

**Penobscot County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes February 27, 2026 #2529**  
**12:00 PM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall**

**Roll Call -**

Commissioner Cushing opened the meeting at 12:05 PM with Commissioner Tremble, Commissioner Marshall, Administrator Tinkham, and Treasurer Mower present in the Probate Courtroom.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Commissioner Tremble led the Pledge.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -** Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the February 4<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup> and February 13<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 of his meeting that took place with Administrator Tinkham. This meeting lasted 59 minutes and this communication with the county has been recorded. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Velanzon accepted an apology letter. After further review of the apology letter, Mr. Velanzon feels that it was inadequate as it did not address anything that had happened during the time.

Mr. Velanzon requested clarification regarding the County's complaint process. He stated that his understanding is that a complaint may be submitted by email, in writing with a timestamped copy, or verbally. He further reported that at the conclusion of his meeting with Administrator Tinkham, he was informed that there would be no accountability for the individuals involved in the alleged violation of his rights unless a formal complaint was filed.

Mr. Velanzon asserted that he has completed this process four times. He noted that he has previously appeared on the Commissioners' agenda, returned the following week to provide an additional three minutes of public comment, and is now appearing before the Board again. He stated that under Maine law, a verbal complaint is an acceptable form of filing, and that his verbal complaint has been recorded. Mr. Velanzon outlined three specific requests: A written letter of apology; Communication training for the UT Director; and Internal disciplinary action related to the alleged attempt to have him removed from the office and for what he described as violations of his rights.

Mr. Velanzon then addressed an incident that occurred earlier that day. He stated that he arrived at the meeting approximately two hours prior to the advertised start time but was not permitted entry into the building. He reported that he rang the bell multiple times and knocked on the door in an attempt to be allowed inside. Entry was later granted by Administrator Tinkham.

Mr. Velanzon further stated that he met with the Chief Deputy, who informed him that his complaint would not be accepted upon his departure. He also reported being told that any FOIA requests must be directed to Administrator Tinkham, who would accept them on behalf of the County. However, Mr. Velanzon indicated that he has seen documentation listing the HR Director as the County's FOIA Chair. Cushing advised that he was entitled to take whatever steps you wish. Also, submit this

comment in writing, if you want to be placed on the agenda. Although the State doesn't require this, we do if you want to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Cushing advised Mr. Velanzon that he is entitled to take whatever steps he wishes. He further stated that if Mr. Velanzon would like to be placed on a future agenda, he must submit his request in writing. Chair Cushing noted that while the State does not require such a submission, the County does require a written request for agenda placement.

Mr. Velanzon stated that he is requesting another meeting with Administrator Tinkham, as he feels his complaints have not been adequately addressed.

**Treasurers Update -**

Treasurer Mower presented the following documentation:

- After discussion on Machias Savings Bank approving \$15,800,000 Tax Anticipation Note. Commissioner Marshall moved to approve this TAN as presented. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.
- After discussion on the 2026 Municipal Tax Assessment for approval for municipal tax invoices. Commissioner Marshall moved to approve this Assessment as presented. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

**Katahdin Regional Development Board –**

Charles Pray, Shane Flynn, Debbie Roundtree and former County Commissioner Steven Stanley appeared before the Commission to discuss the Katahdin Regional Development Board's request for funding to support an Economic Development Officer position.

The Board is seeking \$167,000 to fund this position, which would focus on advancing economic growth in the Katahdin Region. The proposed role would support forest product innovation, promote year-round tourism, and strengthen community infrastructure. Former Commissioner Steven Stanley expressed his support for establishing a Katahdin Regional Economic Development Officer in 2026.

While the Commissioners expressed general support for the request, the County is not currently in a position to provide funding. It was recommended that the TIF Committee review the proposal. Additionally, the Board was encouraged to consult with local communities to determine their willingness to contribute financially to the project.

Director Buswell explained the distribution process for TIF funds. TIF will not fully fund any single application; applicants must submit a formal request and demonstrate a financial commitment by covering a portion of the expenses themselves. Furthermore, all applications must directly benefit the Unorganized Territories.

Following discussion regarding PILT funding, the Commission determined that it is not able to commit any funds for this year or next. Additional information or recommendations may become available after the newly established Budget Advisory Committee meets and completes its review.

**Administration Update –**

Administrator Tinkham presented the following:

- A reminder that the Tax Abatement hearing are taking place at our next meeting, March 4 starting at 0900.
- Modification of Agenda for Director Buswell of the UT to present an update.
- Commission Tremble discussed his meeting in Augusta yesterday with the Governor's office.

**UT Update –**

Director Buswell provided an agenda of the UT budget hearing (LD 2222) that is taking place Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in Augusta. After discussion, Commissioner Marshall (District 3) will attend this hearing.

**Approval of Warrants-**

Payroll Warrant	<b>02.06.26</b>	\$ 361,578.87	<b>02.13.26</b>	\$ 357,271.98	<b>02.20.26</b>	\$ 352,462.61
A/P General Fund	<b>02.11.26</b>	\$ 125,323.23	<b>02.18.26</b>	\$ 110,818.35	<b>02.25.26</b>	\$ 89,994.76
A/P Unorg Terr	<b>02.11.26</b>	\$ 2,212.28	<b>02.18.26</b>	\$ 115,975.12	<b>02.25.26</b>	\$ 13,803.33
A/P UT TIF	<b>02.11.26</b>	\$ 413.06	<b>02.18.26</b>	\$ N/A	<b>02.25.26</b>	\$ N/A
A/P ARPA	<b>02.11.26</b>	\$ 230.82	<b>02.18.26</b>	\$ 164,292.13	<b>02.25.26</b>	\$ 733,362.57
A/P PRCC Bond	<b>02.11.26</b>	\$ N/A	<b>02.18.26</b>	\$ N/A	<b>02.25.26</b>	\$ 50,420.07

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: Rachael Kimball, Robin Fisher, Jeff Dickey, Wendy Dana, Chris Fox, George Dean, Gloria Evans, George Harrison, Brittany Russell and Maxine Bruton.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:05 PM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter (GCN #204). Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Tinkham, Union Representative Derek Samoluk, Union Steward Shelley Carver and former employee. Session ended at 1:25 PM.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:26 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, Treasurer Mower, and Administrator Tinkham. Session ended at 1:31 PM.

**Action Taken** – Commissioner Tremble moved to approve submission of termination letter to employee. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:32 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, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Tinkham and Finance Director Palmer. Session ended at 2:45 PM.

**Action Taken:** Commissioner Tremble moved to approve the execution of up to \$52K of PILT monies to support unprogrammed personnel contracts in the 2026 Budget. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Tremble moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 PM. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

**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