

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes April 15, 2025**  
**9:00 AM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

**#2495**

**Roll Call -**

Chair Cushing opened the meeting at 9:00 AM from the Commissioners Chambers with all Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Adkins and Director Dyer present.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Commissioner Marshall led the pledge.

**Public Comment** – None

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -**

Commissioner Tremble made a motion to approve the April 1, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

**PRCC Update –**

Director Lavoie and Deputy Fitzgerald presented the following:

- Monthly department updates to include:
  - This week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.
  - Staffing update; Michael Azevedo was recognized for training.
  - The Radio Project in Patten is moving ahead and should be completed by the end of the year.
  - Preparing for Maine Day at UMaine at the beginning of May. The Mobile Starlink will be deployed during this event.
  - Legislative Updates on LD 168 and LD 808.
  - The Maine NENA Conference is taking place May 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> in Portland.
- The Emergency Communication Support Specialist job description was presented. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve advertising this position. Commissioner Treasurer seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Discussion on Holden and Passadumkeag lease updates. After discussion, Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the leases as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- The following staff were nominated for NENA Awards to be announced on May 8th:
  - ECS Johannah Sirois – Silent Hero
  - Supervisor Michael Azevedo – Supervisor of the Year
  - Supervisor Jordanna Sprague – Stork Award
  - ECO Lindsay McPhail – Stork Award

**DA's Office –**

DDA Lynds and Office Manager Higgins presented the following:

- A review of office space for the DA's Office was discussed. DDA Lynds has consulted with the IT Department and Facilities Department on the movement of the Commissioners going to the

**DA's Office – Continued:**

third floor. WB Mason came in and did a walk-through and will provide options and a cost estimate. The Commission is willing to explore using the Probate Court for meetings.

- Staffing update reports that there will be two prosecutors leaving two full-time positions opened.
- Requesting approval to use up to \$6,000 (\$25/hour – 24 hours a week for 10 weeks) of criminal forfeiture funds for an intern funding for Law Student. The current balance in that fund is \$14,409.99. Commissioner Tremble moved to approve \$6,000 for intern funding for a Law Student. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

**IT Update –**

Director Tenney presented the following:

- Finished upgrading the PRCC computers.
- Finished helping upgrade the Piscataquis County Phone system.
- Upgraded to a new Firewall. Plans to set up a secondary unit for High Availability.
- Finished updates to the Virtual Infrastructure to Patch security vulnerabilities & general firmware updates.
- Went to Piscataquis to assist with the movement of their 911 Staffing to a different office
- Requesting to go out to RFP to redesign the county website

**EMA Update –**

Director Fox and Deputy Barrows reported the following:

- Preparing for Maine Day with PRCC in the beginning of May.
- Supporting the Kenduskeag Canoe Race this weekend.
- Training at UMaine yesterday with PRCC.
- Due to an aging vehicle, EMA is requesting to purchase a 2025 Chevy Tahoe from Colonial Municipal Group for \$70,019. This vendor is the same vendor that the Sheriff's Office recently received bids from. Currently, there is \$67,318.37 set aside in the capital account. Commissioner Tremble moved to approve this purchase as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- The ARPA / Light tower purchase request. This purchase price has been lowered from \$36,000 for one, to \$30,900 for two light towers. Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the purchase up to \$31,000. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

**UT Update –**

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- Sawmill Grill liquor license renewal was discussed. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the renewal as presented. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.
- Discussion on Peter Pray's LUPC renewal. Mr. Pray will need to fill out an application and send to the State. There is no action necessary on our part.
- Director Buswell met with Millinocket Fire Chief for a contract quote. It was an easy negotiation with an \$10,000 increase which will cover seven municipalities in and around Millinocket.
- Our ACO (Animal Control Officer) has picked up two additional towns which we are waiting for contracts. Our ACO will fill in as needed when their ACO is unavailable.
- The Town of Lincoln ACO is retiring; our ACO has agreed to service that area. We will give a 3-month trial to see how it will work.

**Tax Abatement Appeal Hearing –**

Commissioner Cushing opened the hearing at 10:31 AM.

- Present were:
  - David Moison – Property Owner
  - Gina Batchelder – Enfield Town Manager
  - Travis Roy – Enfield's Assessors Agent
- Mr. Moison wanted presented an additional evidence packet. After review from the Town of Enfield, Commissioner Tremble moved to postpone the Abatement hearing until a later date. Commissioner Cushing seconded the motion. A vote to postpone approved 3-0.

The hearing was closed at 10:40 AM

**UT Update – Continued:**

- Roy Donnelly, Project Manager at Eagle Point Energy Center (EPEC) presented a contract. After discussion, no vote until Rudman and Winchell reviews the current contract. There is concern with the EPEC and PERC lawsuit taking place.
  - Mr. Donnelly discussed the bailer that was purchased with County ARPA monies.
- Food Sovereignty Decision – After discussion on the Food Sovereignty Ordinance that was heard on December 17<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the food sovereignty ordinance with the amended change of a two-year ordinance with a sunset provision to review after that time. This will be forwarded to legal counsel. Vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Commissioners –**

Presented was a MCCA Resolution to support preservation of tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. After review, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve this resolution with amendments as presented. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

**HR Update –**

Director Dyer presented staffing updates. This Friday, employees are encouraged to wear black or gold in support of PRCC.

**Administrative Update –**

Administrator Adkins presented the following:

- Opioid Committee has five participants
- Commissioners approved the Grievance response letters to be sent out
- Upcoming meetings in May –
  - May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at 11:00 AM with a meeting with the TIF Committee
  - May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM will be the Spirit of America recognition ceremony
- The Registry of Deeds Capital Improvement Plan was discussed

**Approval of Warrants-**

Payroll Warrant	<b>04.04.25</b>	\$ 329,676.86	<b>04.11.25</b>	\$ 337,890.21
A/P General Fund	<b>04.08.25</b>	\$ 344,542.51	<b>04.15.25</b>	\$ 405,900.26
A/P PRCC Bond	<b>04.08.25</b>	\$ N/A	<b>04.15.25</b>	\$ N/A
A/P Unorg Terr	<b>04.08.25</b>	\$ 44,626.07	<b>04.15.25</b>	\$ 6,216.47
A/P UT TIF	<b>04.08.25</b>	\$ N/A	<b>04.15.25</b>	\$ N/A
A/P ARPA	<b>04.08.25</b>	\$ 2,109,030.10	<b>04.15.25</b>	\$ 345.61

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

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:35 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, Director MacDonald and Matt Carter. Session ended at 11:50 AM

**Action Taken -** None

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:50 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contractual Matter. Commissioner Tremble 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 12:07 PM

**Action Taken** - None

**Executive Session**---Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:14 PM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, and Administrator Adkins. Session ended at 1:17 PM

**Action Taken** - None

Payroll status changes signed for: Catherine Bazinet, Johannah Sirois, Katie Grant, Brayden Porter, Maxine Bruton, Eric Petterson, Susan Veilleux, Benjamin Layman, Kenneth York, John McEwen, Jordan Norton, Andy Rios, Gary Bragdon, Macee Pearl, and Jacob House.

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 PM. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A 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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Daniel J Tremble, Commissioner

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David S. Marshall, Commissioner