

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 20, 2024
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing & David Marshall**

#2465

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 – Led by George Buswell

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the February 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment- Larry Dansinger, Bangor Resident

Mr. Dansinger wished to provide an update on a family member with a substance abuse issue- and the alternative to jail. The Commissioners were asked to use ARPA funds to help support alternative programs. Discussion on jail conditions and maintaining good jail conditions.

District Attorney Update – DA Almy & Office Manager Higgins presented the following:

- ADA Lewis – Presentation on Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault / Crimes Against Children Unit
- Criminal Forfeiture Transfers – Review & Authorize
 - Total - \$4,849.38 / G 2-996-10 – DA Forfeiture.
 - PCSO - \$233.00 / Cash & .22 Revolver

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

- Request to purchase 3 / Remarkable 2 Tablets / \$1,555 - From DA Forfeiture account

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

- DA Almy met with court clerks, and DA personnel to discuss how to best manage the back log of cases. Lack of defense counsel, challenges and possible remedies are topics being discussed within the group. Problems with court security and the use of active law enforcement officers is an issue that the Courts/State need to figure out. Diversion programs are still in place and appear to be working.
- DA Almy has met with the Sheriff and discussed the process in regards to obtaining evidence on the large illegal marijuana operations that are negatively impacting their neighbors and the community.

UT Update – Director Buswell presented the following:

- Introduction of the board members and those that have had a hand in developing the Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District #1 came before Commissioners. It was noted that this is Penobscot County's 1st District. The group thanked the Commissioners and presented the budget to include the revenue and how the allocations by the towns were developed.
- A preliminary vote will be needed to enter the agreement and stand the district up and apply for the necessary paperwork. The final vote June 11th- 2 step process. Commissioners will need to do as well on behalf of the Unorganized Territory. Baldacci supports effort and commented that there was good work by all. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to preliminarily approve Penobscot County government as its role in UT. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Final vote by the Commission will be June 18th as we do not meet on the 11th. Formation documents will be available on the UT Website and on our Facebook Page.
- Bylaws for the group still need to be developed.

Facilities Update – Director MacDonald presented the following:

- Y Building Update- County needs to obtain a Street Opening Permit prior to demo. Brian is waiting to hear back from the City to see if this can be obtained prior to April 1st. Discussion around requesting for a variance would be acceptable (cap on property and then do the street at a later date)
- RFP / Franklin Street HVAC – Review of Draft & Authorize for Release. Commissioners support release of the RPP.
- The steps at the Jail entrance have failed again. A quote was provided to repair for \$6,500 and was included in a previously approved capital improvement plan for buildings.
- iConn replacement valves are working fine and additional will be purchased for future repairs.

ARPA Update –

Grant Manager Wendy Dana presented the following:

- Commissioner Fund – Award Presentation for District 2
 - Jericho Road / Melvin Coombs - \$14,000- Funds will be used towards a facility expansion.
 - Sub-recipient- Our Katahdin – Pete Malikowski & Amy Collingsworth came before the Commission. \$850,000 in funds have to date been spent on the project. \$1.25 million in funds have been raised to date. \$250,000 supported by EMDC- 2.7 budget remaining to complete project. Goal for end date is 2025. Request to County is \$1.5 (actual balance of funding- can be adjusted). Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve \$650,000. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.
 - Penobscot Valley Hospital- Crystal Landry- request to the County \$993,900. Discussion on items needing funding. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve up to \$600,000 towards their conversion, IT Phone System and Security. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

Finance Update – Director Bragdon & Treasurer Mower presented the following:

- Cash Flow / ARPA Balance – Discussion on TAN approach- Treasurer has started to outreach to banks- looking for \$11M TAN. Administrator suggests a possible hybrid approach (loan of ARPA funds) and can save us a little on interest, rate dependent. RPF will be developed but seeking official approval to start the process.

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to borrow and a transfer of \$4 Million from ARPA funds- to be paid back by the end of the year. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to allow the Treasurer and Administration to start the TAN Process. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

- 2024 / County Commissioner's Tax Commitment – Approve & Signatures. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the 2024 Commissioners Tax Commitment. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

Admin. Update –

Administrator Adkins & Deputy Admin LaBree presented the following:

- Health Insurance – Informational Meeting with Union Reps & Employees this Thursday, Feb. 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.
- Tax Abatement Appeal Scheduled – Mattawamkeag vs Hanscom / March 19th @ 10:30 Alternative
- March 5th (Reminder) / Union Grievance Hearing

Approval of Warrants-

○ Payroll Warrant	02.09.24	\$307,201.98	02.16.24	\$320,836.91
○ A/P General Fund	02.13.24	\$375,272.84	02.20.24	\$295,609.98
○ A/P PRCC Bond	02.13.24	\$1,500.00	02.20.24	\$ NA
○ A/P Unorg Terr	02.13.24	\$48,414.61	02.20.24	\$155,000.87
○ A/P UT TIF	02.13.24	\$1,706.34	02.20.24	\$10,404.35
○ A/P ARPA	02.13.24	\$32,549.50	02.20.24	\$910.00

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

Action Taken: None

Payroll status changes signed for: R. Bryant, G. Carlson, J. Gordon, & C. Gray.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 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