PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 20, 2026

DOVER-FOXCROFT

Minutes

8:30 AM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Piscataquis County Commissioner Chairman Paul Davis called the meeting into session at 8:30 AM in the Chambers. Commissioner Andrew Torbett and Commissioner Adam Coover attended. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis had Sheriff Robert Young open the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was available online on Zoom.

1. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 6, 2026 meeting. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

2. Piscataquis County Commissioners did not have any adjustments to be made to the agenda.

3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County 2025 expenditures in the amount of $43,998.13. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County 2026 expenditures in the amount of $61,683.58. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Special County expenditures in the amount of $4,704.76. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures in the amount of $30,539.04. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of $65,894.55. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

8. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for January 15, 2026 in the amount of $167,871.39. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

9. Piscataquis County Commissioners heard from Register of Probate Donna Peterson with regards to promoting Corey Pearson to Deputy Register of Probate. Register of Probate Donna Peterson introduced Corey Pearson and stated that Corey has been in the position for almost two years and covers my absence when I am out as someone has to be in the office by statute. Commissioner Adam Coover asked if this promotion was in the budget? Register of Probate Donna Peterson stated that it is covered in the budget and Corey has taken out her papers to run for Register of Probate for next year. Commissioner Andrew Torbett made the motion to promote Corey Pearson to Deputy Register of Probate with Commissioner Adam Coover seconding and it was unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners heard an update from Galan Williamson of the Northeastern Workforce Development Board. Galen said he has been visiting their five Counties and making the rounds developing strategies for the year and focusing on the data. We have yearly federally funded programs for dislocated adults and youth aged 14-24. We contract out and EMDC is our service provider. We did a comparison from 2024 to 2025 and I can provide AA Lori Adkins with a copy to share. There are some positives and some concerns. We have fewer young people aged 18-34 in the workforce with more older people in the workforce aged 45-74. Piscataquis County had fewer graduates by 1.1% decrease and poverty increased 1.1%. Piscataquis County

has more disconnected youth aged 16-19 who are not in school, not graduates, unemployed and not in the work force so basically missing. Workers in Piscataquis County had an increase in pay of $629. Purchasing power increased by about $200. Unemployment is down to 4.2%. The number employed decreased by 80 individuals. There are 5,823 full-time identified in the work force. Industry flipped with healthcare 3.1% increase and manufacturing decreased 3.6%. Manufacturing was up in 2021 and dropped back to normal in 2023 and then dropped a bit more after that. We are seeing similar trends in Aroostook County. I will email the report to AA Lori Adkins to share with the Commissioners.

11. Department Heads:
    a. County Manager, Michael Williams
        - The UT roads are in pretty good shape. The contractors are doing a good job overall.
        - The MCCA Annual Meeting is coming up on January 30 so please let me know by January 23 if you plan to attend. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said he plans to attend.
        - We subscribed to The Moosehead Journal so that paper should begin coming soon.
        - An FYI – please be careful this weekend with single digits and double digits below at night

    b. County Treasurer, Trisha White (did not attend)

    c. Jail Administrator, Jean Larson
        - We have 23 with 11 being boarders (4 from other Counties and 7 FEDS).
        - We are changing our Mental Health substance provider from Angelz to Catherine Sodden, Lighting the Way out of Guilford. This change started yesterday at the same price.

    d. Sheriff, Robert Young
        - We are doing well.
        - We are due two police cruisers which we usually get our bids out in January. We use the government bids out of MA. We joined the Boston Police bids process and have dealt with them for the last couple of years. We budgeted $50k each and the bid came back at $44k each for 2026 Ford Interceptors. Commissioner Adam Coover asked if you will be replacing worn out vehicles? Sheriff Robert Young said yes, 2017 with about 130k miles and a 2019 with about 120k miles. We usually keep our full-time patrol vehicles about five years. Commissioner Andrew Torbett made the motion to allow the Sheriff to continue with the bid process to obtain these vehicles with Commissioner Adam Coover seconding and it was unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

    e. EMA Director, Debra Hamlin
        We are busy. We have an active shooter meeting next week and the full-scale active shooter training coming in April.

    f. Probate Register, Donna Peterson
        - We are good and busy.

    g. Deeds Register, Gail Clark
        - LD 2124 has been submitted. What goes back to the County general fund will be decreased which will increase taxes. People should show up at the public hearing to voice their opposition. Commissioner Paul Davis asked Deed Register Gail Clark to let him know once it is scheduled.

    h. District Attorney Office, Corina Rackliff
        - We are okay.

i. Head of Maintenance, Joshua York

- Busy and have a part-time cleaner position opening. Hope to have a candidate by the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Recess 8:59 AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S):

Piscataquis County Commissioners entered executive session, per MRSA 1, section 405, paragraph 6 E., legal matter. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

Time in: 9:00 AM

Time Out: 9:06 AM

Action: No action taken, for informational purposes only.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 AM - M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0