

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes September 17, 2024  
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

**#2479**

**Roll Call -**

Commission Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all Commissioners, Administrator Adkins, Director Dyer and Treasurer Mower present.

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Administrator Adkins led the pledge.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -**

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

**Public Comment –**

Larry Dansinger, a resident of Bangor, commented on the recent deaths in the jail and the lack of transparency of the causes. Mr. Dansinger also requests the 2025 jail budget doesn't have monies taken away to ensure maintenance for inmates in this facility.

Henry Lang and Rod Carr, former employees of PERC (Penobscot Energy Recovery Co), reported to the Commissioners a notice sent to customers of the former PERC plant. After discussion, it was agreed that Director Buswell & Administrator Adkins would meet with Mr. Lang and Mr. Carr and bring more information to the Commission later.

The newest member of Penobscot County Administration was introduced. HR Director Toni Dyer has many years of experience in this field, and with her skills and expertise, the County will be in good hands.

**DA's Office Update**

Office Manager Higgins presented the following:

- After review of the criminal forfeiture transfer totaling \$1,600 to the Sheriff's Office, Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve this transfer as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

DA Almy, Office Manager Higgins, ADA Lynds and VWA Johnson presented the 2025 Budget for Department 5 / District Attorney. Overview of the first draft includes the following proposed requests:

- Expenditures - \$ 1,792,349 / \$264,622 or 17.32% increase vs. 2024
- Revenues - \$61,000 / no change vs. 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to take the Department 5 / District Attorney's requests under advisement. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Department 10 – Registry of Deeds / 2025 Budget Presentation -**

Registrar Bulay presented the 2025 Budget for Department 10 / Registry of Deeds. Overview of the first draft includes the following proposed requests:

- Expenditures - \$ 452,896 / *\$11,837 or 2.68% increase vs. 2024*
- Revenues - \$1,100,000 / *no change vs. 2024*

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the Department 10 / Registry of Deeds budget as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**UT –**

After review from legal, Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented a Food Sovereignty Ordinance draft for the Unorganized Territories. After discussion, it was decided to hold a public hearing at the November 19<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting.

Director Buswell & Deputy Director Morrison presented the 2025 Budget for Department 14 / UT Administration. Overview of the first draft includes the following proposed requests:

- Expenditures - \$ 214,485 / *\$12,708 or 6.3% increase vs. 2024*
- Revenues - \$71,500 / *\$1,500 or 2.14 % increase vs. 2024*

Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the Department 14 /UT budget as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Director Buswell reported that he received a call from the Maine Revenue Service to alert him that the Town of Webster has begun the process to de-organize. More information to follow.

**Department 4 – PRCC / 2025 Budget Presentation -**

Director Lavoie and Deputy Fitzgerald presented the 2025 Budget for Department 4/ PRCC. Overview of the first draft includes the following proposed requests:

- Expenditures - \$ 4,526,023 / *\$237,012 or 5.53% increase vs. 2024*
- Revenues - \$226,393 / *\$7,093 or 3.23% vs. 2024*

Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the Department 4 /PRCC budget as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Due to staffing shortages in PRCC, Director Lavoie has requested double overtime pay for the next eight weeks. After discussion, this topic will take place during executive session later in the meeting.

**Department 8 – Buildings / 2025 Budget Presentation -**

Director MacDonald presented the 2025 Budget for Department 8 / Buildings. Overview of the first draft includes the following proposed requests:

**Department 8 – Buildings / 2025 Budget Presentation – Continued:**

- Expenditures - \$ 1,445,997 / \$59,006 or 4.25% increase vs. 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the Department 8 / Buildings budget as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Department 32 – PRCC / 2025 Budget Presentation -**

Director MacDonald presented the 2025 Budget for Department 32 / Building Improvement. Overview of the first draft includes the following proposed requests:

- Expenditures - \$ 150,000 / \$30,000 or 25% increase vs. 2024

Commissioner Marshall moved to take the Department 32 / Building Improvement requests under advisement. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Department 7 – Finance / 2025 Budget Presentation -**

Director Bragdon presented the 2025 Budget for Department 7 / Finance. Overview of the first draft includes the following proposed requests:

- Expenditures - \$ 449,745 / \$23,024 or 5.4% increase vs. 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve the Department 7 / Finance budget as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Sheriff's Vehicle Bid Opening -**

Commission Chair Cushing opened the bid for Tahoe Patrol Vehicles. The following three vendors submitted their bid by the September 13<sup>th</sup> deadline.

- Colonial Municipal Group – (Marlborough, MA) @ \$53,785.55 / each vehicle
- Varney Buick – GMC -Mazda (Bangor) @ \$54,820.00 / each vehicle
- Quirk – (Bangor) @ \$52,046.00 / each vehicle

Commissioner Baldacci moved to take these bids under advisement. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Sheriff's Update -**

Sheriff Morton presented the following:

- Sheriff reported on an opportunity to hire a K9-certified officer who is also academy-certified. After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve hiring for this position with 3.5 hours of overtime per week. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Sheriff reported on some recent serious incidents which proves the need for mental health patient beds.

**Sheriff's Update – Continued:**

- Discussion on sign-on bonuses for employees who had previously worked for the county. More discussion will follow at a later date.
- Law enforcement supplemental contracts were discussed.
- Twenty-one people participated in last week's PACE program with much success.
- Discussion on iPads in the jail that have educational courses for certification. These courses allow inmates to invest in themselves while incarcerated.
- A reminder that tomorrow is the retirement party for Lt. Hotaling and Executive Assistant Vanessa Holmes.

**Administration Update –**

Administrator Adkins presented the following:

- After discussion, the Caucus will be held October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM
- After discussion, the Budget Committee Meeting will be held November 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM
- PFML (Paid Family Med Leave) Employee & Employer Tax Allocation discussion. Administrator Adkins recommends the county absorb the 1% in the 2025 budget; this will not be a long-term agreement.

**Approval of Warrants-**

|                  |                               |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Payroll Warrant  | <b>09.06.24</b> \$ 313,948.07 | <b>09.13.24</b> \$ 379,194.45 |
| A/P General Fund | <b>09.10.24</b> \$ 323,975.97 | <b>09.17.24</b> \$ 306,423.70 |
| A/P PRCC Bond    | <b>09.10.24</b> \$ 38,478.72  | <b>09.17.24</b> \$ N/A        |
| A/P Unorg Terr   | <b>09.10.24</b> \$ 50,084.99  | <b>09.17.24</b> \$ 92,384.85  |
| A/P UT TIF       | <b>09.10.24</b> \$ 70,887.01  | <b>09.17.24</b> \$ 30,655.86  |
| A/P ARPA         | <b>09.10.24</b> \$ N/A        | <b>09.17.24</b> \$ N/A        |

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the warrants per Item M on the agenda. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

Payroll status changes signed for: Brittany Villar, Robin Bouchard, Jacob House, Ryan Roy, Damien Goodwin, Ashley Crawford and Daniel Gastia

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:30 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) Acquisition of Real Property. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, CA Adkins, HR Director Dyer, Facilities Director MacDonald, & Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 11:40 AM.

**Action Taken – No action taken**

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:41 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, CA Adkins, & HR Director Dyer. Session ended at 11:55 AM.

**Action Taken – No action taken**

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:56 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Labor Negotiations. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, HR Director Dyer, Director Lavoie & PRCC Deputy Dir. Fitzgerald. Session ended at 12:14 PM.

**Action Taken** – Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the MOU for PRCC for double overtime for eight weeks. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM 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 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