

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes January 28, 2026 #2525**  
**10:00 AM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

**Roll Call -**

Commissioner Marshall opened the meeting at 10:01 AM with Commissioner Tremble, Administrator Tinkham, and Interim Administrator Lamb present in the Probate Courtroom. Commissioner Cushing participating via Zoom.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Administrator Tinkham led the Pledge.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -** Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 2-0.

**Public Comment -** None

**NWDB –**

Executive Director Galan Williamson presented the following:

- Annual Update for Penobscot County
  - Reports growth in Asian population and individuals identifying with two or more races.
  - Participation rate is 60% which is a 3.3% less than State average.
  - Poverty level is at 13.5% which is something we are focusing on and prioritizing particularly in the adult population
  - Disconnected youth are 16 – 19-year-olds that are not enrolled in school/not graduated or on unemployment or not employed. Is 1.3%, which is 1% lower than State average.
  - Unemployment rate is 3.3%; the national average is 4.3%
  - Wage earnings with a comparison of 2024 to 2025 showed an increase of \$2,074 per worker.
  - Concentration of Employees by industry remained largely Healthcare, Retail, and Education.
  - The goal is to build a skilled workforce to go out and gain a great wage
  - Discussion on the Job Corps back in motion after closure and they are currently accepting new students

**EMDC -**

Carrie Dwelley, Regional Manager of Workforce Services - Northeast presented the following:

- Success stories were shared regarding enrollment opening back up for both the Penobscot and Loring Job Corps , highlighting positive outcomes for participants.
- Carrie has been actively engaged at the Katahdin Higher Education Center in East Millinocket, collaborating with Deb Roundtree to ensure individuals eligible for services are identified and supported.

**EMDC Update – Continued:**

- There has been notable growth in training and employment opportunities in administration of assistant roles, entry level medical roles, and CDL A & B roles.
- Loring Job Corp is in a rebuilding phase using available funding and continues to offer rolling admissions.
- Funding is being used effectively to place individuals into work experience opportunities, including on-the-job training programs.
- There has been strong interest in CDL training (both Class A and Class B), reflecting workforce demand.
- Significant collaboration is underway with Eastern Maine Community College to enroll both adults and youth in EMT, Firefighting, CAN and RN programs.
  - CNA and CDL programs have emerged as two of the most in-demand courses, driven largely by workforce needs in Penobscot County.
- Efforts are ongoing to introduce participants to skilled trades training, including electrician and plumbing career pathways.
- We are working to align participant career goals with available funding resources to maximize impact and sustainability.

**DA –**

ADA Lynds and Office Manager Higgins presented the following:

- Following discussion regarding the Advent Diversion program, Commissioner Tremble moved to approve funding in the amount of \$1,200 from the Criminal Forfeiture account. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.
- A staffing update was provided, noting the addition of two new prosecutors. It was also reported that there is currently no available capacity for clerical staff.

**ARPA –**

Grant Manager Wendy Dana presented the following:

- Review of current ARPA grant balances and remaining funds.
- Energy Grant (\$79,880)
  - Status update on hearing back regarding the grant.
  - Clarification that the additional \$30,000 was previously coming from the building escrow account, which is now defunct.
- Staff Update:
  - Wendy has given notice; her last day being February 13
- Legal Agreement:
  - Follow-up on agreement from Legal; currently waiting on the contract

**Facilities Update –**

Director MacDonald presented the following:

- Liberty Mutual Report: A review of the list of recommendations
- Project Coordination: Administrator Tinkham will connect with Brian to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects.
- DA's Office Space: There is currently no funding to complete this project at this time. The National Guard may be consulted to determine if they can provide assistance. However, the project is on hold indefinitely until funding becomes available.

**Administrative Update –**

Interim Administrator Lamb presented the following:

- The State and Appellees have agreed to meet on March 4 and March 18 for the tax abatement hearings.
- February Meetings will be held on the February 4 and February 25.
- March Meetings will be held on March 4 and March 18

**Approval of Warrants-**

Payroll Warrant	<b>01.23.26</b>	<i>\$ 365,366.06</i>
A/P General Fund	<b>01.27.26</b>	<i>\$ 332,495.63</i>
A/P PRCC Bond	<b>01.27.26</b>	<i>\$ N/A</i>
A/P Unorg Terr	<b>01.27.26</b>	<i>\$ 28,994.91</i>
A/P UT TIF	<b>01.27.26</b>	<i>\$ N/A</i>
A/P ARPA	<b>01.27.26</b>	<i>\$ 18.00</i>

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: Cindy Grant, Cameron Pennell, Dylan Braley, and Rebecca Bryant

Commissioner Tremble moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 AM. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Signature Page**

**Certified By:**

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Administrator, Blair Tinkham

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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