

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 6, 2017
DOVER-FOXCROFT
Minutes
8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of their May 16, 2017 meeting. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
2. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approval the County expenditures in the amount of \$61,850.60. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the special County expenditures in the amount of \$2,331.80. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the special County expenditures in the amount or \$ 9,371.01. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Jail expenditures in the amount of \$15,729.49. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of \$132,964.22. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Payroll Warrant for May 18, 2017 in the amount of \$114,834.10. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
8. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved a special Payroll Warrant for May 18, 2017 in the amount of \$2,092.95. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
9. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved Payroll Warrant for June 1, 2017 in the amount of \$116,003.69. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
10. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Employee Benefit Warrant in the amount of \$63,612.02. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
11. Piscataquis County Commissioners held a public hearing on the application for Medawisla Lodge and Cabins owned by AMC Maine Woods Initiative LLC, Dan Rinard, Manager. This was a request for a new liquor license to sell malt and vinous in TAR12 WELS and T1R12 WELS. There were no objections from the public, therefore the Commissioners approved the application. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0
12. County Manager Tom Lizotte reported that Jim Bennett of Bennett Construction in Guilford was awarded the bid for this project following the May 16 Commissioners' meeting. On June 1, however, Bennett informed Lizotte that due to ill health, he is unable to complete the project by the June 30 deadline stipulated under the bid specifications. Since the ditching and culvert work must be completed before that deadline in order for Lane Construction to proceed with paving the roads in Elliottsville, Lizotte, in his role as County Purchasing Agent, recommended that Commissioners reconsider their original decision and award the project to the remaining bidder, William London & Son,

Inc. of Milo, at his original bid price of \$38,750. London, who was in attendance, confirmed that he was willing and able to do the job and could begin this week.

Questioned by Commissioners regarding the bidding process employed, Lizotte said the formal bid process outlined in the County Purchasing Policy was used. Written specifications were prepared describing the services being sought and listing specific requirements. A request for bids was prepared and submitted to a selected list of qualified bidders. A total of seven contractors were contacted by road agent Carl Henderson, four contractors expressed interest and asked for the written specifications, and two formal, sealed bids were submitted, by Bennett and London. Those bids were opened at the Commissioners' May 16 meeting.

Asked by Commissioners whether it would be possible to re-bid the project, Lizotte said that it would be, but that process would be time consuming and may not provide any contractor with enough time to complete the work by the June 30 deadline. Lizotte also said that because the formal bid process relies on a competitive bidding system where the confidentiality of bids is protected by the requirement for sealed bids, any re-bidding may potentially place London at a competitive disadvantage. The bids from both Bennett and London are in the public record and have been published in a local newspaper.

Given both the timing element and concerns over preserving the fairness of the competitive bidding process, Commissioner Annis moved that the bid be awarded to London, seconded by Commissioner White. The vote was 2-1 in favor, with Commissioner Erkkinen opposed.

Commissioner White asked that copies of the County Purchasing Policy be provided to the Board, and that the policy be scheduled as an agenda item for further discussion at the June 20 meeting.

13. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved a new one time liquor license for a fundraising event to be held on July 1, 2017 and a new one time liquor license for Maine Craft Brew Beer Tasting Cruise to be held on September 3, 2017. Both events are being sponsored by Moosehead Lake Chamber of Commerce and have received approval from the Town of Greenville. M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0

14. Department Head:

a. County Manager, Thomas Lizotte-

- Provided an update on jail funding efforts in the Legislature. A request from the MCCA for an additional \$3.8 million in state monies in the next budget year to close a projected deficit in jail operations was unanimously endorsed by the Criminal Justice Committee. Unfortunately, jail funding is at risk due to partisan political differences centered on the overall state budget.
- The Maine DOT is moving forward with developing a Katahdin Woods and Waters Scenic Byway information hub with bathroom facilities in northern Piscataquis County, which would be partially funded by whitewater rafting funds held by the County. Fred Michaud of MDOT said one way to potentially grow those County funds would be to invest the current amount and any future whitewater funds received into a fund at the Maine Community Foundation. Government entities can invest funds with MCF and structure participation in a number of ways, including how interest is dispersed and the return of principal in the event the project were to cease. Both the Maine Community Foundation and the DOT are willing to make a presentation to Piscataquis County Commissioners on this subject in the future; Commissioners expressed interest in that opportunity.
- Administration has been working with broker Jim Brann to renew health insurance coverage for county employees through Harvard Pilgrim, in advance of the Aug. 1 renewal date. There will be minimal adjustments in the plan design.

- New computers for county employees have been delivered and will be installed by Penobscot County IT Department. The computers will be leased through Gorham Leasing over 5 years at an annual fee of \$9,371.
 - The County Manager has completed required, annual performance evaluations for the EMA director, Head of Maintenance, Finance Officer and Administrative Assistant.
 - The Commissioners' proclamation designating June 2 as Richard Brown Day in recognition of the Charlotte White Center's retiring CEO was presented by the County Manager at Brown's retirement ceremony last week. The County's recognition was greatly appreciated by CWC.
 - EMA conducted a table-top drill to test the new emergency operations plan for the county complex on May 31. The three-hour event was attended by 17 county employees and included six modules simulating responses to potential events.
- b. County Treasurer, Johanna Greenfield – did not attend
- c. Jail Administrator Maria Landry – did not attend
- d. Sheriff, John Goggin –
- Met with the Libra Foundation on June 2, 2017 and they generously offer Sheriff Goggin a gift between \$10,000.00 and \$15,000.00 for his department to be used for the northern part of Piscataquis County. Lebra Foundation is a non profit foundation that has bought a sizable portion of “down town” Monson to restore and they are aware of the lack of the Sheriff's department coverage in that area. They told Sheriff Goggin to use the funds as he saw fit.
- 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 Tibbett –
- The DA's department is in the process of major changes pertaining to technology and Corina has been going to Waterville and Augusta for training. She informed the Commissioners because of the new technology, her department may need new wiring to accommodate the new computers etc.
 - Investigator Scott Arno is doing a wonderful job
 - The DA's department will have the same student from Thomas College working in the Office for the summer.
- i. Head of Maintenance Josh York – did not attend

OTHER BUSINESS:

Meeting adjourned 9:40 am
M: James Annis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

1. Jail information – Legislative Action