

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 4, 2026 #2526**  
**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 Treasurer Mower present in the Probate Courtroom.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Attorney Andy Hamilton led the Pledge.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -** Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Public Comment –**

Peter Velanzon of Argyle reported to the Commissioners that he believes he was unfairly treated regarding his January 14th grievance. He stated that he feels he was deliberately brought into a different office as part of a conspiracy to create a false narrative about the situation. Mr. Velanzon expressed a willingness to resolve the matter internally and extended an olive branch, requesting a meeting with all parties involved.

He further stated that he believes he was recorded, which he considers a criminal act, and noted that if he is not satisfied with the outcome, he intends to report the matter to State and Federal agencies.

On a positive note, Mr. Velanzon expressed appreciation for the current road conditions and thanked the Commissioners for their work. Commissioner Cushing clarified that the credit for the road work should go to Director Buswell.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:09 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C) . Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Administrator Tinkham, Treasurer Mower, Director Buswell, Deputy Morrison, Legal Counsel Stephen Wagner (RW), Noreen Norton (RW) (via Zoom), Attorneys Andy Hamilton and Johnathan Pottle of Katahdin Law. Session ended at 10:50 AM.

**UT Update –**

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- Attorneys Andy Hamilton and Jonathan Pottle of Katahdin Legal Counsel, representing Hammond Ridge Development Company, presented a request regarding a proposed signature resort and mixed-use development in and around Hammond Ridge. A timeline was presented regarding the Tax Increment Financing (“TIF”) and Credit Enhancement Agreements between the County and the Developer. Penobscot County legal counsel, Stephen Wagner of Rudman Winchell (“RW”), participated in the discussion. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve Penobscot County, Maine Professional Fee Reimbursement Agreement, with Administrator Tinkham authorized to sign. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

**UT Update – Continued:**

- Commissioner Marshall moved to approve scheduling a public hearing on the proposed Penobscot County Unorganized Territory Hammond Ridge Development Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program for March 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.
- After discussion, Commissioner Marshall moved to approve and execute a letter from the Penobscot County Commission to the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development requesting extension of TIF submittal deadline to March 31, 2026. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote. Signed.

**Treasurers Update -**

Treasurer Mower presented documentation from Machias Savings Bank approving a \$16,000,000 TAN (Tax Anticipation Note). Commissioner Tremble moved to approve this TAN as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. This motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

**Administration Update –**

Administrator Tinkham presented the following:

- An RFP for On-Site Audit Support was issued on Friday, January 30, to vendors for our 2024 and 2025 audits. Bid responses are due no later than 12:30 PM on Friday. A bid opening will be held on Monday, February 9, during a special meeting.

**ARPA –**

Grant Manager Wendy Dana, Chair Jamie Beck and State Opioid Representative Pat Kimball presented the following:

- In order for the 12 awardees to receive their awarded funds, we are currently awaiting the finalized contract from Legal. Administrator Tinkham will be meeting with Attorney Hamer tomorrow and will discuss the status at that time.
- With three council members stepping down, we will need to fill those three vacancies and add one additional member. The council is seeking representation from law enforcement, county-level leadership, and individuals with lived experience. The Commission recommended allowing a couple of months to resume work with this Committee so the new Administrator has sufficient time to get fully up to speed.
- The State Opioid Meeting will be held in July in Bangor.

**Approval of Warrants-**

Payroll Warrant	<b>01.30.26</b>	\$ 405,869.27
A/P General Fund	<b>02.04.26</b>	\$ 1,004,124.45
A/P PRCC Bond	<b>02.04.26</b>	\$ 437.50
A/P Unorg Terr	<b>02.04.26</b>	\$ 115,090.69
A/P ARPA	<b>02.04.26</b>	\$ 1,298.10

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

Payroll status changes signed for: Thomas Barrows, Francis Surdick, Emilee Pinkham, David King, Katrina Currier, Ryan Roy, Brody Gaslin, Heather Richardson, Anastasia Bliss, Bayron Molina Carcamo, Brynn Goddard, Gloria Evans, Tyler Young, Garrett Carlson, Jake McAlinden, Ryan Martin and Beston Simpson.

Recess 11:28 AM

Commissioner Tremble made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:30 PM 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 and Administrator Tinkham. Session ended at 3:30 PM.

Commissioner Tremble moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:31 PM. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Signature Page

Certified By:

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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

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Administrator, Blair Tinkham