

# PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 16, 2024

DOVER-FOXCROFT

Minutes

## 8:30 AM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Piscataquis County Commissioner Chairman Andrew Torbett called the meeting into session at 8:30 AM in the Chambers. Commissioner Wayne Erkkinen and Commissioner Paul Davis were in attendance. The meeting was available online on Zoom.

1. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 2, 2024 meeting. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
2. Piscataquis County Commissioners added a presentation by Valley Grange Program Director Walter Boomsma to the agenda. Every year we vote to award a community citizen and this year we voted to honor the Piscataquis County Dispatchers. The Community Potluck will be on Friday, May 17 at 5:30 PM with the Celebration of Dispatchers at 7:00 PM. We believe there is real value in fellowship along with food fellowship. We will be honoring thirteen people from Dispatch. Get the announcement out and invite people to support this. Dispatchers are amazing people. They have to be very efficient and calm when communicating. Commissioner Chair Andrew Torbett agreed that we have fantastic dispatchers. Commissioner Paul Davis said one of the most important positions is dispatching. Walter said we feel dispatchers do not get the recognition they deserve, so we want to celebrate them.
3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County expenditures in the amount of \$127,721.66. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures in the amount of \$17,795.98. M: Wayne Erkkinen S: Paul Davis V: 3-0-0
5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of \$2,982.29. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for April 11, 2024 in the amount of \$128,968.38. M: Wayne Erkkinen S: Paul Davis V: 3-0-0
7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the McGovern Commercial HQ Warrant for the Sheriff's Office for the two new 2023 Ford Explorers in the amount of \$85,230.70. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0
8. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved the Probate Office request to transfer \$250 from account E130-01-03-030 (mileage) to account E130-01-04-070 (books & periodicals). M: Wayne Erkkinen S: Paul Davis V: 3-0-0
9. Department Heads:
  - a. County Manager, Michael Williams
    - EMA Deputy Director Debra Hamlin and myself had a preliminary meeting with FEMA for reimbursement and we will have a follow up meeting later today.

- The Frenchtown Road is washed out, the old Weyhauser Road. Trying to get the contractor in to get a half lane open at least for the people who live in beyond it. This has happened due to all of the cutting with the water washing right down across the road. Ditches are filling back up. We are trying to reclaim as much as we can. We need mitigation on the ditches. Most of what was done the last time, is now filled in. In a three-foot ditch, there might be 1 foot left. Two years ago, we spent \$40k, and now it is filled up like we have gone twenty years without ditching. It is a bad washout about three miles in.
  - Road Commissioner Carl Henderson mentioned that it rained most of the day Saturday and some on Sunday but we were hoping to get the grader in to Harford's Point.
  - Had a meeting last week with IT. They brought CMC in. Our phone system is from 2015 and is at the end of life. They gave IT Director Brandon Tenney from Penobscot County and I a quick update, with installation quote about \$86k. We need to sit down and discuss it further because we do not need everything due to the IT upgrades we made. Maybe we can save about \$20k. This does qualify under ARPA. I would like to keep more in the capital line. I have been putting in \$6k a year but really wanted to put \$20k in but was told no. We have about \$30k in the phone line now. Commissioner Paul Davis said things are usually negotiable. County Manager Michael Williams thinks he can get the number in the \$50ish area.
- b. County Treasurer, Trisha White-did not attend.
- c. Jail Administrator, Michelle Lacroix
- We are doing good with 10 County, 11 Feds, and 1 out of the County.
- d. Sheriff, Robert Young
- Deputy Sheriff Todd Lyford stated things are going well. We had a lot of people for the eclipse with no issues and it went very well.
- e. EMA Director, Jaeme Duggan
- Been working with Greenville Town Manager Mike Roy, Deputy Director Debra Hamlin, and Planner Alsina Brenenstuhl on the December storms with FEMA.
  - It is estimated that 30-40k people were here for the eclipse. The DOT assembles the number and will get to us soon. Traffic was backed up four hours from Guilford to Greenville and three hours from Kokadjo. Everything worked out amazingly well. We had excellent service from all services like the forestry and sheriff's office. We had a plane that went missing but we found it safely on the ground. Twenty to thirty cars went down Depot Street which took combined forces to winch them out and get unstuck. Unified Command went smooth and we used our resources well. Dover-Foxcroft had one car accident. They are estimating about 10-12k in Dover-Foxcroft. The Whoppie Pie Festival two years ago had 10k and they believe there were way more than that here for the eclipse. We believe all the pre-planning was worth it and we hit on most everything. We are proud and pleased.
  - We are working on the FEMA stuff and Homeland Security is coming soon.
- f. Probate Register, Donna Peterson
- We have been busy and in March did twice the amount that is normally done. We added the transfer to the agenda due to the cost of Statute books going up. They were \$450-\$500 each so called to just get one copy instead of two and they said it was canceled because we did not pay the prior year. The statutes change and we need a new book every year. We found out we were never invoiced so was double the cost. Commissioner Chair Andrew Torbett said thank you for handling the confusion.
- g. Deeds Register, Gail Clark
- For March, we are up year to date and slightly down for April. We are getting a bit busier.
- h. District Attorney Office, Corina Rackliff

- We are at the same madness, no nice way to put it. The work load is increasing from all sides. Commissioner Chair Andrew Torbett said he appreciates all the juggling.
- i. Head of Maintenance, Joshua York
- Weather is getting nice so we are getting busy with lots of clean up. The Jail HVAC project is starting up in May.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Recess: 8:58 AM

**EXECUTIVE SESSION(S):**

Piscataquis County Commissioners to enter executive session, per MRSA 1, section 405, paragraph 6 C., contract matter. M: Wayne Erkkinen S: Paul Davis V: 3-0-0

Time in: 8:59 AM

Time Out: 9:24 AM

Action: No action taken, for informational purposes only.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM. M: Paul Davis S: Wayne Erkkinen V: 3-0-0