PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 4, 2026

DOVER-FOXCROFT

Minutes

8:30 AM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Piscataquis County Commissioner Chairman Paul Davis called the meeting into session at 8:33 AM in the Chambers. Commissioner Andrew Torbett and Commissioner Adam Coover attended. Commissioner Chairman Paul Davis asked Commissioner Adam Coover 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 July 21, 2026 meeting. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

2. Piscataquis County Commissioners added a discussion on the wage scale for hourly employees.

3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County expenditures in the amount of $28,812.70 and $15,000. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Special County expenditure in the amount of $2,249.99. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

5. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures for 2025-2026 in the amount of $3,923.35. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures for 2026-2027 in the amount of $14,312.77. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

7. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Unorganized Territory expenditures in the amount of $70,426.53. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

8. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for July 30, 2026 in the amount of $161,591.58. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

9. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Employee Benefit Warrant in the amount of $173,847.07. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

10. Piscataquis County Commissioners heard from County Manager Michael Williams with regards to the couple that live on the other side of Boyd Lake that came in after the last meeting wanting to discuss ATV use on the County/Hamm Road in Orneville. They would probably be fine doing this but we cannot control others. It would be a by-way from Bradford. The Road could end up looking like the south end of the Shirley Road which could cost more in grading probably one or two more extra times at $2,500-$3,000 each time. This road is also terrible in the spring. Sheriff Robert Young said at first he was against the ATVs using the roads due to accidents but honestly has had very few issues. Commissioner Adam Coover asked if an ATV Club has come to ask about this and County Manager Michael Williams said no, just the private owners. Commissioner Adam Coover said if the ATV Club supports this then they would usually maintain and put up signs. Commissioner Andrew Torbett said clubs work together and do a good job. Commissioner Adam Coover said they do culverts and signs and

Commissioner Andrew Torbett said they had some State grants. County Manager Michael will get with the couple and contact the area ATV club to see if this is something they would support and we can discuss it further.

- Department Heads:
  a. County Manager, Michael Williams
    - Brought the Maple Road quotes: Norm Watters Construction $72,500 and O'Brien & Son's $77,178.51 which are to do the first part of the Maple Road. Commissioner Andrew Torbett made the motion to go with the low bidder Norm Watters Construction with Commissioner Chair Paul Davis seconding with it being unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Paul Davis V: 3-0-0
    - The Tower Radio Project is moving along. Working with LUPC on one tower and the other one, working on a purchase and sales agreement to build the tower on the land. Waiting on the attorney for Blair Hill. Chris Lavoie is working on leases for two or three others. Commissioner Adam Coover asked if there was an end date? County Manager Michael Williams said we have two years for the grant and the ARPA has to be spent/allocated by the end of this year.
    - Need Budget Committee names from Commissioner Chair Paul Davis and Commissioner Andrew Torbett. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said he is keeping the same Budget Committee members and Commissioner Andrew Torbett will doublecheck with his members and get back to us.
    - The Frenchtown Road has a lot of construction and contractors running lag equipment up and down the road making it wash boardy plus side-by-sides are racing around. This will incur extra costs to keep it semi level. Commissioner Adam Coover asked who the contractor was and County Manager Michael was not sure.
    - We are all set for the Fall Conference. Commissioners Andrew Torbett and Adam Coover are unable to attend.
    - MCCA is in-person next week in Augusta. There will be a discussion for an Executive Director that can affect all the budgets.
    - County Manager Michael Williams is guessing a 3.5 CPI projection for the non-union hourly folks given a 3.5% to keep just above minimum wage. Commissioner Andrew Torbett said we have to stay within the perimeters. Commissioner Andrew Torbett made the motion for a 3.5% increase for 2027 with Commissioner Adam Coover seconding. It was unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

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

  c. Jail Administrator, Jean Larson
    - Jail Administrator Jean Larson said the Jail count is 22 including 7 boarders with 6 being FEDS and 1 from Penobscot County. Commissioners asked about ICE inmates which she said they have none. County Manager Michael Williams said Somerset lost their ICE inmates and are making it up with the regular federal inmates.
    - Brought on a certified part-time corrections officer to help fill in which will be a big help.

  d. Sheriff, Robert Young
    - Sheriff Robert Young said they brought on new hire Drew Hurst who started last week July 27, 2026. Two weeks from yesterday, he will head to the academy until December.
    - Sheriff Robert Young said we need a drug testing unit and EMA Director Debra Hamlin found us a grant to cover the cost of $12k. The unit has a 6-8 month wait time but someone canceled an order so we could have had Friday but we didn't have the money for it yet. The Sheriff's Office Public Safety Capital Account has $35k which is used for vests, lightbars, and could be used for this $6,385. Going forward we need this because we were cited by the Department of Labor. It

will benefit the County and surrounding communities like Dexter. The other half will be paid by EMPG. Homeland Security would pay the full amount but just not sure when those funds will be released. It is a special piece of equipment that Investigator Guy Dow and Lieutenant James Kane investigated and agree is the best one. Commissioner Adam Coover made the motion to support the Sheriff purchasing this piece of equipment with capital funds until grant money comes in with Commissioner Andrew Torbett seconding. It was unanimous. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

e. EMA Director, Debra Hamlin
- The LEPC meeting is this Thursday at Mayo Hospital. We have put together a tornado response group and they will be making a response plan. The Fire Departments have approved two Hazmat Trainings which will be paid for by LEPC. Commissioner Andrew Torbett asked if a tornado actually touch downed and EMA Director Debra Hamlin said she has no confirmation of that. They are preparedness for floods and ice storms but are now working on a tornado plan.

f. Probate Register, Donna Peterson
- We are good but had a very busy beginning to the month and are caught up on paperwork. Also, no need for any court appointed attorneys recently.

g. Deeds Register, Gail Clark
- Our July revenue is almost equal to last year and up due to the mansion tax - $1,700 increase.

h. District Attorney Office, Corina Rackliff (excused, in docket call)

i. Head of Maintenance, Joshua York
- No new updates today for you and need to leave at 9:00 AM to meet with a contractor.

Recess 9:02 AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S):

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

Time in: 9:03 AM

Time Out: 9:15 AM

Action: The salary positions will get a 3% increase in 2027. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0.

The new Register of Probate's salary will be set at $52,000. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0.

The new Sheriff and Chief Deputy salaries will hold where they are with a 3% increase in 2027 for budget purposes. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 2-0-1. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis recused himself from the vote where the new Sheriff is his son-in-law.

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: 9:17 AM

Time Out: 9:18 AM

Action: Commissioner Chair Paul Davis made the motion that Michael Williams has performed his duties as County Manager in a satisfactory manner and provided a copy signed by the Commissioners for his personnel file. Commissioner Adam Coover seconded and it was unanimous. M: Paul Davis S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Chair Paul Davis asked the County Manager Michael Williams about the FOAA request from Wayne Ireland. County Manager Michael Williams said he answered his email on July 28, 2026 and explained that the information requested would take some research and gave him how much per hour it would cost and how much for copies. County Manager Michael Williams stated he would start the research once he hears back from Wayne Ireland and he has not heard anything so far. Commissioner Adam Coover asked if the State had reached out? County Manager Michael Williams said no, not yet.

There was some discussion regarding the budget and the grant requests are over this year on their asking by about $103k. Commissioner Adam Coover said if there are any problems with department budgets going over to reach out to Commissioner Chair Paul Davis. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said the lack of prisoners is concerning. County Manager Michael Williams said we need to hound the FEDS on a daily basis to get the numbers up. The squeaky wheel gets the grease and then they send our way. Commissioner Andrew Torbett agreed this should be happening and we are missing out on ICE prisoners. We need to build that relationship. County Manager Michael Williams will get with the Sheriff and the Jail Administrator to get them to call in the requests on a daily basis.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 AM - M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0