

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025
12:30 PM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

2492

Roll Call -

Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 12:32 PM from the Commissioners Chambers with Commissioner Marshall, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins and Director Dyer present. Commissioner Tremble attending via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance – HR Director Dyer led the pledge.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the February 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

Public Comment – Justin Cartier, private citizen of Bangor, presented a signed letter to the Commission regarding the topic of Elected Office Incompatibility. The letter questions the legality of current Commissioner Dan Tremble concurrently serving on the Bangor City Council. At the conclusion of Public Comment, Commissioner Marshall made the motion to have a legal review of the topic; Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion and a vote to approve passed 2-0. (Commissioner Tremble abstaining due to conflict of interest).

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Director Morrison presented the following:

- The TIF Committee has been looking for a third voting member. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to appoint Barbara Veilleux as the third voting member of the TIF Committee. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Director Buswell requested that the Commission and the TIF committee meet and work together on some issues. After discussion, it was agreed to hold a luncheon workshop after the April 1st meeting.
- After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve authorization for Plymouth Engineering to explore options to add a salt/sand shed at the Kingman Fire Station. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

EMA Update –

Director Fox presented the following:

- The GIS specialist is continuing work on drone imagery and supporting Paul Froman in his efforts to deliver data and context on Fire and EMS services in Penobscot County. There are three certified drone operators. Commissioner Cushing would like a capital plan developed for drone replacement costs in the future.
- The Greenbush mobile home community experiencing water issues was resolved with great success.
- Support for the St. Louis family from Argyle continues; all grant forms were sent to MEMA and they are currently being reviewed.

EMA Update – Continued:

- Grant Manager Dana and EMA met to explore additional funding opportunities to support our program.

NWDB Update –

Galan Williamson, Executive Director, reported the following:

- Discussion on updating the Senior CEO Board with a new commissioner to replace former Commissioner Peter Baldacci. Commissioner Tremble moved to nominate Commissioner Marshall for the Board. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Discussion on the IFA (Infrastructure Funding Agreement) which needs to be in place by the end of the year.
- Discussion on updating the workforce plan in which EMDC is taking the primary lead on this project which is due by June 15th.
- Jessica Godfrey, EMDC One Stop Operator Director, reported that she is working on strengthening the links between different partners.
- Quarterly Board Meeting is this Thursday, March 13th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM via Zoom.

EMDC Update –

Samantha Giasson, Director of Youth Services presented highlighted updates occurring within for job seekers and employers. Ms. Giasson reported that staff at the Bangor Career Center are making themselves available to help students one-on-one with technology. The youth programs are in full swing and it is looking like a busy and fruitful summer is on the horizon.

Ms. Giasson then reported a successful story. After long-term incarceration, this student had a goal of obtaining his CDL (commercial driver's license). After successful training in the program, he got his CDL and secured a job with a company delivering fuel.

HR Update –

Director Dyer presented the quarterly staffing update with intentions to update going forward monthly.

Treasurer's Update –

Treasurer Mower reported the following:

- All tax levies for 2024 have been paid in full
- After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve 6% for late payments on delinquent balances taxes for 2025. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Treasurer's Report – Continued:

- After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve a ARPA transfer to General Fund for a short-term loan until the TAN is approved. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commission Chair Cushing opened the bids for the County \$11.2M TAN (Tax Anticipation Note). The following two banks submitted their bids by the March 7th deadline.

- Camden Nation Bank – 9 months 5.624% or 5.3% with a deposit relationship
- Machias Savings Bank – 9 months 5.049%

Commissioner Tremble moved to approve Machias Savings Bank at 9 month 5.049%. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Sheriff's Update –

- Chief Knappe presented two Hermon contracts for signature. Commissioner Tremble moved to approve Administrator Adkins signing on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Chief Knappe requested permission to go out for RFP for ten new vehicles for next year. Chief Knapp stated that we have been going out early to purchase last year's vehicles for less expense. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve going out for RFP for Tahoe's. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Captain Boulter requested going out to RFP for a new jail transport van. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve this request. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Captain Boulter presented a request for capital improvements for two offices. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve \$5,850 and \$1,550 for the two offices as presented. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Director MacDonald reported on fixing 10-12 cell toilets. Commissioner Marshall moved to acquire the necessary valves for the jail structure up to \$20K. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Administrative Update -

Administrator Adkins presented the following:

- Discussion on when the Spirit of America Ceremony can take place. We were considering sometime in April since it is National "Volunteer Month".
- The Opioid Committee discussion will be continued to March 25th.
- County Parking Policy will be continued to March 25th.
- LUPC discussion at a meeting to be held in Augusta on March 20th

Administration Update – Continued:

- Upcoming Commissioner meetings will be as follows:
 - March 25th – Administrator Adkins remote
 - April 1st - Grievance Hearings
 - April 9th - Municipal Meeting Luncheon from 11:30 – 1:00
 - April 15th will be a Tax Abatement Appeal Hearing / Moison vs Town of Enfield

Commissioners -

- Commissioners Cushing and Marshall reported on the NACo Convention they recently attended in Washington, D.C.

Tax Abatement Appeal – Mikulka vs Stacyville

The Commissioners deliberated on the matter of Mikulka vs Stacyville, Town of pertaining to the Tax Abatement Appeal Hearing of Tuesday, February 4th. Mr. Mikulka's property is located at 40 Torres Lane, Stacyville / Tax Map 12 / Lot 063-OTG / Account R198.

Property Owner Mike Mikulka represented himself.

Vonna Lee Sides (Dixie) – Town Clerk and Steven Salley – Assessor's Agent for Stacyville presented for the Town of Stacyville.

Commissioners stated unanimously, the plaintiff did not present sufficient evidence to show any unjust action toward the town's assessment of his property. In reviewing what the town's assessor presented as evidence, the Commission found the formula used to assess properties in Stacyville to be fair & consistent. Therefore, Commission denies the abatement.

Commissioner Marshall moved to deny the abatement appeal. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to deny passed 3-0.

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant	02.21.25 \$ 327,261.96	02.28.25 \$ 360,038.13	03.07.25 \$356,367.10
A/P General Fund	02.25.25 \$ 651,213.54	03.04.25 \$ 352,179.65	03.11.25 \$589,794.96
A/P PRCC Bond	02.25.25 \$ N/A	03.04.25 \$ 321,205.40	03.11.25 \$ 9,500.00
A/P Unorg Terr	02.25.25 \$ 26,031.40	03.04.25 \$ 104,823.59	03.11.25 \$33,021.67
A/P UT TIF	02.25.25 \$ 5,047.26	03.04.25 \$ N/A	03.11.25 N/A
A/P ARPA	02.25.25 \$ 8,629.96	03.04.25 \$ 2,605.292.00	03.11.25 \$1,288.34

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: Tyler Cadet, Tyler Emery, Ryan Robichaud, Tyler Young, Ryan Fitch, Alexis Malone, Rebecca Wood, Riley Schoch, Catherine Sullivan, Ahrya Somers, Rachael Kimball, Alycia Hallett, Amanda McLeod, Brody Gaslin, Kendra Diaz, Heather Richardson, Jarek Ireland, Matthew Hobson, Elijah Law, Jacob House, David Quinn, Jonathan Chasse, Toni Bridges, Michael Kennedy, Katrina Carrier, Vicki Somers, Eric Petterson, Michael Morin, Brody Gaslin, Oshane Reid, Tyler Emery, Seth Libby, Benjamin Layman & John McEwen.

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:13 PM 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, and Director MacDonald. Session ended at 2:30 PM.

Action Taken – None

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:31 PM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, HR Director Dyer, EMA Director Fox and HR Coordinator Snow. Session ended at 2:35 PM

Action Taken - Commissioner Tremble moved to accept the recommendation of HR Director Dyer and EMA Director Fox for the EMA Deputy Director. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:35 PM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins and HR Director Dyer. Session ended at 2:42 PM.

Action Taken – Commissioner Cushing moved to offer the following: if a lump sum payment of 1/3 can be made by March 25th, extension of benefits can continue as long as the employee makes their regularly scheduled weekly premium for the duration of leave on a set schedule by HR with a repayment plan of the past due premiums upon return. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Executive Session---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2: 36 PM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel. Commissioner Treasurer seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins, & HR Director Dyer. Session ended at 2:42 PM.

Action Taken - None

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:47 PM. Commissioner Treasurer seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3 -0.

Certified By:

Administrator, Scott Adkins

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Daniel J Tremble, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner