

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 2, 2017
DOVER-FOXCROFT
Minutes
8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of their April 18, 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 \$10,042.04. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved a special County expenditure in the amount of \$313.20. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Jail expenditures in the amount of \$5,246.54. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of \$92,067.87. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Payroll Warrant for April 20, 2017 in the amount of \$116,770.01. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Employee Benefit Warrant in the amount of \$59,372.82. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
8. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved liquor license renewal for Big Moose Inn Cabins & Campground Inc. in the unorganized territory of T1R9 and owned by Laurie Cormier. Sheriff John Goggin informed the County Commissioners he reviewed the application and recommended they approve the renewal. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
9. Piscataquis County Commissioners met with Christopher King of Greenville Jct., secretary of the Moosehead Region Futures Committee, regarding LD 901, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Determination of a Wind Energy Development's Effect on the Scenic Character of Maine's Special Places. LD 901, which has yet to be reported out from the Legislature's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, replaces the current law regarding when a visual impact assessment is required for an expedited wind energy development, and extends the protections granted to Maine's scenic resources of state or national significance (SRSNS) to scenic areas that are situated between 8 and 15 miles from a proposed wind energy development's generating facilities. Two areas of Piscataquis County – Barren Mountain and Whitecap Mountain along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail – already are designated as SRSNSs under LD 901. Mr. King said that the Moosehead Region Futures Committee has asked Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to amend LD 901 to include two additional locations in Piscataquis County – Big Moose Mountain and Mount Kineo in the Moosehead Lake region – as designated SRSNSs that would also enjoy the additional protections resulting from visual impact assessments. Mr. King stated that vistas from the summits of Big Moose and Kineo are among the chief attractions of the Moosehead Lake region, and the scenic character of those views would be impacted by grid scale wind energy development situated on the ridge tops near the lake. Since the 15-mile radii from White Cap and Barren will not bring the areas west and southwest of

Moosehead Lake most likely to be targeted for wind energy development within the areas that would gain protection under LD 901, Mr. King said adding Big Moose and Kineo as SRSNSs under the proposed statute would protect the scenic viewpoints in the area by requiring visual impact assessments. County Commissioners agreed that protecting the scenic views around Moosehead Lake was extremely important in light of ongoing local efforts to improve that area's economy through both a regional branding initiative, and the development of a strategic action plan by the Moosehead Lake Regional Economic Development Corporation. Commissioners directed County Manager Tom Lizotte to write a letter of support for the Moosehead Region Futures Committee's effort to add Big Moose and Mount Kineo as designated scenic areas under LD 901.

M: Annis S: Erkkinen V: 3-0

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners continued their discussion from the April 4th meeting in regards to implementing recommendations developed by the County Law Enforcement Task Force. As stated at the April 4th meeting the two main problems that need to be resolved are shortage of manpower and improving mutual aid relationships with local and State agencies. The County Commissioners asked County Manager Thomas Lizotte to reach out to Maine State Senator, Paul Davis, Maine House of Representatives Norman Higgins and Paul Stearn to receive their input. Besides having a meeting with Davis, Higgins and Stearn, the Commissioners requested another meeting be scheduled between the County Officials and Selectmen from the towns that still have local police. Chief Deputy, Bob Young stated the Task Force was very beneficial and after working with the Town of Milo and the Town of Greenville on having a formal agreement for mutual aid it proves if everyone works together things will move in a positive direction.
11. The County Commissioners reviewed and approved the request from Jail Administrator, Maria Landry to transfer \$1,000.00 from account #E11-02-41-4102 (mileage) to account #E11-02-41-4104 (lodging). M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
12. Department Head:
 - A County Manager, Thomas Lizotte-
 - County Manager Lizotte presented the nomination of Everett Worcester of Orneville Twp. as the county representative to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission before the Legislature's Committee on Agriculture Forestry and Conservation on April 24. The Committee voted 10-0 in favor of the nomination, and Worcester was confirmed by the Maine Senate on April 27.
 - The County Manager also attended the Taxation Committee hearing on the Unorganized Territory budget on April 24, and there are no issues with that funding for FY 2018. The bill on deorganization of the Town of Atkinson will be carried over into 2018 by the Committee on State and Local Government.
 - A plaque detailing the history of the Peaks House, and a portrait photo of the late Francis Peaks, have been reinstalled in the lobby of the County Office building
 - b. County Treasurer, Johanna Greenfield – did not attend
 - c. Jail Administrator Maria Landry – no comment
 - d. Sheriff, John Goggin –
 - Informed the County Commissioners his department received two AR15 rifles and miscellaneous parts from a private citizen that were found upon cleaning out a family member's home. With the assistance from Commission White, the parts were sold and the money that was received was deposited for the counter drug program.
 - 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 Assistant, Corina Tibbetts – not comment
 - i. Head of Maintenance Josh York – did not attend

OTHER BUSINESS:

County Manager Lizotte said that Richard Brown will be retiring as CEO of the Charlotte White Center on June 2 after 38 years leading that social services agency, which was started in Piscataquis County and has been one of the county's largest employers for many years. In recognition of Brown's contributions to the region, it was agreed that Commissioners should proclaim June 2 as Dick Brown Day in Piscataquis County.

**Meet to adjourned: 10:00 am
M: Wayne Erkkinen S: James Annis V: 3-0**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

- 1. Piscataquis County Road Work Bidding Information**
- 2. Bangor Humane Society Stray Animal Statistics, March 2017**