PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 18, 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 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 August 4, 2026 meeting. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

2. Piscataquis County Commissioners added the approval of Nova Farms, LLC marijuana license renewal. M: Andrew Torbett S: Paul Davis V: 2-0-1 (Adam Coover)

3. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the County expenditures in the amount of $34,665.37. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

4. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Jail expenditures in the amount of $5,719.87. 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 $50,684.44. M: Adam Coover S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0

6. Piscataquis County Commissioners reviewed for approval the Payroll Warrant for August 13, 2026 in the amount of $165,038.89. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

7. Department Heads:
   a. County Manager, Michael Williams
      - We are keeping an eye on the roads and will grade next month which may be the last time of the year.
      - Still trying to find a contractor to do the work on the Big Moose Mountain Road. Have talked to a few contractors but still waiting for someone to get back to us.
      - Went to KI yesterday for the one-year adjustment period to address any issues. The Bogg Brook culvert/bridge is fine but the Sucker Brook culvert/bridge has a bit of water seeping out to the left of the channel. They said it should not hurt the road but they are planning to talk about putting some kind of grout or bond in the wall. We will find out more later after the engineer takes a look.
      - The first Budget Committee meeting is Thursday, September 3 at 6:00 PM in the Peaks House, Commissioners' Chambers. I will go over the high-level items. The tail end of this week to the beginning of next week, I will finish going over the budget with the Department Heads.

   b. The County Treasurer, Trisha White-did not attend.
      - Commissioner Chair Paul Davis told the County Manager Michael Williams to inquire and see if someone from the Treasurer's Office could attend the next meeting.

c. Jail Administrator, Jean Larson

- Jail Administrator Jean Larson said the Jail count is 18 including 7 boarders with 6 being FEDS and 1 from another County. We are being cautious in the Jail with the weekend events.
- Maintenance Head Joshua York and his Maintenance crew, Rusty Lawson & Joshua Cook, have been helping with our plumbing issues. This has been a lot of work on many days for them and we very much appreciate all they do for us. The inmates have been disposing of things they shouldn't be and we have put a plan in place. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis asked Jail Administrator Jean Larson if she was inquiring for more FEDS and she said yes, but some have contracts and they swap around. He said we need all we can get.

d. Sheriff, Robert Young

- We will maintain a presence at the County Fair next weekend.
- The following week we will be guarding the Declaration of Independence with the help of the Dover-Foxcroft PD.
- Our Northern Deputy Chris Cyr has an office setup at Moose Mountain, thanks to the Friends of the Mountain, which works out well and was very kind of them.
- Tango-Tango is for where ever there is cell phone service, we can use our portable radios like in Greenville where reception is bad and have used as far away as VA. These radios help us to be able to get through to dispatch. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis said it was a tough weekend for the deputies, hard to walk in on some of these tragedies and he sends his compliments to them.

e. EMA Director, Debra Hamlin

- We have the Sea Plane fly in coming up in September.
- The Narc Safe equipment is on the way back and we may have next week.
- The Homeland Security Grant for 2025 is now open and we have $86,182 which covers Active Threat training for $45k, EMA Planner $30k, and laptops $10k which we will see if the lap top monies can go towards the Narc Safe machine.
- Attended the annual Onawa Lake Association meeting with Sgt Sam Heffner, Forest Ranger for the Maine Forest Service on August 15,2026 when the power went out due to the Moosehead Mill fire in Monson. The fire was battled by Piscataquis and Penobscot County fire departments. All EMS and Fire departments worked very well together. Jonathan Pullen, Monson Selectman, made sure the crews had plenty of water and pizza to keep them hydrated and fueled to work through the night. Our dispatchers, Ashlie Grant and Gabrielle Huettner, did a fantastic job. Kudos to everyone!

f. Probate Register, Donna Peterson

- We are good but busy. In July, we had over $5k in fees and a good month used to be $3k.

g. Deeds Register, Gail Clark

- We are okay, our revenue increased by $1,100 last month.
- Chris Maas of the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society would like the County to donate the 1826 Charles Parsons Chandler ledger to the Historical Society which was a one room law firm. It does not have anything Deeds related and we are not sure how it ended up in Deeds. Commissioner Andrew Torbett made the motion to give the ledger to the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society for safe keeping but ownership will be retained by the County with Commissioner Adam Coover seconding. It was unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

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

i. Head of Maintenance, Joshua York
- We are busy.
- The Masonry Contractor has requested to do the work in the spring due to being booked up and will do as early in the spring as they can.
- On higher end equipment, I will start giving you a copy to review prior to the meeting so you have time to review, like I did this time with the Roofing Proposal for the Jail.
- I have had the same issue as the County Manager with such a hard time trying to find contractors to do work for us. They say they want to help but then never get back to you.
- I have talked with the Sheriff about the Jail roof. We could just repair damaged spots but then are looking at the roof lasting 15-20 years or we go this route lasting 30-40 years. This is a pretty thorough proposal. If they run into any damage underneath, I would like a $5k buffer so I do not have to stall the work for two weeks waiting for another meeting. Commissioner Chair Paul Davis asked Maintenance Head Joshua York if he would make sure the extra work would need to be done by inspecting and he said he would make sure any extra work needs to be done. Sheriff Robert Young said we do back ground checks on these contractors. Joshua said he would make sure the are insured as well and bring a copy into the office. Commissioner Andrew Torbett gave approval for the proposal for the roof project for the Jail along with the extra $5k buffer if needed for any extra damage with Commissioner Adam Coover seconding and it was unanimous. M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Recess 8:57 AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S):

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: 8:58 AM

Time Out: 9:07 AM

Action: No action, for information only.

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: 9:08 AM

Time Out: 9:13 AM

Action: Commissioner Chair Paul Davis made the motion to follow the Sheriff's recommendation on terminating an employee. Commissioner Andrew Torbett seconded the motion and it was unanimous. M: Paul Davis S: Andrew Torbett V: 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 AM - M: Andrew Torbett S: Adam Coover V: 3-0-0