

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

April 9, 2025

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble  
Richard Clark  
Robert Andrews  
Justin Chenette (excused)  
Donna Ring

County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Hutchins-Corliss were present at the meeting.

### YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

04-09-2025

#### ITEM

**1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

None

**2 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- a. Warrants to be approved on April 2, 2025 in the amount of \$876,317.58.  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0. (Commissioner Andrews not present yet.)

**3 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Clark commented that he took a drive to look at the new buildings. He reported that the Recovery Center foundation is in, and the roof is going on the training building.

County Manager Zinser added that the training center is a couple of weeks ahead of schedule and the Recovery Center building is two weeks ahead of schedule.

Commissioner Dutremble told all that he recently attended a Maine County Commissioner Association meeting and there are groups working in Augusta making sure we get accurate funding for the jails.

## 4 NEW BUSINESS

### a. To continue FY'2026 budget review

i. Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont to present budget  
County Manager Zinser stated that there is a new request for a groundskeeper.

Facilities Manager Rick DeRochemont explained to the Board that most of the budget items increases are due to the new buildings and increased costs with the D.A.'s office. He pointed out that a new item is county vehicle maintenance line. We have more vehicles, and we travel to Biddeford. Gas and oil costs are up since we have more vehicles and fuel for last year's groundskeeping. There are huge increases in electricity. Facilities Manager DeRochemont stated that the heating and repairs line includes the new buildings. Another increase is due to the inventory software program. Commissioner Ring asked if the groundskeeper position has been advertised for yet? County Manager Zinser replied, not yet. He added that it is a topic of conversation with the Union. He continued that last year we had bids come in for grounds maintenance that doubled in the amount of around \$60,000. We rejected the bids. The County Manager explained that we worked through Manpower through the summer months. We don't have any plan B for maintenance for the county. If approved, we will ask to move forward.

### ii. Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy to present budget-

Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy addressed the Board.

She informed all that in 2024, York County Probate processed 178 passport applications and that so far in 2025 they've processed 75. In 2024, there were 1481 filings and proceedings. To date in 2025, there have been 303 new proceedings. Register Lovejoy explained that she has requested \$15,000 as a new request for electronic records (online). She explained that Catalyst was the vendor we had and that \$17,000 was the original cost of the contract. The yearly maintenance fee is about \$3,500. We have no idea what the contract is going to be. They've been unresponsive.

County Manager Zinser explained that they arrived at \$15,000 for that line after conversation. If we need more, we will take it from tech. reserve.

Register of Probate Lovejoy explained that this is being handled through the Register's association. We aren't entirely sure where it is going to go.

Commissioner Ring stated that workers compensation costs are very high.

County Manager Zinser explained that the rates went up on clerical positions. In general, the cost is going through the roof, he stated. Also, we pay higher rates because of the jail.

Commissioner Ring asked Register of Probate Lovejoy if the revenue amount shown of \$500,000 is a good number? Register Lovejoy replied, yes, we have been consistently over that amount.

County Manager Zinser informed the Board that they are giving the Judge an additional one day per month to be used at the Judge's discretion. In conversation with the Judge, the County Manager learned that the Judge was teaching higher education classes. This service he provides is huge. County Manager Zinser stated that he is proposing to compensate Judge Houde when

he teaches these 8 or 9 classes per year. County Manager Zinser stated that we are grateful for Probate services and all that they do. Judge Houde addressed the Board and informed them that he has 60-80 people for these classes. He designs them and moderates them, and all participants receive approved credits. County Manager Zinser stated that this is a huge value to the county.

Commissioner Ring asked Register of Probate Lovejoy about the court's scheduling. Register Lovejoy replied that the court is pretty up to date but there are a lot of emergency guardianships right now.

iii. Sheriff King to present Sheriff's Office budget-

Sheriff King explained that he is increasing the overtime budget after an analysis of the last couple of years showed overages. The Uniforms/safety equipment line is up because we need new vests.

The Employee Training line was also increased, Sheriff King explained largely due to the SRT support. We use this team quite often. Also, quite a few deputies are using the education-employee development benefit. Sheriff King added that meals and lodging budgets are up as lots of training is held out of the area.

Sheriff King continued that the county vehicle maintenance is increased as we had to go out to get some vehicles fixed. We hope after this year to do more in-house. The vehicles budget line reflects the purchase of seven vehicles and that is our yearly rotation. Vehicles are increasing in value. County Manager Zinser explained that we broke out weapons (in the budget) as we were taking the funds out of safety equipment, but we now recognize it as an actual expense.

Commissioner Ring questioned the increase of \$32,000 in the SRT support line and asked what is that for?

Sheriff King responded training lights on their firearms.

Commissioner Ring asked how many? Sheriff King replied, three.

Commissioner Ring commented that training has usually been charged to the overtime account. She added that she thinks that is a high increase. There is no breakdown of \$32,000. I would like more detail, she stated.

Sheriff King replied that in 2023 we spent \$58,000 and in 2024 we went over.

Commissioner Ring stated that she is concerned about the increases.

Chief Deputy Forbes explained that they only had a \$20,000 training budget before, and that tuition reimbursement came out of that account.

Commissioner Ring responded that we have a reserve account for that.

County Manager Zinser replied that we do but we don't want to drain that account.

Commissioner Ring replied that when they request tuition reimbursement, it should be done prior to the budget so you have a number. Sheriff King replied that we make sure they adhere to the guidelines.

Finance Director Lori Lemieux explained what items are taken out of the budget line to include a training subscription to Dirigo Safety Another conferences (training sessions), shooting range, and additional higher training.

Commissioner Ring commented regarding the Sheriff's Office vehicles that from the vehicle inventory report she was given there are seven vehicles right

now that are new and unassigned, forty-six vehicles total with three to be sold. We have seven new vehicles so why do we need to buy seven more? There are only five vehicles that have over 80,000 miles on them. The rest are all under 80,000 miles. They have to buy all new equipment to fit the vehicles. Our officers are not operating high mileage vehicles right now. Sheriff King responded because we are staying with this rotation.

Commissioner Ring stated to Sheriff King that if he wants a little more in some of his lines, maybe no new vehicles. She stated that she believes there are some budgets we can look at and reduce. She stated that she cannot support seven new vehicles.

Commissioner Dutremble asked the Sheriff if that (vehicle budget) number is high enough?

Sheriff King replied that it is his understanding that this is a good number.

County Manager Zinser added that we don't know how tariffs will affect us.

Commissioner Ring stated that the overtime wages could be better managed.

She added that there is a lot of P.R. stuff done that could be managed better.

Commissioner Ring asked for a projection on what they (Sheriff's Office) think they are going to use this year. We used to have this in the budgets.

County Manager Zinser explained in regard to overtime, we are trying to

resolve some articles in the Union contract that would have a good impact.

iv. Major Lori Marks to present jail budget

County Manager Zinser explained that we have to increase wages for the contract approved. State funding plays the larger issue here. We are putting in \$2.4 million in the budget, which is the same as in prior years but last year we received less. The only thing that kept us going was due to receiving the supplemental amount of \$255,000. There is a chance that the \$2.4 million we put into the budget is too much, explained the County Manager.

There is a chance that the State may put \$4 million back in (the budget) but it is a big role of the dice this year on what we are getting.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that the committee is working on revenues. Maine Municipal Association put a bill in also. A lot of other entities are working on this (jail budgets), and he feels we will get more money.

County Manager Zinser explained that the medical assisted treatment program costs \$600,000 to \$700,000 but we only get \$120,000 from the State. We are required to do this under the Department of Corrections Standard, he explained.

Medical is a huge and ongoing concern, stated the County Manager. We have a \$300,000 bill that may come due for us. We have been having internal conversations about the feasibility of looking at our own medical program.

Jail Administrator Lori Marks addressed the Board and stated that the only increase she is asking for is in the uniforms and safety equipment lines. With increased hiring, the need for more uniforms, safety equipment and wages has gone up. In regards to the inmate supplies budget, with our population at almost 200, there are things we are mandated to provide, so our number has gone up.

Jail Administrator Marks continued that their budget shows significant

decreases in the equipment/copier repair lines. Tech related stuff shows a 30% decrease to help offset some of the increases, also.

Commissioner Ring asked Jail Administrator Marks what the daily average population is. Jail Administrator Marks replied, 185 to 190.

Commissioner Ring commented that this budget is about as reasonable as you can get. The increase in uniforms is a necessity. Commissioner Ring Stated, "Good job!"

Commissioner Dutremble informed all that last spring the Saco/Biddeford Rotary went to the jail and were impressed with how the facility was run.

County Manager Zinser completed the general review of the budget.

- b. To vote to approve FY'2026 budget and transmit to budget committee  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the FY'2026 budget in the amount of \$28,492,088. Commissioner Andrews seconded the vote. Vote 3-1 (Commissioner Ring opposed)

**5 OLD BUSINESS**

None

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

**7 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

None

**8 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Ring motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.