

10:00 AM Commissioners Daniel Tremble, Andre Cushing and David Marshall

Roll Call -

Commissioner Cushing opened the meeting at 10:00 AM with Commissioner Tremble, Commissioner Marshall, Administrator Tinkham, and Treasurer Mower present in the Probate Courtroom.

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Tremble led the Pledge.

Public Comment – Janet Drew, a resident of York, stated that she does not understand the rationale for constructing a new jail facility. She expressed that her primary concerns relate not to the condition of the existing building but to the treatment of individuals while incarcerated, including their ability to access legal counsel and have their concerns heard. She emphasized that these issues reflect broader public health implications and urged the County to demonstrate improved responsiveness and care.

Resident Feedback –

Peter Velanzon, resident of Argyle expressed concerns on the County's public communication policy and how the county is describing his behavior during prior visits. The County feels they have adequately addressed his concerns and will provide a written report regarding his snow removal concerns related to a complaint on January 14, 2026.

DA Update –

DDA Lynds and office manager Higgins reported the following:

- DDA Lynds requested authorization to pursue a contract for a discovery management system through the RFP process. She explained that additional clerical support has increasingly been required to manage discovery due to the growing number of digital evidence platforms, including body cameras, cruiser cameras, Ring cameras, and other video sources.
- Currently, the District Attorney's Office does not have a centralized shared-drive system, and the existing process for handling discovery is not meeting required time compliance standards. DDA Lynds stated that a centralized discovery management system is needed to improve efficiency, organization, and compliance.
- Under the proposed cost-sharing arrangement, Piscataquis County would pay 20% and Penobscot County would pay 80% of the expense.
- As part of the discussion, it was noted to help implement this system financially we possibly could reduce one clerical position; however, Administrator Tinkham expressed that he does not support reducing staff positions
- A question was also raised as to why the State is not funding this type of system, particularly given that e-filing is expected to be implemented at the county level in the future.
- After discussion Commission Tremble moved to approve going out to RFP to contract with a discovery management system. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

UT – Road Salt Purchasing Bid Opening

Commission Chair Cushing opened the bids for the UT Road Salt Purchasing. The following four vendors submitted their bid by the May 1st deadline.

Vendor	Northern Region 2,244	Southern Region 3,245
New England Salt	\$85	\$75
Cargill	No bid	No bid
Morton Salt	\$98.46	\$88.07
Eastern Salt Co.	\$105	\$95

Commissioner Tremble moved to accept New England Salt bid per Director Buswell's recommendation. Commission Marshall seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

UT Update –

Director Buswell and Deputy Morrison presented the following:

- Director Buswell reported that the first-ever statewide UT Managers meeting is being organized in coordination with the Fiscal Administrator of the State UT Office. The meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for managers to exchange information and review priority issues regularly addressed within their roles. At this time, we are expecting 25–30 participants have responded, including representatives from Maine Revenue Services.
- Commissioner Tremble moved to approve authorization for Director Buswell to sponsor a directors meeting to be held at Jeff's Catering. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3–0.
- Director Buswell reported that a pre-deconstruction meeting for the Argyle house was held yesterday with EMA, the UT Office, and the State Office. The necessary paperwork is currently with Gateway Title, and closing is expected within 10–14 days. Contractors are prepared to begin work once the process is finalized.
- Director Buswell stated that the Hammond Ridge TIF project received additional questions this morning from the Department of Economic Development.
- Commissioner Marshall and Director Buswell will attend the Town of Maxfield meeting tomorrow evening for the town's second vote on deorganization. Three votes are required to finalize the deorganization process.

Administration Update -

Administrator Tinkham reported the following:

- A tax abatement request was received and will be coordinated with the State to determine a date suitable for both the State and the Commission.
- Two grievances are scheduled to be heard at the next meeting on May 20.

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Administrative Update – Continued:

- Administrator Tinkham reported that he recently met with the Bangor City Manager and the librarian regarding a request for County participation in funding a social worker position at the library. The proposed cost-sharing arrangement would be 75% city and 25% county, with the County's share estimated at about \$30,000 annually. Administrator Tinkham informed them that the funds are not available within this year's budget.
- Commissioner Tremble led a discussion regarding the Penquis (CAC) Child Advocacy Center.
- Administrator Tinkham stated that the expense prioritization framework needs to be revisited.
- Commissioner Tremble discussed attendance at conferences, stating that due to this year's financial constraints, Commissioners should lead by example and personally cover the costs of conferences they choose to attend.

Payroll status changes signed for: Rebecca Woodard, Daniel Saulnier, Dylan Watrous, Corey Ouellet, Garrett Watt, Alan Smith, George Harrison, Joshua Legassie, Maxime Pierre, Hailey Wilson, Jesse Gee, Reed Kiah, Jonathan Neel, Rebecca Woodard, Eddy Wafula, Josiah Burns, and Deborah Knapp.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:10 AM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, Administrator Tinkham, Director Palmer, Rob Brown and Jason Sharpe. Session ended at 12:48 PM

Open Session 12:49 PM

Action Taken – Commissioner Marshall made a motion that the Commission vote on this sole source contract at the next Commission Meeting. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion to vote on a sole source contract to support the County's financial Turnaround and Strategic Advisory. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:52 PM under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) Contract. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0. Present were: Commissioners, Treasurer Mower, and Administrator Tinkham. Session ended at 2:45 PM

Open Session 2:46 PM

Action Taken – The following actions were approved:

The Commission voted to allow Deeds to fund through temp services utilizing the department's funds from their unfilled ½ position. They do not want to make an exception to the hiring freeze at this point.

Executive Sessions – Continued:

- The Commission voted unanimously to fund the Haley Ward air quality test on the Fourth floor and an alt location in the Courthouse. They will be testing for asbestos, silica, PCBs, and lead in the building.
- The Commission voted for the County to develop and RFP for industrial hygienist to review of all our facilities to properly identify environmental hazards and identify potential testing requirements.
- The Commission voted to fund required radon, water testing, and air quality testing for all our facilities.
- The Commissioner voted they would like David Hughes to come in during the next commissioners meeting to get an update on the YMCA lot and options for future sales.

Commissioner Cushing moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 PM. Commissioner Tremble seconded the motion. A vote to approve passed 3-0.

Signature Page

Certified By:

Administrator, Blair Tinkham

Andre E. Cushing, III, Chair

Daniel J. Tremble, Commissioner

David S. Marshall, Commissioner