

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024  
9:00 AM Commissioners Peter Baldacci, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

**#2483**

**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 Marshall made a motion to approve the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0. Signed.

**Public Comment** – None

**UT Update –**

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- The ambulance contract for 15 townships being serviced the Patten ambulance was presented for approval. Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the ambulance contract agreement as presented. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Move to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- It was reported that the Town of Webster Plantation voted last night 18-10 not to deorganize. The Town will be unable to conduct a vote to deorganize for three years. The UT FY26 budget will be modified to reflect this vote.
- We have not had to plow or sand north of Millinocket as of yet; all sand is place except for one shed out of the six sheds
- All major portions of roadwork have been completed, the rest will be completed in the Spring of 2025

**Approval of Warrants-**

Payroll Warrant	<b>11.08.24</b>	<i>\$ 319,198.17</i>	<b>11.15.24</b>	<i>\$321,206.00</i>
A/P General Fund	<b>11.12.24</b>	<i>\$ 326,289.32</i>	<b>11.19.24</b>	<i>\$258,281.93</i>
A/P PRCC Bond	<b>11.12.24</b>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<b>11.19.24</b>	<i>\$ N/A</i>
A/P Unorg Terr	<b>11.12.24</b>	<i>\$35,465.35</i>	<b>11.19.24</b>	<i>\$30,697.04</i>
A/P UT TIF	<b>11.12.24</b>	<i>\$ N/A</i>	<b>11.19.24</b>	<i>\$ N/A</i>
A/P ARPA	<b>11.12.24</b>	<i>\$50,440.00</i>	<b>11.19.24</b>	<i>\$81,800.00</i>

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

**Administrative Update –**

Administrator Adkins presented the following:

- The Budget Committee Meeting is being held this Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM

**Public Hearing – Food Sovereignty Ordinance / Unorganized Territory**

Chair Cushing opened the hearing at 9:15 AM for the proposed Unorganized Territory Food Sovereignty Ordinance.

The following participants were in favor of the ordinance:

Beatrice Lattimore, a Kingman resident favors this ordinance as it would allow small farms to make value-added products that feature fruits, vegetables, dairy, honey, etc. This is a low risk and benefits the community with more food options and no startup cost for the vendors. Commissioner Baldacci asked what can you do with the ordinance that you cannot do now? Some things require a commercial kitchen which makes it very costly.

Holly Smith-Pelkey, resident of Mattamiscontis, agrees with what Ms. Lattimore said. It is up to the consumer to decide whether to buy and support the vendors.

Shayleen Martin, resident of Kingman Township, states there is always a risk, but people desire to serve. Referenced the State of Maine bill, "Right to Food", as she encourages this ordinance and requests the board to vote in favor.

The following participant is against this ordinance:

Melissa Berkey, a resident of Bangor and a retired nurse practitioner, is concerned with public safety as you can't always rely on people to make the right decisions. You should not gamble on the intelligence of the consumer or vendor. The two largest safety issues with this ordinance are unpasteurized milk and cider. Who would be responsible for the sickness or death of a person who had purchased something from a vendor?

Commissioner Baldacci moved to close the Public Hearing closed at 9:36 AM.

After discussion, no vote was taken due to the information provided. A vote will be taken at a later date.

**Public Hearing – Special Event Permit for the Millinocket Marathon and Half**

Commissioner Cushing opened the public hearing for a special event permit for the Millinocket Marathon and Half at 9:37 AM. No public comment was available or taken. Commissioner Baldacci moved to close the hearing at 9:38 AM; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion and a Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the special event permit for the Millinocket Marathon and Half that will be held December 7<sup>th</sup> and waive the \$50 fee. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

**AFSCME PRCC Contract Signings –**

Present for signatures were AFSCME Union Representative John Nuttall, Kendrick McCarthy, Catherine Bazinet and Brett Crawford. After introductions of the negotiation panel, Commissioner Cushing thanked them all for the productive negotiation. Administrator Adkins commented on the professionalism of the negotiation team.

**ARPA –**

Grant Manager Dana presented the following:

- Grant Manager Dana posed the question regarding Heart of Maine Resource Center in Dexter. Could they use \$25K of their grant for architecture fees. Commission stated to use those monies as what was discussed to be used regarding construction and renovations.
- With the Wellspring monies of \$220K being returned, Commissioner Baldacci moved to divide those funds equally between the three districts for Commissioners Funds. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- There will be a December 9<sup>th</sup> deadline at 5:00 PM to have applications for the Commissioners Fund received.
- The four remaining sub-recipients were discussed:
  - **Millinocket Regional Hospital** –Commissioner Marshall moved to approve \$200K for the CT scan project. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to table this motion. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion to table. Later in the meeting, UT Director Buswell returned to discuss TIF funding options. An amount of \$50k was discussed and to be considered later. After further review, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve \$150K ARPA; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
  - **Patten Memorial Library** – Friends of Veterans Memorial Library Chair Rae Bates reported to the Commission that the committee has revised the size of this project. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve \$150K with conditional thresholds Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Moved to approve passed 3-0.

**ARPA – Continued:**

- **UMaine Ambulance** – After discussion, Commissioner Baldacci moved to deny the request. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to deny passed 3-0.
- **Veazie Water District** – Commissioner Marshall moved to use \$49K from his monies from the Commissioners Fund. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to table this until more information on other applications. Commissioner Baldacci seconded the motion. Vote to approve 3-0.

**Administration Update – Continued:**

- After discussion on clarification of sign-on bonuses, Commissioner Baldacci moved to approve after three years of separation of employment to the County, the employee can receive a sign-on bonus. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Facilities Update –**

- Director MacDonald reported on the Franklin Street project. The demo and abatement are finished which exposed a lot of questions on the building. Director MacDonald will check with Sheriff Morton to see if there are any modifications to the original floor plan.
- New stairwell between Sheriff's Office and Post Office were recognized.
- Discussion on the equipment still on the Y property. CA Adkins to contact vendor / Alloy.

Commissioner Baldacci reported on the MCCA meeting he attended last week and the recent changes for the 2025 budget year.

- The Risk Pool is increasing the deductible on auto accidents from \$1,000 to \$2,500. This change could possibly bring \$100,000 in savings to the Risk Pool.
- The Registry of Deeds is introducing a bill for document changes. Currently, recording fees are based on the number of pages submitted; the change is looking at a flat fee of \$45. The other change is raising the surcharge from \$3 to \$5.

Payroll status changes signed for: Amanda McLeod, Michelle Leathers, Bradley Nuding, Dillon Coleman, Brett Crawford, Rachael Kimball, Rebecca Ireland, Alexis Malone, Jeanne Orcutt, Olivia Averill, Ross Whitford, Seth Johnson, Hannah Craig and Ezra Haines.

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:53 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 Dyer, Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 11:30 AM.

**Action Taken** - None

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Baldacci made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:31 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, Administrator Adkins, Director Dyer, Facilities Director MacDonald, & Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 11:47 AM.

**Action Taken** – None

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 AM 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