

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 4, 2026

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Justin Chenette
Donna Ring

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager Linda Hutchins-Corliss, Sheriff William King, Facilities Director Rick deRochemont, EMA Director Arthur Cleaves, Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond and Regional Training Center Director Rod Hooper were present at the meeting.

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

ITEM

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

Sheriff King announced that the Sheriff's Office is partnering with TD Bank and AAA New England to host a Senior Safety Fair on March 13th. The event will be held at the new training center and is expected to draw over 100 attendees.

The fair will include presentations focused on:

- Safe driving for seniors
- Driving tips and best practices
- Scam- prevention and fraud awareness for seniors

Sheriff King distributed event posters and invited anyone with ideas for poster placement, or who would like additional posters, to contact him via email or speak with him directly.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

- a. Commissioners' meeting of January 7, 2026

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2026, as presented. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

- b. Commissioners' meeting of January 21, 2026

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2026, as presented. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

- a. Warrants to be approved on January 21, 2026, in the amount of \$916,083.45

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated January 21, 2026, in the amount of \$916,083.45. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

- b. Warrants to be approved on January 28, 2026, in the amount of \$1,145,887.27

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated January 28, 2026, in the amount of \$1,145,887.27. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chenette reported that he and Commissioner Ring recently attended the Maine County Commissioners Association meeting. He described the session as highly informative and noted several encouraging updates within the association. A significant portion of the discussion focused on the ongoing legislative session, with a strong call for counties to stay actively engaged in reviewing and responding to pending bills.

He stressed the importance of keeping the local legislative delegation informed about how proposed legislation, especially items with financial implications, could affect the county and its taxpayers. He noted that today's agenda includes an item concerning one of the bills highlighted by the association, adding that the county is already moving in the right direction in terms of involvement.

He also shared that the county has been invited to consider hosting a future association meeting, which would provide an opportunity to highlight the training center and, eventually, the recovery center. He concluded by expressing his appreciation for being able to participate in the event.

5. POVERTY ABATEMENT

- Heard in Executive Session pursuant to M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F) to consider a poverty abatement request. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0.**

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to come out of executive session. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to deny the poverty abatement request as the petitioner no longer owns the property. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

County Manager Zinser explained the next steps in the process. He stated that the County provide official written notification to the parties involved. That notification will formally begin the timeframe in which the next phase of the legal process may proceed.

He clarified that, upon receiving the findings of fact, expected to be prepared and approved at the next meeting, the party will then have the right to appeal the decision to Superior Court. The appeal period is at least three weeks, but the clock does not begin until the findings of fact are delivered.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:
 - i. To seek hiring approval of Bonnie Rodney in the full-time position of Correctional Officer in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of February 9, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Bonnie Rodney in the position of Correctional Officer in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of February 9, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

- ii. To seek hiring approval of Leighanna Small in the position of Reserve DAR III in the EMA office with an effective date of February 9, 2026.

Commissioner Ring asked whether, given that the employee in question is a minor, the County is required to obtain parental permission for her to work.

Deputy County Manager/HR Director Hutchins-Corliss clarified that under Maine law, the minor does not need parental permission in order to be employed. However, the County did request parental permission specifically to conduct the required background check.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Leighanna Small in the position of Reserve DAR III in the EMA office with an effective date of February 9, 2026. Commissioner Andrew seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

- iii. To seek hiring approval of Trinity Sharp in the position of full time Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's office with an effective date of February 9, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Trinity Sharp in the position of full time Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's office with an effective date of February 9, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

- b. Letter to Legislative Delegation approval and signature

County Manager Zinser presented two letters for the Commissioners' review and consideration for approval. He noted that the letters contain identical content, with one addressed to the York County legislative delegation and the other to Senator Curry and Representative Gere of the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

County Manager Zinser reminded the Board that LD 2124 had been discussed at a prior meeting. A draft letter was distributed to Commissioners in advance of this meeting for review and comment. Feedback received from Commissioners was incorporated into the revised versions.

The purpose of the letters is to convey the County's position that LD 2124 ought not to pass. County Manager Zinser stated he was available to answer any questions and noted that the letters were drafted at the Board's request.

Commissioner Chenette thanked the staff for preparing the letters, noting that they will be useful to both the York County legislative delegation and the committee members reviewing LD 2124. He highlighted that some members of the York County Legislative Delegation represent only portions of York County and may reside in other counties. He referenced the bill's sponsor, Representative Gattine of Westbrook, who represents part of York County, and noted that sending the letter to the delegation ensures the sponsor will receive the feedback. Commissioner Chenette suggested that this nuance may need to be acknowledged or referenced, emphasizing the importance of ensuring the bill sponsor receives the County's position.

County Manager Zinser asked Commissioner Chenette to clarify what specific change he was proposing, noting that staff routinely sends letters to all members of the York County legislative delegation, including those whose districts cross county lines. He stated that this practice is well-established and that the delegation list is already understood.

Commissioner Chenette responded that he was not requesting any changes but was simply drawing attention to the fact that some delegation members, including the bill sponsor, represent portions of York County while residing elsewhere. He reiterated that he only intended to highlight the point, not propose revisions.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve and sign the letters to the Legislative Delegation as presented. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

- c. Authorization for line of credit

County Manager Zinser reminded the Board that several meetings prior, the Commissioners had discussed and approved a resolution outlining the authority of the County Manager. He reported that the bank is requesting a more specific authorization.

A prepared motion was provided, and he explained that once the Commissioners read and approve the motion, they will, by that action, grant themselves the authority to execute the accompanying resolution as required by the bank. Everything is on track, and the closing is expected to take place sometime next week.

County Manager Zinser explained that recent uncertainty at the federal level, specifically the potential for government shutdowns, creates concern about delays in receiving federal reimbursements. As the County begins its dredge program, it expects up to \$5 million in expenses over the next few months that the County must initially cover. To ensure adequate cash flow in the event federal payments are delayed, the County is seeking access to short-term funding. Zinser noted that the goal is not to use these funds unless necessary, but to have them available as a safeguard.

**MOTION: Commissioner Chenette moved that County Manager Zinser is authorized to engage in discussions and negotiations with Partners Bank to acquire a line of credit in the amount of \$5 million for York County, to be secured by a mortgage on 149 Jordan Springs Road, Alfred, Maine, and to prepare and execute any agreements, letters, mortgages, or other documents as necessary to effectuate that purpose. Commissioner Clark seconded the notion.
Motion carried 5:0**

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. 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)

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

County Manager Zinser reported that work has resumed on the County's vehicle use policy, which had been discussed several months ago. A revised draft has now been completed and is expected to be distributed by tomorrow. The policy will be placed on an upcoming meeting agenda for review and discussion.

A reminder that our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25th. Please note that this is a revised date.

Commissioner Dutremble read the following tribute to County Manager Zinser.

I've served on this Commission for over twenty years, and I've seen York County through some challenging times.

Before I get to the reason we're here today, I want to give you a little bit of historical context. Born in 1786 in what is now Tennessee, Davy Crockett became a frontiersman, soldier, and congressman who embodied the American pioneer spirit. He served in the Tennessee militia, represented his district in Congress, and consistently stood by his convictions even when it cost him politically. When his time in Congress ended, Crockett looked ahead rather than back and set out for Texas. In 1836, he found himself at the Alamo, part of a moment that would come to symbolize resolve, risk, and commitment. Crockett wasn't afraid to take on challenges that seemed impossible. That pioneering spirit, that willingness to step into new territory and build something better, that's what we need in leadership.

When Greg Zinser took on the role of County Manager over a decade ago, we faced real financial challenges. Budget deficits. The kind of tough decisions that some Maine counties are wrestling with right now. We know what that looks like because we've been there. But we're not there anymore, and that's because of Greg's steady leadership.

And it's not just about budgets. Under Greg's leadership, we've accomplished things that seemed impossible years ago.

We've built the York County Regional Training Center and Recovery Center. The Training Center, coordinated with York County Community College, is now open and training our first responders. We're already working to bring FEMA training courses there. The Recovery Center will follow as construction continues. We've also launched major coastal restoration projects and got our county dredge operational to protect our shoreline communities.

Greg had a vision for York County even as we faced COVID and other unprecedented challenges. And under his leadership, we didn't just survive. We pushed into uncharted territory with boldness and came out stronger.

Our Emergency Management Agency has brought in dozens of volunteers who are working alongside state and regional partners on everything from drone operations to emergency communications. That's the kind of innovation and collaboration Greg encourages.

So tonight, as we recognize Greg's leadership, I want to present him with something that represents where we are as a county. [Present raccoon hat] This is a Davy Crockett hat, because under Greg's leadership, York County is exploring new frontiers. We're breaking new ground. And we're doing it together.

Now, while Davy Crockett ended up at the Alamo, we're hoping the only Alamo Greg ends up at is an Alamo Rental Car counter on a well-deserved vacation.

Thank you, Greg, for everything you do for York County.

10. ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Murray
Executive Assistant to the County Manager