

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 7, 2017
DOVER-FOXCROFT
Minutes
8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of their February 21, 2017 meeting. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
2. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the County expenditures in the amount of \$50,258.10. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Jail expenditures in the amount of \$4,931.64. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of \$86,651.74. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Payroll Warrant for February 23, 2017 in the amount of \$117,730.51. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Employee Benefit Warrant in the amount of \$59,646.71. M: James White S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
7. David Gray, Esq. presented paper work from Camden National Bank for the County's line of credit, for required signatures of the County Commissioners, County Treasurer and other officials. The operating line of credit will be in the amount of \$1,750,000.00 (one million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars) at the fixed rate of 1.49% . The Nondisclosable Revolving Line of Credit Loan is due on demand or March 7, 2018. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
8. Piscataquis Emergency Management Agency Deputy Director Debra Hamlin presented the revised County Complex Emergency Operations Plan to County Commissioners for their review and approval. After reviewing the plan, the Commissioners stated EMA Director Tom Capraro and Deputy Director Debra Hamlin did an excellent job compiling the input from the Safety Committee members to develop the County's Emergency Operations Plan. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the plan. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
9. Piscataquis County Commissioners review and approved the revised County Personnel Policy manual, to be effective April 1, 2017. After much discussion the Commissioners stated the only way they would approve the policy would be to completely delete:
14.0 Safety – 14.2 Employees driving for County business will wear a seatbelt and refrain from engaging in activities while driving that are distracting such as, placing a phone call,

texting, changing radio stations or CD's, reaching for items, personal grooming, reading, or eating. 14.6 Safety standards, such as those listed in 14.2 and 14.3 above, and certain other distractions are covered by laws and Sheriff's Office Standard Operating Procedures for law enforcement personnel. The removal of 14.2 in this statement. The final line item to be deleted would be 7.0 Workplace Violence - 7.5 Employees are prohibited from having dangerous weapons in the workplace, which includes County vehicles and private vehicles when used for work purposes, except as required by law enforcement employees. Such weapons shall remain in the employee's locked vehicle out of sight. The County prefers that employees not carry a gun, except as provided by law and law enforcement, but the County prohibits the use of a firearm while on duty for the County unless employed as a certified law enforcement officer of the County. The County Commissioners voted to have the above line items deleted and or have the language changed. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0 The Commissioners proceeded to have another vote to approve the new revised policy. M: Wayne Erkkinen S: James Annis V: 3-0

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners voted to accept an agreement with RHR Smith & Company for the provision of audit services for the next three years. RHR Smith Co. audit services includes the County, Jail and UT. M: James Annis M: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
11. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved a temporary liquor license for the Holy Family Catholic Church in Greenville for a fundraising cruise on Moosehead Lake on July 28, 2017. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
12. Piscataquis County Commissioners discussed supporting efforts for the Town of Greenville to improve service response time by Central Maine Power Co. in the Moosehead Lake region. The County Commissioners asked County Manager Tom Lizotte to write a letter to Central Maine Power Co. to express the urgency of dispatching a lineman to response to power outage due to fires etc. in a timely manner. Commissioner Erkkinen informed the Commissioners there was a fire in Greenville and because there was no one to control the power switch for CMP all of Greenville and the Kokadjo area were without power. This situation had a financial implication on businesses. With no electricity most homes and nursing homes had no heat. A vote was taken to have Manager Lizotte write a formal letter to CMP in support for the Town of Greenville. County Commissioner James White stated it was important that the letter addresses the negative efforts CMP has caused the Town because they have not replaced the lineman that lived in Greenville. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
13. Department Head:
 - a. Interim County Manager, Thomas Lizotte –
 - The final version of the FY 2015 County audit was received from RHR Smith & Company on March 3, and does not vary from the draft document delivered on Aug. 30, 2016. Piscataquis County finished 2015 with general fund expenditures under budget by \$294,752, and the general fund balance (surplus) increased by \$199,251 from the prior fiscal year.
 - County road agent Carl Henderson by March 4 had posted all county roads for weight restrictions prior to the spring thaw.
 - The Legislature's Appropriations Committee failed to include any supplemental funding for county jails when it passed recommendation on the state's 2017 supplemental budget on March 1. The Maine County Commissioners Association is still seeking an

additional \$2.9 million in the Governor's Biennial Budget, in which only \$12.2 million is included for the Jail Operational Fund per year, instead of the \$15.1 million that is required. Piscataquis has submitted an impact statement to justify why additional state funding is required to operate our jail.

- The workers compensation specialist for Maine Municipal Association visited the County Office and Jail on March 1 to review our workers comp claims history dating back to 2013. Based on that experience modification factor, a 9% increase in insurance costs can be expected in 2017.
- Penobscot IT is planning for the replacement of Piscataquis County's computers and is seeking bids for 33 new desktops and 4 portable notebooks for installation later this year. Quotes received thus far are in the \$56,000 range and the computers would be leased for five years at an estimated cost of \$12,000 per year. Our County IT capital reserve fund has sufficient money to cover the projected cost.
- b. County Treasurer, Johanna Greenfield – no comment
- c. Jail Administrator Maria Landry – no comment
- d. Sheriff, John Goggin
 - Informed the Commissioners he has sold 9 out of the 12 rifles at \$500.00 a piece. Sheriff Goggin had received permission from the Commissioners to sell the rifles at a previous meeting. The money that he has received will be deposited in the counter drug account
 - Upon taking care of paper work/evidence from an old drug cases, \$733.00 was discovered that was the sheriff's dept. "buy money" that was used in this case and was held as evidence. Sheriff Goggin told the Commissioners with their permission he would like to deposit \$600.00 into the counter drug account and keep \$133.00 locked in the safe under the control and Chief Deputy Bob Young and himself to be used as "buy money" when needed. The Commissioners gave their approval – M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
 - Sheriff Goggin asked the Commissioners to hire James Reardon from Cambridge, Me as a part-time deputy. The Commissioners approved his recommendation. M: James White S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
- e. EMA Director, Tom Capraro – did not attend
- f. Probate Register Donna Peterson – did not attend
- g. Deeds Register, Linda Smith – did not attend
- h. DA Administrative, Chris Almy - did not attend
- i. Head of Maintenance Joshua York – did not attend

OTHER BUSINESS:

Meeting adjourned: 9:55 am