PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

July 7, 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 Chairman Paul Davis asked Representative Chad Perkins 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 June 16, 2026 meeting and the minutes of the June 16, 2026 Property Abatement Public Hearing. Commissioners also signed the Property Abatement Decisions on Appeal. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

2. Piscataquis County Commissioners had no adjustments to be made to the agenda.

3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County expenditures in the amount of $37,593.60. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures in the amount of $16,421.20. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of $93,117.16. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for June 18, 2026 in the amount of $160,079.48. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for July 2, 2026 in the amount of $167,438.00. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

8. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Employee Benefit Warrant in the amount of $137,797.60. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

9. Piscataquis County Commissioners opened one sealed bid for the 2017 Sheriff's Office Cruiser from Gretchen Huettner of Monson in the amount of $5,836. It was accepted and she was the winning bidder. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners approved the special permit for a catering event for Medawisla Lodge and Cabins (Appalachian Mountain Club) Shawtown TWP for Saturday, August 29 and operated by John Cullen. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

11. Piscataquis County Commissioners heard from EMA Director Debra Hamlin on the F2025 Preparedness Grants Documentation. EMA Director Debra Hamlin said they are waiting for the approval and she sent in what Administrative Assistant Lori Adkins provided for the Resume/Bio for the Commissioners and County Manager. MEMA liked the format and they are planning to use it as a template for the other Counties.

12. Department Heads:
    a. County Manager, Michael Williams
        - The UT roads are on the second round of grading which is finishing up.
        - We are starting the work on the Shirley/Blanchard Road to get it ready for paving.
        - Getting letters ready to go out to Department Heads and Program Grant recipients for the Budget process. County Manager Michael Williams passed out the Budget Committee Advisory list to the Commissioners so they can work on members that need to be replaced or renewed. Also, keep in mind you can only have a max of two from the UT on the Committee.
        - County Manager Michael Williams passed out his blank annual evaluation forms for the next meeting.
        - County Manager Michael Williams passed out the electrical rates email. The last few years, we have locked in a year at a time. In June 2028 there will be an adjustment of some kind ether up or down but I recommend going with the 48-month 11.8 from December 2026 – December 2030 knowing June 2028 will fluctuate one way or the other. Right now, we are paying 10.8. Commissioner Andrew Torbett made the motion to go with the County Manager Michael Williams recommendation for the 48-month plan mentioned above with Commissioner Adam Coover seconding and it was unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0
        - Commissioner Andrew Torbett said he is getting calls on the Maple Road with people complaining about the road. County Manager said he knows it washed out this spring and Road Commissioner Carl Henderson is meeting with the contractor on Sunday to discuss options. We typically use the winter contractors for the summer maintenance work. Commissioner Andrew Torbett said it needs to be smoothed out. County Manager Michael Williams said we need money to work on it but he does have some tucked away in capital. Two years ago, to do less than half of the road work it cost $108k and now it is going to cost about $275-$300k to do what we did on the other piece. Commissioner Adam Coover said it needs hot asphalt not reclaim which would stay in a whole lot better. Check the prices out on this as it needs to be a priority. There are some people here from Atkinson. County Manager Michael Williams said it has been a fight since they de-organized. They have maple trees growing in the ditches. Carl will talk to the contractor about ditching and starting on the low spots to get the water off the road. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis told the County Manager Michael Williams to tell the Road Commissioner Carl Henderson that this is the #1 priority. Sam Andrews of Atkinson said he lives on the Maple Road. He likes Chuck and he does a good job plowing but he does not do the other work. You have to practically stop to get across the road. I am ¾ of a mile from the Atkinson corner and there are six culverts that I can barely get over. The other end is bad too and I do not think people realize the amount of traffic this road gets. The farm running heavy equipment over the road does not help either. Get someone who knows how to do culvert work. Donna Saunders said she has lived there for forty years paying her taxes and nothing seems to be getting done on the road. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said to put it out to bid and get a package together. County Manager Michael Williams said we are waiting on a quote for Moose Mountain. Commissioner Adam Coover said he took a ride up there and the majority of the culverts are not compacted correctly and will probably take about 30 tons of hot asphalt to fill over. My wife said it was not fit to drive over and not safe. County Manager Michael Williams said Road Commissioner Carl Henderson said the few places with rocks and trees coming up through the road will have the tops ground off and skimmed over.

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

    c. Jail Administrator, Jean Larson
        - Jail Administrator Jean Larson stated we have 17 inmates with 7 being County and 10 being FEDS.

- We have a part-time employee starting on Thursday to cover for vacations and sick time.
- We have one corrections staff starting basic training the 13th right in Charleston and we have another one going this fall.

d. Sheriff, Robert Young
- Chief Deputy Todd Lyford said they are working on one candidate for the academy for a deputy and everything is going well.

e. EMA Director, Debra Hamlin
- EMA Director Debra Hamlin said she met with the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) about emergency water. They are a water agency response network and they took copies of the POD sites.

f. Probate Register, Donna Peterson (did not attend)

g. Deeds Register, Gail Clark
- June was not a great month to report on. Registrations are up but transfers are down. January 1- June 30 revenue will be about $41,901. The mansion tax is helpful but we are concerned the State will take it at some point. For the year we are doing well but not for the month of June.

h. District Attorney Office, Corina Rackliff (did not attend-excused)

i. Head of Maintenance, Joshua York
- No new updates to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Recess 9:00 AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S):

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

Time in: 9:03 AM

Time Out: 9:17 AM

Action: Commissioner Adam Coover made the motion to accept the Blanchard Road bid and also give authority to the County Manager Michael Williams to get the ditching done on the Shirley end of the Road as well with Commissioner Andrew Torbett seconding the motion with it being unanimous. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0. Commissioner Andrew Torbett made the motion to accept the Atkinson bid for the John Doore Road pending the amount for the skim coat can be used on the Maple Road instead with Commissioner Adam Coover seconding the motion and it was unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0. Commissioner Adam Coover also gave the County Manager Michael Williams the authority to use his judgement on these roads.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 AM - M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0