PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

June 2, 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 Andrew Torbett to open the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was available online on Zoom.

1. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of their May 19, 2026 regular meeting and the minutes of the May 19, 2026 Property Abatement Public Hearing. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

2. Piscataquis County Commissioners removed an Executive Session for Personnel and they were given the Abatement Appeal Decisions for signature and the job description for the Administrative Assistant/Deputy Director for EMA for signature.

3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County expenditures in the amount of $29,428.91. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures in the amount of $8,938.94. 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 $87,064.99. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for May 21, 2026 in the amount of $159,984.44. 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 $140,936.54. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

8. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed and signed the increased contract, going from $23,000 to $26,000, for the annual Solid Waste Agreement with the Town of Beaver Cove for the use of the Lily Bay Transfer Station. County Manager Michael Williams said it is the first increase since 2013. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

9. Piscataquis County Commissioners had a Depot Street Property discussion. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said an email was received from EMA regarding someone putting large rocks at the POD (Point of Distribution) site in Moosehead Junction. EMA wants us to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with them and their office but we own it and we do not have to sign it. Maybe I am looking at this wrong but I feel we would sign an MOU with someone using the POD like the ATV club. County Manager Michael Williams said the ATV club has a club house off to the side and not in the parking lot area. The ATV Club provides a service to the County by keeping it mowed and providing a trash bin. This POD site is used as a disaster site, for example, if the Red Cross needed to come and pass out water, supplies or setup a mobile kitchen. The upper 1.25 acres is empty. I had a very good conversation with the ATV Club. The rocks are now gone and no one is really sure how they got there. Last year, someone was renting out boats and had them parked there but this has not happened this year yet. They

are good stewards and would sign an MOU but at this time do not feel it is necessary. Commissioner Adam Coover stated the Sheriff's Office knows it is our property and maybe could check in from time to time to make sure no cars are being dumped there and Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said and no boat sales are going on.

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners heard from the Friends of the Mountain. Wayne Erkkinen, former County Commissioner, stated the road to the ski resort is so bumpy that even a snow plow was damaged this winter. The road could be chewed up and graded because it doesn't really make sense to pave it. They are putting a lot of money in to the mountain and are raising money to buy that section which Amy Lane spearheads. They will purchase the ski area as a non-profit organization and plan to rebuild. They are getting close to their goal. Friends of the Mountain Board Member Margarita Contreni spoke and said she was delighted that the Commissioners were considering this due to it being the only access to the mountain. We have over 300 kids coming in on the school bus so we want it as safe as possible. The culvert bumps are pretty bad and lots of people are driving too fast, even at 25 MPH. Some have gone off the road and one mini van was totaled. This road is used on a regular basis with 100 volunteers spending much time there constantly doing maintenance. The Friends are in agreement where a gravel road makes more sense. They are in a campaign to purchase 1,200 acres with an adjoining 500 acres totaling about 1,700 acres which is a considerable opportunity. The campaign is going well with 2/3 of the funds raised. Commissioner Adam Coover asked if the 2/3 raised was for everything and she said yes for the mountain and lodge. They have covered all expenses except the taxes which Mr. Confalone, current owner, pays. The ski lift to the top has been closed since 2007. They have put $35k in the lower ski lift and totally redone and improved the lower lodge. The plan is under way once the purchase and sales agreement is signed. We are very optimistic. Commissioner Andrew Torbett asked the County Manager Michael Williams how long the road is? County Manager Michael Williams said 1.6 miles. Wayne Erkkinen said it used to be paved in the 60's and 70's and no gravel is needed. County Manager Michael Williams said we did something similar to the Bradford end of the Maple Road in Atkinson which was only 2,100-2,200 feet for a cost of about $105k. This would be seven times longer and need a lot of wash out work. Commissioner Adam Coover said maybe we need an engineer to do an assessment. Wayne Erkkinen said it has a good base. County Manager Michael Williams said he can have the contractor cut out the pieces where the culverts are and fill back in to make level. Just before the parking lot is bad area that maybe can be respliced and coming just off the Main Road it is pretty broken up with pot holes. This could take care of 75% of the problems. Margarita asked if bump signs could be put where the bad spots are? Commissioner Adam Coover said it is a safety issue especially with buses traveling up and down the road. County Manager Michael Williams said this could be a temporary fix. Probate Register Donna Peterson spoke and said she is a skier and she hit a bump pretty hard there last winter. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said for the lower lift, let's do it as soon as we can. Commissioner Andrew Torbett said we ground up the Dyer Road, do we have to put it out to bid or have a reasonably priced contractor do the work? County Manager Michael Williams said he can go to $10k on temporary fix before he has to put it out to bid but he would have to go out to bid to do the whole road. County Manager Michael Williams and Commissioner Adam Coover will go and look at the road issues together. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said that road has lots of traffic and we have to have a plan to fix it. Commissioner Adam Coover said he felt asphalt would work better than dirt. We need a quote on repairing it. Commissioner Adam Coover made the motion for County Manager Michael Williams to get an estimate to do some repairs especially near the culvert areas with Commissioner Chair Paul Davis seconding and it was unanimous. M: Adam Coover S: Paul Davis V: 3-0-0

11. Department Heads:
    a. County Manager, Michael Williams
        - Visited the northern part of the County on both sides of the lake and setup work for Lily Bay and Frenchtown. Across the rest of the County, the roads are in decent shape and were all graded prior to Memorial Day.

    b. The County Treasurer, Trisha White-did not attend.

c. Jail Administrator, Jean Larson
- We have 21 inmates with 11 being FEDS. Numbers for other Counties are down too.
- We still have a part-time cook position open and part-time correction officer positions open.

d. Sheriff, Robert Young-did not attend (excused).
- Chief Deputy Todd Lyford said the Sheriff is on vacation and everything is going well.
- Lieutenant James Kane said they are still working on filling a patrol position. Busy with summer and people taking vacations that need to be covered.

e. EMA Director, Debra Hamlin-did not attend (excused).
- County Manager Michael Williams said EMA Director Debra Hamlin is at training this week with Northern Light Mayo-active threat drill.

f. Probate Register, Donna Peterson
- Corey Pearson got all of her petitions signed and will be on the ballot.
- Have had several large filing fees so $13k can help to offset our legal bills which is good news.

g. Deeds Register, Gail Clark-did not attend (excused).
- County Manager Michael Williams stated that transfer tax is down for the month of May but recording fees are up. The parcel behind Indian Hill Trading post, just sold for over $2 million which will help.

h. District Attorney Office, Corina Rackliff
- We are having copier problems. The tech is coming with a part which may or may not help but we are going to try to negotiate something else with them with the County Manager Michael Williams help.
- We are 15 cases above our number of cases last year at this time.
- We are going through our conversion/data process with no new updates due to Deputy DA Lynds being in a trial.

i. Head of Maintenance, Joshua York-did not attend (excused)
- The large flag pole was taken down last Thursday. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis asked about the bill? County Manager Michael Williams said the bill has not come yet and we are waiting to see if we might get a reimbursement on the lift price where the work was completed in one day.

OTHER BUSINESS

Margarita Contreni, of MLREDC, invited the Commissioners to the Red Cross Beach Re-opening on Saturday, June 20 at 1:00 PM. It has been revitalized and they have maximized the 6 acres with picnic tables, a bike trail, retaining wall, etc. Also, our housing project is going well. We plan to build 29 work force homes off Spruce Street which is a really good location.

Recess 9:11 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: 9:16 AM

Time Out: 9:25 AM

Action: Commissioner Adam Coover made the motion for the County Manager to work on the contracts.

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

Time in: 9:25 AM

Time Out: 9:33 AM

Action: No action taken, for informational purposes only.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 AM - M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0