

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2
3 **March 4, 2026**

4
5 The regular meeting of the York County Commissioners was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 4:30
6 PM at the York County Government Building in Alfred.

7
8 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- 9
10 Richard R. Dutremble
11 Richard Clark
12 Robert Andrews
13 Donna Ring

14
15 **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

- 16 Justin Chenette
17
18 County Manager Greg Zinser, Sheriff William King, Facilities Director Rick deRochemont, EMA Deputy
19 Director Megan Arsenault (via Zoom), Chief Advancement Officer Rachel Standfield and Finance
20 Director Lori Lemieux were present at the meeting.

21
22 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

23
24 **ITEM**

25
26 **1. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

27
28 None.

29
30 **2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

- 31
32 a. Commissioners' meeting of February 25, 2026

33
34 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2026, as presented.**
35 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

36 **Motion carried 4:0**

37
38 **3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 39 a. Warrants to be approved on February 25, 2026, in the amount of \$\$1,063,991.16

40
41 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated February 25, 2026, in the**
42 **amount of \$1,063,991.16. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

43 **Motion carried 4:0**

44
45 **4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

46
47 Commissioner Clark announced the passing of former Budget Committee member Chip Venell, formerly
48 of Acton, who had moved to Florida. He noted that Chip was dedicated, thoughtful, and contributed
49 meaningfully during his years on the Budget Committee. He will be missed.

50 **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- 51
52 a. New Hires/Transfers:
53 i. To seek hiring approval of Kiara Velilla in the position of full time Corrections Officer in
54 the Sheriff's office with an effective date of March 16, 2026.
55

56 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Kiara Velilla in the position of full**
57 **time Correctional Officer in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of March 16,**
58 **2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
59 **Motion carried 3:1 with Commissioner Ring opposing**

- 60 b. Sheriff King to recommend the promotion of Corporal Kenneth Hamilton to Sergeant
61 effective March 8, 2026
62

63 **MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the promotion of Corporal Kenneth Hamilton to**
64 **Sergeant with an effective date of March 8, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
65 **Motion carried 4:0**

- 66 c. Sheriff King to recommend the promotion of Deputy Travis Jones to Sergeant effective
67 March 8, 2026
68

69 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the promotion of Deputy Travis Jones to**
70 **Sergeant with an effective date of March 8, 2026. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.**
71 **Motion carried 4:0**

- 72 d. FY27 Budget Development Review
73

74 County Manager Zinser provided an update on the FY27 budget development, noting the work is ongoing
75 with two remaining department-head meetings scheduled. Based on current figures and assuming a
76 worst-case scenario, the budget reflects an estimated 9% increase.
77

78 He reported that the largest cost impact is a significant rise in electricity expenses, estimated at \$600,000–
79 \$700,000. Additional major drivers include the Training Center and the Recovery Center, while personnel
80 costs are not contributing to major increases this year. Other departmental adjustments are standard.
81

82 County Manager Zinser emphasized that, consistent with the Commissioners' direction in January, no
83 new initiatives or new positions are being proposed, and overall spending remains generally flat aside
84 from unavoidable cost increases.
85

86 He added that staff will continue reviewing potential deferrals of purchases or expenses and the possible
87 use of reserves over the coming weeks before the Budget Committee begins its work.
88

89 Commissioner Dutremble raised the question of whether the County should consider eliminating or
90 further reducing funding for the Treasurer position, noting the role is no longer functionally necessary due
91 to the Finance Director and Finance Department handling the responsibilities once associated with it. He
92 expressed concern that even the current small allocation, under \$1,000, represents taxpayer funds going to
93 a position that has become largely obsolete. He also commented that when the position was previously
94 presented to voters, the public was misled about the scope of its duties.

95 Commissioner Ring responded that the voters have twice indicated they wished to retain the Treasurer
96 position, and that while the role has minimal activity and limited responsibilities, removing it would
97 require another vote. He noted the cost is low and that the position has already been significantly reduced.
98

99 Commissioner Clark stated he would support sending the question back to voters in November, noting
100 that the Treasurer is rarely present and that the County's Finance Director is the qualified professional
101 who carries out the actual financial management responsibilities. He described the Treasurer position as
102 vestigial and no longer necessary.
103

104 Commissioner Dutremble added that other counties are also moving away from elected treasurer
105 positions, citing Washington County as an example, where a finance director is being hired to fulfill the
106 operational needs that elected treasurers once handled.
107

108 Commissioner Ring asked to receive a monthly report on expenditures, noting repeated prior requests.
109 County Manager Zinser agreed and will coordinate with the Finance Department to ensure the report is
110 provided monthly. He apologized for the oversight and asked that the Commissioner email reminders
111 when needed. He noted staff will ensure the process is consistent going forward.
112

113 County Manager Zinser then returned to the earlier discussion regarding the Treasurer position, offering
114 to review and provide the formal process for placing a question before voters should the Board choose to
115 pursue elimination of the position. He noted this was done approximately 6–8 years ago and would
116 involve a Commissioner vote followed by sending certified minutes and the question to the Secretary of
117 State's Office, subject to specific submission deadlines.
118

119 County Manager Zinser added broader context, stating that many county government statutes are outdated
120 and scattered, and that modernizing county governance, particularly roles such as the Treasurer, may be
121 worth future discussion with legislative delegation members. He reiterated his view that the Treasurer's
122 position is no longer operationally necessary.
123

124 Commissioner Ring suggested that Commissioner Chenette may have knowledge of the statutory
125 timeframes related to placing the question on the ballot.
126

127 The Board agreed that County Manager Zinser will research the process and bring the information
128 forward for discussion at the next meeting on March 18.
129

130 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

131 a. Review and Approval of Vehicle Policy

132 County Manager Zinser presented the latest draft of the Vehicle Use Policy, noting that it includes the
133 revisions requested by the Commissioners. The updates add language regarding electronic device use in
134 county vehicles, clarify the enforcement mechanism, including that violations may rise to the level of a
135 criminal referral, and incorporate language to ensure coordination with the Sheriff's Office SOP. He
136 stated that all requested changes have been made and invited Commissioners to request any further
137 revisions.
138
139

140
141 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the updated York County Vehicle Use Policy**
142 **dated March February 26, 2026. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.**

143 **Motion carried 4:0**

144 7. TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT
145 TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR
146 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR
147 NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION
148 WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF
149 CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)

150
151 None.

152
153 8. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

154 None.

155
156 9. ADJOURN

157
158 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
159 **Motion carried 4:0**

160
161 Meeting adjourned at 4:51pm.

162
163 Respectfully Submitted,

164
165 Patricia Murray
166 Executive Assistant to the County Manager
167

DRAFT

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2
3 **March 18, 2026**

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5 The regular meeting of the York County Commissioners was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 4:30
6 PM at the York County Government Building in Alfred.

7
8 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

9
10 Richard R. Dutremble
11 Richard Clark
12 Robert Andrews
13 Donna Ring
14 Justin Chenette

15
16 **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

17
18 County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss, Facilities
19 Director Rick deRochemont, EMA Director Art Cleaves (via Zoom), EMA Deputy Director Megan
20 Arsenault, and Finance Director Lori Lemieux were present at the meeting.

21
22 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

23
24 **ITEM**

25
26 **1. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

27
28 David Plavin, Save Our Shores (SOS) Saco, thanked the Commission and County staff for their work in
29 bringing the dredge program from concept to operation over the past five years. He highlighted the
30 successful completion of two dredging projects this year in Wells and Saco, noting positive results despite
31 challenging conditions.

32
33 Mr. Plavin recognized key contributors, including County Manager Zinser, EMA Director Art Cleaves,
34 Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Chris McCall, and the harbor masters in both communities. He
35 emphasized the program's strong potential to help coastal areas recover sand lost to storms and expressed
36 interest in expanding participation to additional communities. He closed by expressing appreciation for
37 the County's support and optimism about the program's continued growth.

38
39 **2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

- 40
41 a. Commissioners' meeting of March 4, 2026

42
43 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to table the minutes of March 4, 2026. Commissioner**
44 **Andrews seconded the motion.**

45 **Motion carried 5:0**

46
47 **3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 48 a. Warrants to be approved on March 4, 2026, in the amount of \$1,080,680.32

50 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated March 4, 2026, in the amount**
51 **of \$1,080,680.32. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
52 **Motion carried 5:0**

53
54 b. Warrants to be approved on March 11, 2026, in the amount of \$599,449.17

55
56 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated March 11, 2026, in the**
57 **amount of \$599,449.17. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
58 **Motion carried 5:0**

59
60 **4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

61
62 Commissioner Ring reported that she attended the Senior Safety Fair held at the Regional Training Center
63 the previous Friday. The event was very well attended, with over 100 participants, and received extremely
64 positive feedback. Attendees enjoyed both the training sessions and the food, and she noted that the event
65 was organized exceptionally well. Commissioner Ring expressed support for making the Senior Safety
66 Fair an annual event because of its strong success.

67
68 **5. NEW BUSINESS**

69
70 a. Review/Discuss with possible approval RE: Referendum to eliminate elected Treasurer's
71 position. (heard after item 5.b.)

72
73 The County Manager reported back to the Board regarding the potential elimination of the elected
74 Treasurer position, which Commissioners discussed at the previous meeting. He noted that the position is
75 largely ceremonial and holds no significant role in county government operations.

76
77 He explained the process required under state law: the Board must vote to abolish the elected Treasurer
78 position, and once that vote is taken, the decision must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State
79 within 30 days. To appear on the November ballot, the submission deadline is August 7, 2026. County
80 Manager Zinser provided the requested reference materials in the agenda packet and offered to answer
81 any questions.

82
83 Commissioner Ring asked whether the ballot question would read, "*Shall the position of elected county*
84 *treasurer be abolished and replaced with a treasurer appointed by the county commissioners?*" County
85 Manager Zinser confirmed that this exact wording is required by state law and would be the question
86 submitted to the Secretary of State.

87
88 Commissioner Ring then asked whether eliminating the elected position would affect the title or role of
89 the County's Finance Director. County Manager Zinser clarified that it would not. The County would still
90 have a treasurer in a technical sense, but going forward the position would be appointed rather than
91 elected. He explained that, consistent with common practice in municipalities and counties, the
92 administrator or finance director would typically hold the technical treasurer title. He emphasized that
93 within county government this designation functions primarily as a technical title.

94
95 Commissioner Dutremble recalled that during the last attempt to eliminate the elected Treasurer position,
96 substantial misinformation was spread to voters. He cited statements made by a past candidate for
97 Treasurer who inaccurately claimed that the elected Treasurer is responsible for safeguarding public
98 funds, receiving revenues, overseeing financial administration, ensuring proper accounting practices, and

99 managing county purchasing. He stressed that these assertions were incorrect and contributed to voter
100 confusion.

101
102 Commissioner Dutremble noted that in his nearly 20 years on the Board, the elected Treasurer has
103 appeared at meetings very rarely, underscoring that the position plays no active role in county operations.
104 He expressed concern that misinformation previously influenced the outcome and implied that this
105 remains an obstacle in addressing the issue.

106
107 Commissioner Chenette first confirmed with the County Manager that the ballot language required for
108 eliminating the elected Treasurer position is identical to what appeared in the previous referendum, noting
109 that it must be read verbatim into the record if the Board proceeds.

110
111 He then expressed appreciation for the County's professional finance staff, citing their strong expertise
112 and dedication. He contrasted this with financial management challenges seen in other counties across the
113 state and emphasized the value of York County's stable financial practices.

114
115 Commissioner Chenette stated that he is reluctant to revisit the referendum because the voters recently
116 chose, by approximately 70%, to retain an elected Treasurer. He stressed the importance of respecting that
117 mandate and not disregarding the will of the voters based on personal opinions about the position's
118 impact or the individual serving in it.

119
120 He also noted that the Board has not engaged in recent discussions about how to better utilize or empower
121 the elected Treasurer's role, particularly in areas such as the budget process and public engagement.
122 Because no substantial changes have occurred since the last referendum and given the likelihood that
123 voters would again choose to retain the position, he stated he would not support placing the question on
124 the ballot.

125
126 Commissioner Clark stated that, in his nine years as a County Commissioner and prior service on the
127 County Budget Committee, he observed very limited participation from both the current and previous
128 elected treasurers. He noted that the current treasurer has appeared so infrequently over the past four years
129 that the number of appearances could be counted on one hand.

130
131 Commissioner Clark emphasized that the elected Treasurer performs no meaningful duties, which led the
132 Board to reduce the position's compensation to \$500 per year. He contrasted this with the County's
133 professional finance staff, who are qualified, trained, and responsible for actual financial management. By
134 comparison, the elected Treasurer position carries no required qualifications, allowing any resident of
135 legal age who gathers signatures to run.

136
137 He asserted that many voters likely did not understand the previous referendum question, leading them to
138 vote "no" by default. He described the Treasurer role as a vestigial, pointless position given the County's
139 modern financial management structure. Clark stated he strongly disagrees with Commissioner Chenette's
140 viewpoint and supports putting the question back on the ballot. If voters again choose to keep the
141 position, the County will continue paying \$500 for a role he believes has no functional value.

142
143 Commissioner Dutremble reiterated that the elected Treasurer position is obsolete in modern county
144 government. Drawing on his 30 years of experience working for the City of Biddeford, he noted that
145 treasurer responsibilities have long been consolidated under professional finance directors or city
146 managers because the role has fundamentally changed over the past few decades.

147

148 He stated that York County now has a competent finance department capable of handling all required
149 duties, making the elected Treasurer position unnecessary and effectively a waste of the \$500 annual
150 stipend. Commissioner Dutremble also emphasized that during the previous referendum he frequently
151 heard from residents who said they did not understand the ballot question, and he believed
152 misinformation contributed significantly to the outcome. For these reasons, he stated he would support
153 sending the question back to voters.

154
155 **MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to table the approval of the elimination of the elected**
156 **Treasurer position until May 6, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**
157 **Motion carried 3:2 with Commissioners Dutremble and Clark opposing**

158 b. EMA to provide update on Dredge activities (heard before item 5.a.)
159

160 County Manager Zinser introduced the agenda item, noting that EMA was invited to provide an update on
161 current dredge operations. He referenced earlier public comments from David Plavin expressing
162 appreciation for the program's progress. County Manager Zinser noted that EMA Director Art Cleaves
163 would deliver the briefing on behalf of EMA.

164
165 He reported that dredge operations are winding down for the season. The dredge will be brought back into
166 Wells, dismantled, and stored onshore for the summer while the County evaluates next steps and future
167 planning. County Manager Zinser noted that those discussions will take place in the coming weeks.

168
169 He also welcomed Saco City Administrator Ryan Pelletier, who was present for the update. County
170 Manager Zinser then turned the floor over to Art Cleaves for the full briefing and Q&A.

171
172 Director Art Cleaves provided an update on the dredge program and recent coastal restoration work. He
173 reported that all coastal community projects have been completed, including the Old Orchard Beach
174 trucked-in sand project and the separate dredging efforts. Director Cleaves thanked David Plavin and
175 Kevin Roche for their advocacy, and the Commissioners for their support, highlighting Commissioner
176 Chenette's assistance with last-minute challenges.

177
178 He noted that the project faced multiple hurdles, including permitting issues, unexpected breakdowns, and
179 an overlooked permit application, but all work ultimately concluded successfully. The County is now
180 receiving reimbursement payments from FEMA and MEMA, and communities should receive those funds
181 soon.

182
183 Director Cleaves emphasized that the dredge program produced significant cost savings for
184 municipalities, both in procurement and project execution, and that such work would have been difficult
185 for individual towns to complete on their own. The newly restored sand provides critical coastal
186 protection following severe storm damage, and future projects will remain eligible for federal
187 reimbursement.

188
189 He reported that one Old Orchard Beach project is already fully approved under FEMA Category G, and
190 the County expects CDS funding for engineering, followed by construction funds. Over the next 18
191 months, additional projects should advance to Category G as well. Director Cleaves concluded by inviting
192 any questions from Commissioners.

193
194 Commissioner Chenette thanked Director Cleaves for his leadership and extensive work on the dredge
195 project, echoing earlier remarks from David Plavin. He noted that the project would not have succeeded

196 without Director Cleaves and his team dedicating substantial time and effort and emphasized that their
197 work has given coastal communities much-needed hope.

198
199 Looking ahead, Commissioner Chenette asked about next steps following the upcoming dismantling and
200 summer storage of the dredge. He inquired whether the goal is to bring stakeholders together to discuss
201 expanding and coordinating future coastal community participation, including potential involvement from
202 towns like Scarborough. He asked what support or resources would be most helpful to EMA in organizing
203 those next steps and stakeholder discussions.

204
205 Director Cleaves agreed that stakeholder coordination is an essential next step for the dredge program. He
206 explained that the County has strengthened relationships with state-level partners, including the Maine
207 Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF) and the State Coastal Resiliency Office, both of which offer
208 important grant opportunities. EMA is also engaging with local coastal resiliency groups in each
209 community, with a few more still to bring into the process, as well as working on habitat enhancement
210 efforts that support additional federal funding eligibility.

211
212 Director Cleaves outlined the program's progression:

- 213 • **Step 1:** Completing emergency protective measures (recent dredging and sand replacement).
- 214 • **Step 2:** Advancing projects to FEMA Category G for long-term recovery work.
- 215 • **Step 3:** Developing a sustainable, long-range plan for ongoing beach maintenance, which he
216 emphasized is a significant economic concern for the entire state.

217
218 He noted the importance of educating state legislators, particularly those from non-coastal areas, about
219 coastal resiliency needs. EMA is coordinating with statewide partners, including the Maine Office of
220 Community Affairs (MOCA) formerly Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF)
221 office, and other coastal counties to ensure broader understanding and support. Director Cleaves
222 concluded by hoping his explanation adequately addressed the Commissioner's question.

223
224 Commissioner Chenette suggested that, once the legislative session concludes and preparations begin for
225 the next dredge season, it would be beneficial to invite state legislators to see the dredge in person. He
226 noted that firsthand experience would help lawmakers, especially those less familiar with coastal issues,
227 understand the dredge's importance in mitigating coastal erosion and supporting local economies.

228
229 Director Cleaves agreed, stating that such outreach is already underway. He has spoken with
230 Representative Gramlich and Senator Bailey about scheduling a visit, and noted that staff from the
231 MOCA office, who previously toured the site under harsh weather conditions, expressed strong interest in
232 returning. Cleaves emphasized the need to continue these engagement efforts and thanked the
233 Commissioner for his support.

234
235 David Plavin emphasized the importance of establishing a strong connection with the U.S. Army Corps of
236 Engineers, noting that the County-owned dredge is now capable of performing work in federal waters. He
237 identified several locations with federally maintained channels, such as Saco, Scarborough, Ogunquit, and
238 Kittery, where the Corps traditionally conducts dredging and where future collaboration could be
239 beneficial.

240
241 Mr. Plavin stated that the Saco River federal channel is in particular need of dredging and suggested that
242 the County should make the Corps aware that its dredge is available and capable of assisting with these
243 projects. He also highlighted the positive working relationships developed during recent dredge

244 operations and stressed the value of maintaining those partnerships. He concluded that the Army Corps
245 will be an essential partner in the program's future success.

246
247 County Manager Zinser confirmed that discussions with partners, including the Army Corps and others,
248 are already underway and will be critical moving forward. He stressed that long-term success of the
249 dredge program will ultimately depend on securing adequate funding.

250
251 County Manager Zinser explained that EMA is actively pursuing additional funding opportunities, and the
252 next major milestone is advancing projects to FEMA Category G, which requires substantial engineering
253 work on impacted beaches. He expects the County will begin by collaborating with a "coalition of the
254 willing", the municipalities most eager to participate, and expanding from there.

255
256 He also noted that the County will submit another Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request this
257 year for additional dredge equipment to continue building program capacity. County Manager Zinser
258 closed by commending EMA for its extensive work and leadership on the initiative.

- 259
260 c. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:
261 i. To seek hiring approval of Mateus Zola in the position of full time Corrections Officer in
262 the Sheriff's office with an effective date of March 23, 2026.

263
264 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Mateus Zola in the position of full-**
265 **time Correctional Officer in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of March 23,**
266 **2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
267 **Motion carried 5:0**

268 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

269
270 None.

271
272 **7. TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT**
273 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR**
274 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR**
275 **NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION**
276 **WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**
277 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**

278
279 None.

280
281 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

282
283 None.

284 **9. ADJOURN**

285
286 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
287 **Motion carried 5:0**

288
289 Meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.

290

291 Respectfully Submitted,
292
293 Patricia Murray
294 Executive Assistant to the County Manager
295

DRAFT