

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes January 21, 2026 #2524**  
**10:00 AM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

**Roll Call -**

Commissioner Cushing opened the meeting at 10:02 AM with Commissioner Tremble, Commissioner Marshall, Administrator Tinkham, and Interim Administrator Lamb present in the Probate Courtroom.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Former Senate President Charles Pray led the Pledge.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -** Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Public Comment -** None

Amended agenda Item E to Item D, Administrator Lamb will address a couple other items, and an executive session for 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) / Contract Matter.

**Katahdin Regional Development Board –**

Charles Pray, Chair of the Millinocket Katahdin Regional Development Board, Debbie Roundtree, Executive Director of Rural Development Initiatives for Eastern Maine Community College at the Katahdin High Center in East Millinocket, and Shane Flynn from the Eldon Doddy Group.

This group represents eight communities and has since drafted a plan after meeting with the Commission on October 7<sup>th</sup>. During this discussion, a strategic plan was presented.

The Commission feels the next step should be to hold a workshop, but would like to wait until our new Administrator Blair Tinkham has time to get familiarized to his new position.

**UT Update –**

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison reported the following:

- After discussion on the Central Maine Highlands EMS – Fire District 1, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve Elizabeth Pelkey as Director and George Buswell as Alternate. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- The former town office in Drew Township sale was discussed. Since Department 14 paid for all the legal fees to remove the squatters, Director Buswell is requesting that the proceeds from the sale of \$7,555.55 goes into Dept. 14 Revenue.
- The LD 382 (An Act to Provide Fair and Predictable Property Taxation for Landowners in the UT) was discussed.
- Director Buswell has been asked to serve on the Board of Directors for the Municipal Waste Hub (MRC) and plans on accepting the appointed position.
- Discussion on the inventories of the salt/sand sheds. This season has seen a strain on our system. Six of the salt / sand sheds are at half or more. Mattagamon and Prentiss are at 2/3 gone. We are within our budget.

- Discussion on an item that was voted on November 5<sup>th</sup>, to pay for the Mule II Litter Wheel gurney. Commissioner Tremble moved to exchange payment from the PILT funds to the UT funds. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

### **Finance –**

Director Palmer presented the following update:

- Negotiations are underway in securing a TAN.
- Director Palmer is awaiting to hear back from the auditors on the 2023 Audit.
- The new deputy finance director is currently working on 1099's.
- The W2's are ready.
- Treasurer Mower requested an Abatement for the lien; we should know by end of week the decision.
- Director Palmer has been busy training, cross training, and learning new systems.
- Commissioner Tremble conveyed his appreciation for all the hard work that Director Palmer and her team are doing and getting us where we need to be.

### **HR Update –**

AFSCME General Unit Contract Signings –

- Present for signatures were Shelley Carver who has worked for the County almost 18 years and Deborah Knapp 37 years. After introductions of the negotiation panel, Commissioner Cushing thanked them all for the productive negotiation. Director Dyer commented on the partnership demonstrated through the bargaining process and professionalism shown by union leadership and County representatives. Commissioners also gave thanks for their dedication to the County.
- Commissioner Marshall moved to accept the contract as presented with retro pay from January 1. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Signed.

### **Administrative Update –**

Interim Administrator Lamb presented the following:

- To allow a smooth transition with our new Administrator Tinkham, Administrator Lamb will continue working as needed.
- After discussion on LD 2009 (An Act to Allow a Political Subdivision to Enter into Federal Bankruptcy Proceedings). Commissioner Marshall moved to record opposition of this bill. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve to oppose this bill passed 3-0.

Administration Update – Continued:

- Discussion on the creation of a budget advisory committee. Commission would like a group of people with different prospective to start work on changing our budget year from calendar to fiscal. It is the recommendation to have town appointed officials, finance directors or town administrators, those that operate with the budgets on frequently. Also recommended would be a moderator. Someone who has been in county government in the past. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to form a county advisory committee. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- Discussion on the dates of the tax abatement hearings. These were taking February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 AM. Due to all three Commissioners not available on February 18<sup>th</sup>, the date has been changed to February 25<sup>th</sup>. Mary Anne will coordinate with the State and the applicants to change the date.
- Commissioners requested that Facilities Director MacDonald report at next weeks meeting on the status of projects.

Approval of Warrants-

Payroll Warrant	<b>01.16.26</b> \$ 342,715.76
A/P General Fund	<b>01.20.26</b> \$ 70,039.96
A/P PRCC Bond	<b>01.20.26</b> \$ 604,902.09
A/P Unorg Terr	<b>01.20.26</b> \$ 170,755.87
A/P UT TIF	<b>01.20.26</b> \$ 2,625.00
A/P ARPA	<b>01.20.26</b> \$ 2,000,000.00

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

Payroll status changes signed for: Abigail LeBlanc, J. Chenoweth and Ava Vardaros.

Commissioner Tremble made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:10 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) / Contract Matter. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Pinkham, Interim Administrator Lamb, and Director Palmer. Session ended at 11:35 AM.

Commissioner Tremble moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 AM . 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