



# PDCC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 15, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Attendees: 5

- Welcome & Introductions
- Business
  - Reports
    - Chair's Report
      - Charles thanked everyone for being here. He reported what we have been working on over the past six months
        - Dec/Jan: Phonebanking for Georgia
        - Jan – Present: Voter Outreach Committee has been sending postcards and also conducted outreach for the Charter Commission Election
        - Encouraged everyone to stay involved even in this “off year”
    - Treasurer's Report
      - June financial report ([here](#))
      - Started the month with about \$2500 and ended with \$1200. The main expenditures were related to the Charter Commission election and the celebratory event in June
      - Submitted the July semi-annual campaign finance report to the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
  - Minutes approval
    - No vote due to failure to achieve quorum
- Rescue Plan Funds Overview with Commissioner Jim Cloutier
  - Overview, timeline, and opportunities to give input
    - Cumberland County will receive a total of about \$57 million dollars if the Federal budget gets past. They already received the first round of funding, which was about \$28 million. Commissioner Cloutier is optimistic that the budget will pass, and Cumberland County will receive the second round of funding
    - Cumberland County holds monthly public meetings and forums to discuss how funding will be allocated



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- The Cumberland County website ([cumberlandcounty.org](http://cumberlandcounty.org)) has a link to submit public comments:  
<https://www.cumberlandcounty.org/754/American-Rescue-Plan-Act>
- They have also met with municipal officials from throughout Cumberland County to discuss funding
- There are funding restrictions, which is similar to most Federal funding sources, and the U.S. Treasury Department is monitoring how funding is used.
  - Allowed
    1. Supporting public health response
    2. Addressing negative economic impact
      - Likely will focus heavily on this area.
    3. Replacing public sector revenue loss
      - Civic Center losses
      - Tax revenue losses
    4. Premium pay for essential workers
      - One focus area likely will be the Cumberland County Jail because it has been difficult to recruit and retain corrections officers. They have almost 65 vacancies right now.
    5. Water, sewer, broadband infrastructure
  - Not allowed
    1. Reducing taxes
    2. Depositing extraordinary funds into a pension account
    3. Certain non-federal matchers
    4. Debt service
    5. Legal settlements
    6. Rainy day funds
    7. Infrastructure outside of water/sewer/broadband or revenue loss to infrastructure accounts
    8. General economic development or workforce development – unless it's related to the pandemic
- Questions, comments, and discussion
  - Charles Skold:
    - Infrastructure: Excited about publicly owned broadband. Can city funds also be used for this?
      - Commissioner Cloutier: It is very challenging. Outside of Portland there is less support for a publicly owned enterprise. There also is a technical problem because Cumberland County technically has a broadband system



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that is above the threshold. They are exploring a different set of standards that apply to the state so it is possible to work with the state. They still could update other areas in the county where service does not exist.

- Housing is another area where they think they can create a long-term impact.
- Timothy Wyant: The west half of Peaks Island is preserved forest land and there have been several fires in the past three years. Could this be addressed with the funding?
  - Commissioner Cloutier: It is possible, but the funding has to be spent by 2024 which may not be enough time.
- Charles Skold: What if you needed to dig up roads to lay water/sewer/broadband infrastructure, could funds be used to repair damaged roads?
  - Commissioner Cloutier: The short answer is yes.
- Charles Skold: Investment in housing and addressing homelessness could benefit the entire county. Is this being considered?
  - Commissioner Cloutier: Yes, but it is complex. There are differing views in how communities view homelessness. Portland views homelessness different than surrounding towns.
- Opportunities for public comment
  - People should connect funding proposals to one of the five focus areas. They submit comments on the Cumberland County website
  - Who makes the final decisions?
    - It is a complicated and they are waiting for better guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department before making final decisions
    - The decision-making process will be transparent and open to the public. Commissioner Cloutier encouraged people to attend the monthly meetings and to submit comments on the website (Cumberlandcounty.org)
    - Next public meeting is the second week of august
- Announcements
  - Plan to do a PDCC fundraiser in the fall
    - Contact Charles Skold ([chair@portlanddems.org](mailto:chair@portlanddems.org)) if you are interested in joining the fundraiser planning committee



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- Adjourn