

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes October 15, 2024
8:45 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

#2481

Roll Call -

Commission Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 8:45 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all Commissioners, Administrator Adkins, Director Dyer and Treasurer Mower present.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:45 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins & Director Dyer. Session ended at 8:54 AM.

Action Taken – No action taken

Pledge of Allegiance – Treasurer Mower led the pledge.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to approve the October 1st, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment –

Larry Dansinger resident of Bangor is asking the Commission to reconsider building a new jail and using those monies budgeted to maintain the current building and build more programs.

Town of Woodville Update –

Christopher Swift, appointed by the Town of Woodville, presented reports of the Woodville Selectmen's Meeting which were held on September 19th and October 3rd. Mr. Swift reports to the Commission since the Town has no record keeping process, the County is the keeper of the records.

Mr. Swift reported on the Town de-organizing and the Bill LD 227 that was signed into law on April 22, 2024. The Town of Woodville reports can be found online at: <http://www.penobscot-county.net/minutes>

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison will be attending the Webster de-organization meeting on Monday, October 28th.
- The Town of Springfield Fire Protection Agreement with Prentiss and Pukakon was presented for approval. Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the fire protection agreement as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Move to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

UT Update – Continued:

- The Matagamon shed overhead door was discussed with recommendation to replace the sliding barn doors with a rolling overhead door. After review of two quotes (PDQ \$23,500 and Overhead Door \$24,595), Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve PDQ quote for \$23,500 with monies taken from the capital account. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Dept 34 – Program Donations 2024 Budget Presentation

- **Orono Haz Mat Team** – Acting Deputy Chief Bryan R. Hardison presented the Orono Haz Mat Team Budget for the 2025 year requesting \$30,000; an increase in funding of \$6,000. Deputy Hardison discussed the need of the additional \$6,000 due to rising costs. After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve \$27,000 for the Orono Haz Mat Team. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- **Pine Tree Hospice** – the Pine Tree Hospice Budget for the 2025 year is requesting \$1,750; an increase in funding of \$250. Commissioner Baldacci moved to flat fund this account at \$1,500. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- **Hirundo Wildlife Refuse** – After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to flat fund this account at \$12,000. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- **Together Place Peer Run Recovery Center** – After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to flat fund this account at \$10,000. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- **Maine Discovery Museum** – After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci declined this request of \$9,000 this year due to budget restraints. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to declined passed 3-0.

Commissioner Departments / 2025 Budget Presentations -

Administrator Adkins presented the following 2025 budgets:

- **Department 18 / MPERS (Retirement)**
 - Expenditures - \$3,500 / \$1,000 or -22.22% decrease vs 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 18 / MPERS (Retirement) as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 19 / Health & Safety**
 - Expenditures - \$6,000 / same as 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 19 / Health and Safety as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 22 / County Insurance**
 - Expenditures - \$105,000 / same as 2024

Commissioner Departments / 2025 Budget Presentations – Continued:

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 22 / County Insurance as presented.
Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 24** – Bridge Account
 - Expenditures - \$100 / same as 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 24 / Bridge Account as presented.
Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 31** – Loans & Interest
 - Expenditures - \$639,042 / same as 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 31 / Loans & Interest as presented.
Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 38** – Soil Conservation
 - Expenditures - \$103,282 / \$11,374 or 12.38% increase vs 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 38 / Soil Conservation as presented.
Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 39** – Labor Relations
 - Expenditures - \$4,000 / same as 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 39 / Labor Relations for \$3,000.
Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 40** – Wage Adjustment
 - Expenditures - \$5,000 / same as 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 40 / Wage Adjustment as presented.
Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

- **Department 49** – Miscellaneous Revenues
 - Revenues - \$765,500 / same as 2024

Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Department 49 / Miscellaneous Revenues as presented.
Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Finance Update –

Finance Director Bragdon presented the following:

- Tax and Tan Update
 - Machias Savings Bank TAN note has been paid off
 - There are 19 municipalities owing taxes which are due October 31st
- Finance Software Upgrade
 - Director Adkins and Director Bragdon went to Kennebec County last week to see Edmunds Gov Tech in person. After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve Edmunds's proposal of \$94,600 broken out over three years; the one-time installation cost of \$26,500 is included in this cost. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administration Update –

- Discussion on the recent scam that occurred with an ACH payment at the County. At this time, we have ceased all ACH payments.
- Discussion on the EPEC fire that took place. The baler which is owned by the Town of Orrington is on sight and was not damaged. There is a conflict which litigation is taking place on who should be receiving the transfer fees. Legal has advised the County to continue paying the way we have been paying.
- The 2025 caucus is taking place tonight in the Commissioners Chambers at 4:30 PM.

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant	10.04.24 \$ 317,116.45	10.11.24 \$ 316,346.17
A/P General Fund	10.08.24 \$ 165,943.11	10.15.24 \$ 616,261.95
A/P PRCC Bond	10.08.24 \$ 32,841.42	10.15.24 \$ N/A
A/P Unorg Terr	10.08.24 \$ 121,885.44	10.15.24 \$ 10,447.75
A/P UT TIF	10.08.24 \$ N/A	10.15.24 \$ 367.50
A/P ARPA	10.08.24 \$ 29,085.00	10.15.24 \$ 42,105.00

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

Payroll status changes signed for: Jennifer Snow, Olivia Devine, Georgiana Baker, Elizabeth Day, Jacob Holmes, Olivia Alden, Dylan Braley, Maxine Bruton, Seth Libby, Cheri Heaps, Dayerrick Ireland, Christopher Watson, & Braydon Porter.

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:20 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, Director Lavoie & PRCC Deputy Dir. Fitzgerald. Session ended at 10:27 AM.

Action Taken – No action taken

Executive Session---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:28 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, Facilities Director MacDonald, & Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 10:40 AM.

Action Taken – Commissioner Baldacci moved to enter into agreement with Epstein Commercial Real Estate to represent the County in real estate negotiation for property for a new jail. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Baldacci moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 AM with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Marshall 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

