

Roll Call -

Commission Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, CA Adkins and DCA LaBree present.

Pledge of Allegiance – Bangor Resident, Scott Pardy

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the April 2nd, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment – Bangor Resident, Larry Dansinger cited a Bangor Daily News article where there is a lack of support for homeless community. Mr. Dansinger is hopeful that County officials can come together with funding where basic needs be met for the homeless community.

Bangor Resident, Scott Pardy spoke on Overdose Prevention Centers as they are gateways to recovery by offering support, counseling and referrals to healthcare and social services. Mr. Pardy has been to a couple city council meetings advocating for some changes to improve how downtown Bangor is being treated. Mr. Pardy will keep the commission updated.

PRCC Update –

Director Lavoie and Deputy Director Fitzgerald spoke on National Public Telecommunicator Week. Sheriff Morton presented yellow thin line badges to all the Dispatchers in appreciation for all they do.

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Morton reported the following:

- Jail population – 163 in house, 51 boarded out and 92 in Maine Pretrial
- Sheriff is working with other counties on boarding agreements; Sheriff is looking for other counties that have MAT treatments available in their facilities
- There are currently 9 full time correctional openings in the jail
- A judge ordered this individual to a mental health facility 100 days ago in which this person has still not been placed. Sheriff voiced his frustration to get individual placed where they would be best serviced for their wellbeing. Administrator Adkins and Sheriff will send a letter to DOC Commissioner Liberty as well as the Chief Justice
- Sheriff thanks Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree for their time last week on a productive meeting regarding the jail
- The law enforcement side of the house has been very busy dealing with substantial drug cases, overdoses and deaths
- The in-car/body worn cameras equipment has arrived and will be installed shortly
- There are 3 full-time patrol positions open
- Sheriff has been communicating with towns on their contracts
- Sheriff will be meeting with the new Milford Town Manager

Sheriff's Update – Continued:

- After a two-year hiatus, the Maine Sheriff Association Conference took place last month. Penobscot County received six awards out of fourteen during this Conference.
- This Thursday, there will be a luncheon for three employees that are retiring Chris Watson, Nicole Matthes & Bill Birch

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the changes from May 16, 2023 contract to the ATV use permit for Greenfield/Summit Townships. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.
- Director Buswell informed Commission, that there were four contractors at the Pre-bid meeting for the Mattagamon salt shed roofing project.
- The Drew Plantation town office/fire department squatter has been served eviction notice. This is part 1 of three-part process.
- Director Buswell, stated that renewed contracts are running smoothly with exception of Millinocket. Thank you to Commissioner Marshall for trying to assist in getting the contract renewed. Commissioner Marshall stated that he is not well with the Millinocket Town Manager who is allowing a contract that expired 10 months ago, continue to go without finalization. There is discussion on costs that are in question. George stated that he has had an excellent working relationship with Millinocket for years and trying to be patient.
- Annual Regional Meeting for Kingman Fire took place over the weekend. Thank you to Commissioner Marshall for attending.

Tax Abatement Appeal – Hanscom vs Mattawamkeag

Discussion concerning the Tax Abatement Appeal Hearing of Tuesday, March 19th regarding the property located at 327 Main Street, Mattawamkeag / Tax Map 4 / Lot 4 / Account #194000069.

Property Owners James and Rachel Hanscom are requesting a tax abatement of \$1,039.67

Kara Thurlock representing Hamlin Associates in the audience.

Commissioner Baldacci stated that that plaintiff felt that the assessors did find businesses comparable to their property. In reviewing what the assessors went through Commissioner Baldacci believes that they were justified in their approach and did not see any significant error in their analysis. Therefore, Commissioner denies their abatement appeal.

Commissioner Cushing agreed and stated that it was challenging to find local businesses to compare their property to and agrees to the accepted manner in which it was assessed. Commissioner Cushing denied the abatement appeal.

Tax Abatement Appeal Discussion – Continued:

Commissioner Marshall felt that the plaintiffs did not show proof that the income approach appraisal was inaccurate. Commissioner Marshall denied the abatement appeal.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to deny the abatement appeal. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to deny passed 3-0.

TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) Bid Opening

Commission Chair Cushing opened the bids for the 2024 Penobscot County TAN in the amount of \$9M. The following three banks submitted their bid by the April 12th deadline.

- Camden National Bank 6.65% as needed or on a lump sum basis
- First National Bank 5.83% as needed or on a lump sum basis (with relationship)
5.98% (without relationship)
- Machias Savings Bank 5.85% as needed or on a lump sum basis

Commissioner Baldacci moved to take under advisement until Treasurer Mower and Director Bragdon review the bids. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

ARPA –

Grant Manager Dana presented two Commissioner Funds Requests.

- District Two –
 - Trident Medical International (Requested \$35,209.66). After discussion, Commissioners would like more information before making a decision.
- District Three –
 - Bobbie's Garden (Requested \$1,000). After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve \$1,000 for Bobbie's Garden. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Grant Manager Dana presented two sub-recipient applications

- Town of Hampden (Requested \$50,935). After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve up to \$46,000 for the Town of Hampden. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Town of Mt. Chase (Requested \$124,000). After discussion, Commissioners requested this be tabled for more information.
- There has been no application received from the Hope House

Facilities Update –

Director MacDonald presented the following:

- Discussion of providing bricks from the old Y building
- Facilities old truck and the old Toyota will be going out for auction
- Director MacDonald updated on the Y Demolition which is moving right along

Facilities Update – Continued:

- HVAC / Franklin Street – Director MacDonald received a quote from Mechanical Services and the reason of the higher quote is justifiable to including fresh air to the lower Franklin Street offices which is a code requirement and necessary for health reasons. Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve not to exceed up to \$374,350 for the Franklin Street project. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- There was discussion on the Post Office communication received on repairs needed. Repairs need to be completed when they are closed; it was recommended to complete on a Sunday on a holiday weekend.

Administration Update –

Administrator Adkins and Deputy Administrator LaBree presented the following:

- Administrator Adkins will be on vacation Thursday for a week
- Mr. Hansen provided communication to the Commissioners on the Mattagamom Lake Association meeting will take place in which Commissioner Marshall will be attending.
- The wish list of County ARPA was presented to the Commission. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.

HR Update –

Deputy Administrator LaBree and HR Specialist Snow presented the following:

- Discussion on the 2023 Snapshot with recruitment and open positions
- Deputy Administrator LaBree will bring back results from the survey that was sent out to employees
- Discussion and review on the Rehire Eligibility & Service Recognition Policy
- Discussion and review on the HR Tuition Reimbursement Policy

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant	04.05.24	\$ 327,499.28	04.12.24	\$ 310,446.6
A/P General Fund	04.09.24	\$ 251,430.62	04.16.24	\$ 459,342.54
A/P PRCC Bond	04.09.24	\$ N/A	04.16.24	\$ 4,427.50
A/P Unorg Terr	04.09.24	\$ 111,488.41	04.16.24	\$ 31,975.51
A/P UT TIF	04.09.24	\$ 1,73.84	04.16.24	\$ 6,757.39
A/P ARPA	04.09.24	\$ N/A	04.16.24	\$ 358,562.39

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. Signed.

Payroll status changes signed for: Tracy Hall, Morgan Vidal, Matthew Poole, Seth Libby, Cheri Heaps, Oshane Reid, Phillip Oulton, Anastasia Champagne, Christopher Plissey, Salvador Cloukey, Jordan Knappe, Andrew Rounds, Kevin Howard, and Kenneth York.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:00 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) Acquisition of Real Property. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator LaBree, and Director MacDonald. Session ended at 11:15 AM

Action Taken – No Action Taken

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:15 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter / Grievance #179. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approved passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, Deputy Administrator LaBree. Session ended at 11:19 AM

Action Taken – CC Baldacci motioned that GCN #179 is denied by the Commission for failure to prove there was any violation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement; CC Marshall seconded the motion & a vote of (3 – 0) was made to deny the grievance.

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 AM with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Scott Adkins

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Peter K. Baldacci, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner