

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 3, 2023

DOVER-FOXCROFT

Minutes

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a swearing-in ceremony for elected officials: Commissioner Paul Davis, Sr., Register of Deeds Gail Clark, Register of Probate Donna Peterson, Treasurer Trisha White, and Sheriff Robert Young,

8:30 am PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Piscataquis County Commissioner Chairman Wayne Erkkinen, via conference call, called the meeting into session at 8:30 am in the Chambers. Commissioner Andrew Torbett and Commissioner Paul Davis were in attendance.

- 1. Piscataquis County Commissioners elected Commissioner Andrew Torbett as Chairman for the year 2023. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
Piscataquis County Commissioners elected Commissioner Paul Davis as Vice-Chairman for the year 2023. M: Andrew Torbett S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 2. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of their regular meeting on December 20, 2022. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 3. Piscataquis County Commissioners added two additional agenda items: both transfers for the Sheriff's Office. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved the Sheriff's Office request to transfer \$1,300 from account E105-01-03-270 (Gas/Oil/grease) to account E105-01-04-050 (Clothing). M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved the Sheriff's Office request to transfer \$1,300 from account E100-01-03-400 (Rep MT/Vehicles) to account E100-01-04-050 (Clothing). M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the County expenditures in the amount of \$47,812.39. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Jail expenditures in the amount of \$7,512.06. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of \$105,811.28. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Payroll Warrant for December 22, 2022 in the amount of \$112,312.27. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 8. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the Employee Benefit Warrant in the amount of \$89,126.40. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**
- 9. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved the Registry of Deed's request to transfer \$5,000 from account E121-01-03-325 (Surcharge) to account E120-01-01-060 (Payroll Account). M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0**

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved the District Attorney's Office request to transfer \$700 from account E060-01-03-040 (Training/Education) to account E060-01-04-030 (Office Supplies). M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
11. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved the Sheriff's Office request to transfer \$10,000 from account E090-01-03-460 (Rep/MT Radio) to account E507-01-05-045 (Radio Capital). M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
12. Piscataquis County Commissioners named a representative to the CLEO board for Northeastern Workforce Development System and Workforce Innovation for 2023. Commissioner Paul Davis made the motion to nominate Commissioner Chairman Andrew Torbett. Commissioner Wayne Erkkinen seconded the motion with it being unanimous. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
13. Piscataquis County Commissioners named an ex officio representative to the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council Executive Committee for 2023. Commissioner Paul Davis made the motion to nominate Commissioner Wayne Erkkinen. Commissioner Chairman Andrew Torbett seconded the motion with it being unanimous. M: Paul Davis S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0
14. Piscataquis County Commissioners named a representative to the Eastern Maine Development Corporation Board of Directors for 2023. Commissioner Paul Davis made the motion to nominate Commissioner Wayne Erkkinen. Commissioner Chairman Andrew Torbett seconded the motion with it being unanimous. M: Paul Davis S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

15. Department Heads:

County Manager, Michael Williams

- Commissioner Wayne Erkkinen was interested in asking if Commissioner Paul Davis would be interested in serving on the Maine County Commissioners Association with his Augusta experience which would be a good move for the County. Commissioner Wayne Erkkinen nominated Paul Davis to serve on the MCCA with Commissioner Chairman Andrew Torbett seconding the motion with it being unanimous. M; Wayne Erkkinen S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0
- County Manager Michael Williams stated that the email for the Annual MCCA meeting will be in person at the Senator Inn in Augusta and asked which Commissioners would like to attend. All three Commissioners are interested in attending. County Manager Michael Williams will forward the email to each Commissioner and RSVP to Lauren Haven at MCCA.
- Our roads are the big thing right now and hopefully, we can get some cold weather. The Road Commissioner Carl Henderson said it would be nice if Mother Nature could cooperate with us. The Mountain Road has been fixed from the pre-Christmas storm. We have had some trees down in Elliotsville with contactors cleaning up. The main drag in Lily Bay is a State Road which had lots of clean up. Frenchtown had one tree down. The ditching that was done last spring has helped with the draining but they are full. It shows how much ditching the roads really helps in this kind of weather. So, we are in pretty good shape. This side of the County, we just had a few trees down.

County Treasurer, Trisha White

- Nothing to report but I am here in my newly elected position.

Jail Administrator, Michelle Lacroix-did not attend.

- Sheriff Robert Young said the Jail Administrator Michelle Lacroix was working on payroll. The Jail is fine. They have 30 inmates with 11 feds which we like to keep at 13. We are starting the year well, and staff wise, we are in good shape.

Sheriff, Robert Young

- Sheriff Robert Young said Guy Dow was the first patrolman on duty to get the first OUI of the new year. Dispatch is doing good. Sheriff's Office is doing good. We are all busy but doing well. Dispatch has been busy with providing CPR and Medical information while waiting for the Ambulance. Patrol is down one person still but doing well. We have been advertising all over. Commissioner Paul Davis asked Sheriff Robert Young how we compare to other counties? Sheriff Robert Young said we have been hampered by the wages being too low. They can get another \$10,000 a year to go someplace else which is pretty tempting. What keeps people here, is the desire to serve in their own towns. Commissioner Paul Davis stated and the quality of life here in this County. Sheriff Young said that is a big factor.

EMA Director, Jaeme Duggan

- We had the EOC setup early Friday morning and remotely from 7:00 am -11:00 pm and early Saturday morning. Dispatch was hammered with calls coming in from the storm to the regular medical calls. Eric Berce and Jessica Kerr did an incredible job in the morning with Troy Richards and Megan Leavitt doing great in the afternoon. They did an exceptional job and we were very lucky to not have more damage over this way. A lot more of the County suffered more. There was microburst Friday night. All the trees down were in the same direction on the Downs Road in Sebec and in Guilford. The pattern was on the same plain on the map as in Lily Bay and Beaver Cove. Three hundred trees had to be cleared on Saturday because Beaver Cove was completely shut off. EMA Planners John and Alsina Brenenstuhel and EMA Deputy Debra Hamlin did an amazing job.
- We will be doing a T-Mobile test and trail run with the phones at \$10 per month. They are very excited to work with us.
- We have a bunch of new Fire Chiefs
- We will be working on the new incident command requirement for 2024.
- Commissioner Chairman Andrew Torbett asked EMA Director Jaeme Duggan about the bridge being out in Atkinson during the storm. She said it all depends on the height of the water. It has been shut down at least twice that she knows of but people do move the barriers.

Probate Register, Donna Peterson-only attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Deeds Register, Gail Clark

- Linda Smith retired leaving us in great shape. We hired a clerk specialist who was in the per diem position. Things are going great.

District Attorney Office, Corina Rackliff

- We are doing well and working on year end closeouts with those bills coming in. The last of our new equipment is in. We have another tablet for court room use. Internet is still being worked on here and with Augusta.

Head of Maintenance, Joshua York

- We have been pretty lucky with the lack of snow and ice. I need more people as I am down and talked to the County Manager Michael Williams. We have ads out there but not getting anyone yet for a part-time position with no benefits.

OTHER BUSINESS

Recess 9:10 am

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S):

Piscataquis County Commissioners entered executive session, per MRSA 1, section 405, paragraph 6 A., personnel matter. Motion to enter Executive Session. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0

Time in: 9:12 am

Time Out: 9:35 am

Public Session: 9:35 am

Action: Commissioner Paul Davis made the motion to pay the newly elected Treasurer Trisha White \$10,000 a year for the standard duties by statute and the newly appointed Deputy Treasurer Johanna Turner \$15,000 a year for the higher-level accounting duties. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned 9:36 am. M: Paul Davis S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0