PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 5, 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 asked Commissioner Adam Coovert to open the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was available online on Zoom.

1. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

2. Piscataquis County Commissioners added the court house flag pole removal project update from Maintenance Head Joshua York to the end of the regular agenda items.

3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County expenditures in the amount of $29,106.51. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures in the amount of $10,234.87. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of $159,437.40. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for April 23, 2026 in the amount of $164,912.79. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Employee Benefit Warrant in the amount of $137,702.45. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

8. Piscataquis County Commissioners signed the 2026 Maine County Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement. EMA Director Debra Hamlin stated this is a mutual aid agreement between the Counties to help each other out in times of crisis. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

9. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved applying for the Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) funding for the Sheriff's Office for the Jail. Sheriff Robert Young said this is grant that he just learned about last week. We met the first deadline thanks to Deputy Treasurer Johanna Turner. It is a $1 million grant that will be divided up over three years and given to five rural counties across the country. The grant is centered around the opioid crisis. We would collaborate with Helping Hands with Hearts, Recovery Wellness Community Center and CourageLives. The Jail would be able to hire a full-time per diem registered nurse for the time consuming medically assisted treatment program which is the goal. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners heard from Maintenance Head Joshua York on the Court House flag pole. The cost to cut the flag pole and cap it off, without the need for a crane, would be $4-5k. A 125-foot lift rental for a week would cost $5,500 and where we are not sure the work can be done in one-day, we could utilize the lift to work on some tree trimming and painting projects. The labor/bit blades would run about $3,350 so in total $8,850 and we do have the funds for this in the budget. The Fire Department would run traffic control at

no cost to the County. The Commissioners approved for Maintenance Head Joshua York to go ahead and get this flag pole project completed. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

11. Department Heads:
    a. County Manager, Michael Williams
        - Working on climate control for the Williamsburg Tower building. The Town of Brownville had a price of $9,200-$9,300 for a heat pump. I have been working with Dave's World and have a quote of $4,400 and some change. Commissioners agreed for the County Manager to do the install.
        - Looking at the Edmunds financial program to take the place of TRIO. Trying to get the Deputy Treasurer Johanna Turner scheduled in the "sand box' which is where you can play around to see what you think of the program. Bank Reconciliation is supposed to be a lot more efficient. TRIO is 20-25 years old now where Edmunds is much, much newer. Will let you know how it goes once she has been able to check it out. DA Office Manager Corina Rackliff asked if we would go out to bid. County Manager said he knows of at least four or five other Counties using Edmunds and they all love the program over TRIO and say it is like a night/day difference.
        - The UT Roads are starting to dry up a bit. The Hamm/County Road in Orneville has to be reshaped again as something big went down the road and damaged it. That road and a few others will require more gravel here and there. The Road Commissioner has the roads posted until the end of the month or about May 26. Looking to get some signs for next year "Local Traffic Only" to help.
        - Have had a couple of Radio Project meetings with coverage maps. We are looking for the best coverage for the best amount of money. Commissioner Adam Coover asked if they were on track and County Manager Michael Williams said yes. The Tower on Bull Hill in Charleston held us up for a couple of months with the EPA Clark Study on the railroad car, but we have the approval now to move on.
        - Talked with Sheriff Robert Young about the gas cost for patrol. We will watch the monthly trends. You can see the line in the budget report passed out. We will be tight after September even if it comes down in cost but we will be watching to see if that budget line needs to be increased.
        - Passed out the job description for the Administrative Assistant/Deputy Director for the EMA Office. Please read it over and get back to the County Manager so it can be posted and officially approved at the next meeting.
        - Commissioner Adam Coover asked about the UT Blanchard budget line. County Manager Michael Williams said he has to re-journal the paving pre-work (re-setting driveway culverts, cutting cross pipes through pavement/packing in the hot-top, etc.) that was done last summer for the Blanchard/Shirley Road.
        - Commissioner Adam Coover said he spoke with a contractor with regards to the KI Road. The contractor said we need one more week to dry the KI Road up. County Manager Michael Williams asked even with the predicted rain coming and Commissioner Adam Coover said yes. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said we need to support the loggers. Commissioner Adam Coover made the motion to pull the posting off the KI Road on Friday of this week with all the commissioners agreeing. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

    b. County Treasurer, Trisha White-did not attend.
    c. Jail Administrator, Jean Larson-did not attend (excused).
    d. Sheriff, Robert Young
        - The Jail Administrator is out of town. We have 19 inmates with 8 being FEDS. Things are going well in the Jail and we are working on the Jail Budget. We do not have much discretionary spending but will shave the dollars where we can.

- The Sheriff's Office and Dispatch are going well. We have had a couple significant fires that takes a lot of mutual aid and have pushed people to the max but we have really good people.

e. EMA Director, Debra Hamlin
- No snow to report which is good.
- A copy of The Mutual Aid contract should be kept in the County Managers Office in case I am not available should the need ever arise.
- April 21 was the Critical Incident Exercise with over 120 participants at Foxcroft Academy. The first responders worked really well together. Jon Buckingham and Megan Leavitt did a great job. We hope to have another one next year. A special thank you for Foxcroft Academy, the Jim Robinson Field House and Penobscot County.
- April 25 was the Kiwanis River Race with 52 boaters.
- May 3 was the Tanker Truck Roll Over Exercise with forty participants at the Ice Arena. Thank you to the Piscataquis County Ice Arena as they have been very generous with us. There are videos and photos on our Facebook page.
- May 7 is the next LEPC meeting.

f. Probate Register, Donna Peterson
- We are fine. We have had several legal bills come in that have put us over budget but hopefully, we are getting close to the end of them.

g. Deeds Register, Gail Clark
- Nothing new to report. April had an increase in recording fees of $1,100 but transfer tax was down.

h. District Attorney Office, Corina Rackliff
- Participated in both the Critical Incident exercise and the Tanker Truck Roll Over exercise and they were both very informative and I was very happy I participated.
- Staff is doing good and we are within ten cases of last year.
- DA Deputy Director Chelsea Lynds has been here and we are happy to have her come.

i. Head of Maintenance, Joshua York
- We are about done at the Bunker.
- Dealing with and figuring out a clog in the Jail.
- Parking lot is swept with the help of some of the Trustees. Sweeper is so much better than hand sweeping.

OTHER BUSINESS

PACC Executive Director Manda Stewart said the pool is up and running. Swim Team has started. Aquatics Instructor has been hired. Building siding is going up. Membership is growing. The pool is beautiful, stop in anytime for a tour. County Manager Michael Williams asked about the Mobile DMV. She said yes, they will be there on the first and last Wednesday of each month.

Recess 9:00 AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S):

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

Time in: 9:01 AM

Time Out: 9:11 AM

Action: No action taken, for informational purposes only.

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

Time in: 912 AM

Time Out: 9:39 AM

Action: Commissioner Adam Coover said with the discussion of 10%, he made the motion to give a 5% increase to the DA Office Manager until the salary scale is figured out. Commissioner Andrew Torbett seconded the motion. County Manager Michael Williams said he would see what he could find digging around in the budget. Commissioner Andrew Torbett removed his second to the motion. Commissioner Adam Coover removed the motion so it could be tabled to be discussed at the next meeting. Commissioners all agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM - M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0