

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 23, 2025 #2520
10:00 AM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall

Roll Call -

Commissioner Cushing opened the meeting 10:04 AM with Commissioner Tremble, Commissioner Marshall, and Interim Administrator Lamb present in the Third Floor Great Room

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Tremble led the Pledge.

Approval of Meeting Minutes - Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the December 11th and December 17th, 2025 Meeting Minutes and December 16th, 2025 Workshop Minutes. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Public Comment – None

Public Hearing- 2026 County Budget and FY27 UT Budget -

Commissioner Cushing opened the public hearing on the 2026 / Penobscot County Commissioner's Budget and the fy27 / UT (Unorganized Territory) Budget at 10:05 AM.

Commissioner Cushing discussed the changes to the proposed budget. During the December 11th Budget Committee meeting, the Budget Committee requested the Commission to reduce the budget a million dollars in expenditures, not to include revenues.

Rep. Steven Foster (District 32) thanked the Commission for its work in lowering the amount of the proposed expenditures and strongly recommended that the Commission review the resolution discussed at the December 11 budget meeting.

William Collins (Former Penobscot County Administrator) reported that he was present to see the finalization of the budget. Mr. Collins stated that the challenge is the shortfall from the jail, not from the department budgets. Mr. Collins recommended that the Commissioners speak with legislative leaders in Augusta and bring this issue forward as a priority. Mr. Collins noted that approximately \$7M has come from surplus funds to support the operation of the jail, and that with no remaining surplus available, the burden is now falling on the citizens of Penobscot County. He urged the Commissioners to work with the State to have this situation rectified.

Public hearing was closed at 10:13 AM with no vote.

Finance Director Palmer discussed the timeline for completion of the revised budget. Once the budget has been completed, it will be posted online for public review before the December 31st Commissioners' Meeting. The budget will be voted at this meeting.

Commissioner Tremble stated that the departments were reasonable in their budget requests; however, the fund balance should have been addressed sooner. Commissioner Tremble added that, going forward, a financial policy should be established to define an appropriate fund balance level.

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- A public hearing will be held on January 8, 2026, in Augusta regarding the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) appointment of Peter Pray to represent Penobscot County.
- A meeting was held yesterday with representatives from Hammond Ridge–Twin Pine Camps to discuss potential improvements and enhancements in that area. While nothing has been finalized, a proposed plan will be brought forward to the Commissioners.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Glenn Mower presented a letter to the IRS requesting abatement of penalties for ACA paperwork for non-compliance in 2021 and 2022. Signed.

Grant Update –

Grant Manager Wendy Dana discussed the Federal Energy Grant (Davis-Bacon) award, totaling just under \$80,000, for the HVAC equipment on Franklin Street. Grant Manager Dana has been unable to reach her contacts, as all communications have been returned as undeliverable. Commissioner Cushing recommended that she contact a member of the federal delegation to assist in expediting the request.

Opioid Committee Update –

Chair Jamie Beck, Committee members Wendy Dana and Pat Kimball presented to the Commission the first round of 12 applications recommended by the Opioid Committee. They are as follows:

- St. Andre's Home - \$10,000
- Penquis C.A.P., Inc. - \$34,880
- B.A.R.N. - \$39,000
- True Connections – Prevention - \$45,833
- Save-A-Life Recovery Resource Center - \$46,420
- Breaking the Cycle - \$49,999
- Fresh Start, Inc. - \$25,000
- True Connections – Recovery - \$25,000
- AccessDirect Recovery Network - \$35,389
- GBA Counseling Services - \$35,000
- Bangor Area Homeless Shelter - \$10,000
- Needlepoint Sanctuary of Maine - \$43,479

Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the Committees recommendation as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Former Commissioner Laura Sanborn reported that she is monitoring the Opioid and TIF fund balances.

Administrative Update –

Interim Administrator Lamb presented the following:

- After discussion, it was decided that the County will remain open tomorrow despite the incoming inclement weather.
- After discussion, Commission Tremble moved to approve the EMS Consulting Contract with Paul Froman for an additional six months at \$1,500 a week. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant	12.19.25	\$ 347,465.08
A/P General Fund	12.23.25	\$ 307,825.18
A/P PRCC Bond	12.23.25	\$ 11,787.50
A/P Unorg Terr	12.23.25	\$ 39,990.89
A/P UT TIF	12.23.25	\$ N/A
A/P ARPA	12.23.25	\$ 25,126.66

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

Payroll status changes signed for: Jeffrey Hunter and Jennifer Snow

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:00 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, Interim Administrator Lamb, George Buswell, Suzanne Astran, Robin Fisher, Jon Hicks, Chris Lavoie, and Mary Anne O’Kelly Session ended at 2:03 PM

Action Taken – None

Commissioner Tremble moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 PM. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Signature Page

Certified By:

Interim Administrator, Gary Lamb

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Daniel J. Tremble, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner