
- Commissioner discussed the importance of all sub recipients asks and stated that we can chip away at these over the next few months.

Admin. Update –

Administrator Adkins & Deputy Admin LaBree presented the following:

- HR- Michelle discussed open positions with the Commission. Overall, the 24/7 operations are well improved from a year ago.
- Scott asked the Commissioners for their thoughts on the Sheriff's requests from the last meeting in regards to the FARO Scanner & MAT medication funds. After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the purchase of the FARO scanner for up to \$75K. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve utilizing Opioid funds, not to exceed \$25K, for the MAT medication while the issue with DHHS is settled. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.
- Scott discussed with the Commissioners their thoughts/idea of a strategic plan and goals for the County for this year and future years. Commissioners will get their goals within the next few weeks. Scott has already started on capital improvement plans with the departments.
- After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that future Commissioner Meetings will be held the 1st and 3rd meeting of the month.
- Commissioners Cushing & Baldacci will be attending the NACO conference Feb. 10-14th.

Approval of Warrants-

- Payroll Warrant (01.19.24) \$316,439.99 (01.26.24) \$340,928.38
- A/P General Fund (01.23.24) \$ 84,484.57 (01.30.24) \$753,331.63
- A/P PRCC Bond (01.30.24) \$325,916.00
- A/P UT (01.23.24) \$ 12,270.18 (01.30.24) \$ 5,825.91
- A/P UT TIF (01.23.24) \$ 5,540.76 (01.30.24) \$ 1,500.00
- A/P ARPA (01.23.24) \$ 11,191.32 (01.30.24) \$ 23,997.80

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

Executive Session - Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:02 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) / Contract Matter/Labor Negotiations. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator LaBree & Treasurer Mower Session ended at 11:42 AM.

Action Taken: None

Payroll status changes signed for: M. Bryer, M. Vidal, J. Backer, S. Johnson, J. Hunter, & A. Mailman

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 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