

Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 13, 2026 #2528
1:30 PM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall

Roll Call -

Commissioner Cushing opened the meeting at 1:36 PM with Commissioner Marshall, Treasurer Mower and Administrator Tinkham present in the Third Floor Great Room. Commissioner Tremble arrived 1:46 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance – Jason Sharpe led the Pledge.

Dirigo Strategic Advisors –

Partners Jason Sharpe (in-person) and Robert Brown (via-zoom) reported on their recent RFP submission for the On-Site Audit for the Treasurer's Office.

After the report, a question-and-answer session was held to clarify the proposal. The discussion focused on ways to make the audits more efficient and on identifying processes that would minimize disruption to the Finance Office.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:14 PM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract Matter. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners and Administrator Tinkham. Session ended at 2:31 PM.

The Commission adjourned the Workshop and reconvened in a Regular Meeting to take action.

Commissioner Tremble moved to enter into a contract with Dirigo Strategic Advisors for audit preparation services and other financial work for the County, at a cost not to exceed \$84,000, with final terms and conditions to be negotiated by the Administrator. The motion was approved by a vote of 3–0.

PILT Fund

Administrator Tinkham requested that this discussion take place later in the month.

Letter to Governor

Administrator Tinkham presented a revised letter to Governor Mills regarding the County's financial situation, advocating for additional funding particularly for county jails. The County is requesting \$8M to alleviate projected onboarding costs, and address the critical infrastructure and safety needs. Administrator Tinkham requested permission to forward the letter to the Governor and to seek a meeting date for County Administration to further discuss the matter.

Letter to Penobscot County Delegation

Administrator Tinkham provided a letter to the Penobscot County Delegation for review. The Commission discussed potential dates to meet with the Delegation and considered whether the meeting would be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.

Legislative Hearing

Commissioner Cushing reported that the hearing on the supplemental budget for corrections is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th at 10:00 AM. This conflicts with the Commissioners' regularly scheduled meeting. He expressed that it is important to attend, noting concern that no funding was allocated for corrections at the county level in the supplemental budget.

Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed that their presence in Augusta was necessary. The regular meeting will therefore be postponed to Thursday, February 26th at 2:00 PM

Letter of Authority

Following discussion of the County Administrator's Letter of Authority, Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the letter as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Tremble moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 PM. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Certified By:

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Daniel J. Tremble, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner

Administrator, Blair Tinkham