

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes January 7th, 2025
9:00 AM Commissioners Andre Cushing, David Marshall & Dan Tremble**

#2487

Roll Call -

Commissioner 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 – Director Lavoie led the pledge.

Election of Chairman –

Chair Cushing requested CA Adkins to perform the election of the 2025 / Commission Chair. CA Adkins requested nominations; Commissioner Marshall nominated Commissioner Cushing and Commissioner Tremble followed with support of the nomination. CA Adkins asked for a vote and CC Cushing succeeded 3-0.

Recognition of Newly Elected Officials –

Chair Cushing welcomed District One's newly elected Commissioner, Dan Tremble and Register of Probate, Hilari Simmons. Register Simmons wished to thank the citizens of Penobscot County for having trust in her.

Probate, Registry of –

CA Adkins noted that this item was not on the prepared agenda, but needed to be addressed. While at the table, Register Simmons presented Jennifer Sullivan to the Commission as her new Deputy Register. As a formal approval, CC Marshall motioned to approve; CC Tremble with the 2nd & a successful vote of 3-0 taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the December 30th, 2024 / Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment –

Matt Donohue, VP & Chief & Elaine Thomas from United Way requested the Commission to re-consider the previous funding request that had been pulled back due to lack of progress. Mr. Donohue is to provide CA Adkins & Grant Manager Dana with an updated plan and details. CC Tremble commented that he would like the Commission to re-visit this topic. More discussion will take place at a later date.

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- Drew Plantation / Land & Quonset Hut – After a short discussion, the Commission approved putting out to bid to see what responses would be received. Director Buswell is going to need a couple months to clean up the area due to several junk cars and other items.
- Drew Plantation Fire Truck – The Commission decided that since it is an older model, Director Buswell should dispose of it, via auction, if necessary, in the most efficient manner possible.

UT Update – (Cont'd)

- Discussion on broadband and fiber optic lines being worked on.
- Discussion on the East Millinocket EMS contract. There will be a select board meeting today and once a decision is made, Director Buswell should hear back on whether or not East Millinocket will resume services.

EMA Update –

With a current vacancy in the Director position, CA Adkins presented current Deputy Director Chris Fox to be promoted to Interim Director. Commissioner Marshall moved to approve; Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion & a vote of 3-0 to approve was taken.

Facilities Update –

Director MacDonald presented the following:

- Franklin Street Project - Director MacDonald reported the County is waiting on the first set of drawings; however, expects them in the near future (couple weeks). Once received, he will meet with Sheriff Morton, Command Staff & CA Adkins to go over any major adjustments. The hope is to advertise an RFP for renovation work in the near future.

HR Update –

Director Dyer presented the following:

- Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) Policy – The document was presented to the Commission by HR Director Dyer. Included in the presentation was the awareness that the State of Maine had not finalized the rules around the policy to date. However, the collecting of the payroll tax began on January 1st, 2025. After discussion, CC Tremble motioned to approve the policy as presented; CC Marshall seconded the motion & a vote to approve passed 3-0.
- EMA Director interview process was discussed. Commissioner Marshall will represent the Commission on the interview panel.

Sheriff's Update –

Sheriff Morton presented the following:

- PCSO / Staffing and Hiring updates were discussed.
 - Corrections – 5 / Current openings. Good success lately with a high turnout of qualified applicants. A couple key positions were recently filled (Intake and Cook).
 - Law Enforcement – Not as lucky!! 5 / Current openings. However, for the Law side, this is critical as reported by Sheriff Morton. These vacancies make it hard to fill Town Contract & Rural Patrol commitments.
 - The body camera technician has been hired. Sheriff Morton reported optimistically that this project will be up & running within a few months.

Sheriff's Update – (Cont'd)

- Legislative Bills that were submitted before the January 10th closing date.
 - Prison Contraband – Efforts to update / change the definition
 - Pre-Trial Inmates - Earning credit for public works programs to include Pre-Trial inmates
 - Probation Violation Holds - Transferred to MDOC / Funded by State of Maine
- Maine Sheriff's Association MSA Legislative Breakfast – Sheriff Morton invited the Commission to this annual event taking place this year at the Senator Inn / Augusta on January 14.
- Dialogue is continuing with the State on the Resource Sharing Agreement.
- Sheriff stated parking accommodations on Franklin Street will be needed once the project is
- Year End Statistics / Presented by Sheriff Morton
 - Boarding costs are projected at \$2.1M (\$85 per day) for 2024; however, the new rate as of January 1st, 2025 is going to be \$100 per day.
 - Jail Medical contract has expired. Item was moved to Executive Session, at the end of today's meeting, for sensitive and proprietary considerations
 - Transport Van (Corrections) – After discussion about the need and complexity of finding a vehicle; Commissioner Marshall moved to go out to bid for a Van & Equipment for inmate transport; CC Tremble seconded the motion & a vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administrative Update –

Administrator Adkins reported the following:

- State of the County Report – New project outlining the accomplishments and upcoming projects for the Commission in the new year. Draft presented to the Commissioners and request for any edits made by CA Adkins. The goal is to finalize at the Jan. 21st, 2025 meeting.
- Opioid Committee – CA Adkins reminded the Commission of this project. CC Marshall would like to see this move forward. The Commissioners are to present CA Adkins with names of an individual to represent their district. The makeup of this committee is still in the works; however, currently, each Commissioner will appoint someone. In addition, CA Adkins & Sheriff Morton are to be on the committee.
- Used Treadmill from the Wellness Center went up for bid with only one single bid received. CC Marshall moved to accept the \$200 bid; CC Tremble made the 2nd & passed 3-0.
- Property @ 127 Hammond Street (Former Bangor Y) – CA Adkins presented this topic for Commissioner recommendations. At this time, the best option appears to be putting signage on the property, along with public advertising, indicating that the Commissioners are accepting development ideas with regards to the future use of the site.
- MCCA / Annual Meeting & Training Day will be held Wed., January 8th at 10:00 AM in Augusta.

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant	12.27.24	\$ 321,877.36	01.03.25	\$ 416,242.63
A/P General Fund (2024)	12.31.24	\$ 104,980.16	01.07.25	\$ 114,602.29
A/P General Fund (2025)			01.07.25	\$ 73,353.97
A/P PRCC Bond	12.31.24	\$ N/A	01.07.25	\$ N/A
A/P Unorg Terr	12.31.24	\$ 12,878.46	01.07.25	\$ 101,660.66
A/P UT TIF	12.31.24	\$ N/A	01.07.25	\$ 6,971.17
A/P ARPA	12.31.24	\$ 365,149.54	01.07.25	\$ 89,977.80

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the warrants per Item L on the agenda. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Payroll status changes signed for: Dan Tremble, Macee Pearl, Jared Grinnell, Bradley Nuding, Suzanne Higgins, Katarina Christensen, Lisa Dwinal, Cheri Heaps, Velma Jordan, Jennifer Sullivan, Corey Cepelak, Andy Rios, Brook Caron, & James Gordon, III.

Executive Session---Commissioner Tremble made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:35 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) Acquisition of Real Property. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, HR Director Dyer, Sheriff Morton and Facilities Director MacDonald. Session ended at 10:58 AM.

Action Taken – None

Executive Session---Commissioner Tremble made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:59 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contractual Matter. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, HR Director Dyer and Sheriff Morton. Session ended at 11:50 AM.

Action Taken – No vote taken. Sheriff Morton authorized to continue contract conversations with the current medical provider at the Jail. In addition, Sheriff Morton was provided with annual percentage of increases for upcoming LE / Town Contracts and authorized to continue negotiations with those towns. The official approval will come later when the contracts are presented to the Commission.

Adjournment -

Commissioner Tremble moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 AM with no further business on the agenda. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Signature Page:

Certified By:

Administrator, Scott Adkins

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Daniel J Tremble, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner