

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 18, 2025
8:30 AM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

2491

Roll Call -

Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 8:30 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioner Marshall, Director Dyer and Treasurer Mower present. Commissioner Tremble and Administrator Adkins attending via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance – PRCC Deputy Director Fitzgerald led the pledge.

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:32 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F) Confidential Records. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioner Cushing, Commissioner Marshall, Treasurer Mower, HR Director Dyer, Director Lavoie and Deputy Director Fitzgerald. Commissioner Tremble and Administrator Adkins via Zoom. Session ended at 8:45 AM.

Action Taken – None

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:46 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioner Cushing, Commissioner Marshall, Treasurer Mower, HR Director Dyer, Sheriff Morton and Captain Boulier. Commissioner Tremble and Administrator Adkins via Zoom. Session ended at 9:05 AM.

Action Taken – Commissioner Marshall moved to allow HR Director Dyer to communicate benefit options to the Union. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the February 4th and February 14th, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment – Justin Cartier, Christopher Swift and Wayne Mallar, residents of Bangor, came before the Commission because they feel it is a conflict of interest for Commissioner Tremble to participate as both City Councilor and Commissioner. After statements were read, Mr. Mallar is asking for the commission to produce a resolution. Commissioner Cushing requested a copy of what they are asking and it will be forwarded to our legal team to review.

Deeds Update –

Register Bulay presented the following:

- Document count for January to December 2024 recorded 32,086 documents (2.5% higher)
 - 5-year average – 39,271
- Revenue for January to December 2024 was \$1,248,817 turned over to the general fund (8% higher)
 - 5-year average - \$1,429,510

Deeds Update – Continued:

- Document count for January 202 recorded 2,649 documents (2.5% higher than last year)
- Revenue for January 2025 was \$94,301 turned over to the general fund (20% higher than last year)
- The legislative update LD358: An Act to Increase Fees Paid to Register of Deeds was discussed. This will take place February 24th in Augusta.
- Register Bulay stated that Registry of Deeds have been asked to partake in Legislative update LD 353: Deed Fraud Study Commission.

Sheriff's Update –

Members of RQAW – DCCM Architecture and Engineering Firm, Cole Walters, Sanjay Patel and Pete Peterson provided a PowerPoint presentation of a pod jail construction located in Indiana.

This is cost-effective facility with the key points of this design are staff efficiency, staff safety with inmates, intake and booking area, pods are located on the perimeter of the building with space behind for any maintenance that needs to be completed, medical wing and mental health wing. This facility will also house the Sheriff's Administration and programs for the inmates. The facility shown has a price tag of \$50M that will house 260-280 beds which could be expanded, if necessary, with an additional 50 specialty beds.

UT Update –

Commission Chair Cushing opened the bids for a UT truck. The following two vendors submitted their bid by the February 14th deadline.

- Thornton Brothers – Lincoln \$45,280
- Varney Ford - \$56,120

Commissioner Marshall moved to take these bids under advisement. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Facilities Update –

Director MacDonald reported the following:

- A request to repair the second shower room in the Wellness Center. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve \$3,000 as discussed. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Franklin Street is still in a holding pattern. An RFP has been written, but awaiting the current vendor finishing up on the drawings. It will be a couple weeks before being sent out.
- The private bathroom by the Probate Judge Quarters has been completed and looks wonderful.

HR Update –

Director Dyer presented the following:

- Director Dyer provided a staffing update and stated that HR is finding new ways to be creative in the hiring process.
- After discussion on the HR/Administration office re-design, Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the WB Mason quote of \$9,230. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administrative Update -

Administrator Adkins presented the following:

- After discussion on an informational County brochure production with a quote of \$2,325, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve a brochure as discussed. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Commissioner Tremble would like someone to look into overseeing the Opioid Committee. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- United Way Matt Donahue, VP and Shirar Patterson, President and & CEO came before the Commission to request reinstating the \$350K ARPA funding to the United Way. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to use \$100K from ARPA interest funding. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 2-1 with Commissioner Cushing against.
- Postponed to the next meeting is the Abatement appeal hearing deliberations – Mikulka vs Stacyville (02-04)
- March Commissioner meetings will be will be the 11th and 25th for month of March.

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant	02.07.25 \$ 333,037.38	02.14.25 \$ 335,178.85
A/P General Fund (2024)	02.11.25 \$ 5,883.34	02.18.25 \$ 11,737.10
A/P General Fund (2025)	02.11.25 \$ 651,656.58	02.18.25 \$ 233,398.15
A/P PRCC Bond	02.11.25 \$ N/A	02.18.25 \$ N/A
A/P Unorg Terr	02.11.25 \$ 38,792.98	02.18.25 \$ 220,343.44
A/P UT TIF	02.11.25 \$ N/A	02.18.25 \$ N/A
A/P ARPA	02.11.25 \$ 2,247,045.85	02.18.25 \$ 1,356,562.14

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.

UT – Continued:

Deputy Director Morrison returned to the meeting after consulting with Director Buswell on the UT truck bids. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the bid from Thornton Brothers for a 2025 Ram in the amount of \$45,280. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Payroll status changes signed for: Suzanne Higgins, Dustin Umlauf, Erza Haines, Jared Grinnell, Jordan Knappe, Rachel Libby, Zachary Rollins, Brody Gaslin, Michael Kennedy, Christopher Gray, Garrett Carlson, Stephen Marko, Patricia McLaughlin and Michael Parady

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:35 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter / Grievance GCN #185, Grievance GCN #186, and GCN #188. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, HR Director Dyer, Sheriff Morton, Captain Boulter & John Nuttall and Attn John Hamor. Commissioner Tremble left at 10:36 Session ended at 10:37 AM.

Action Taken - These grievances have been postponed to the March 25, 2025 meeting

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:20 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) Acquisition of Real Property. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 2-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, HR Director Dyer, Sheriff Morton, David Hughes / Epstein Real Estate, Kristi Trafton / Rudman Winchell & Matthew Carter / Haley Ward. Session ended at 11:36 AM.

Action Taken - None

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 AM. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 2-0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Scott Adkins

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Daniel J Tremble, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner