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2
3 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

4 **April 8, 2026**

5 The regular meeting of the York County Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 8, 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 (via Zoom), Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond, Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy, RTC
21 Director Roger Hooper and Finance Director Lori Lemieux were present at the meeting.

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

24
25 **ITEM**

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

28 None.

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

31
32 a. Commissioners' meeting of April 1, 2026

33
34 Commissioner Clark had corrections to the minutes:

- 35 • Page 12 change she to he
- 36 • Page 13 change she to he
- 37 • Page 13 identify Paige as Paige Lilly, contract archivist
- 38 • Page 16 identify Rachel as Rachel Stansfield, Chief Advancement Officer
- 39 • Page 16 correct spelling of Layman Way

40
41 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of April 1, 2026, as amended.**

42 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

43 **Motion carried 5:0**

44
45 **3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

46 a. Warrants to be approved on April 1, 2026, in the amount of \$2,221,048.27

47
48 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated April 1, 2026, in the amount**
49 **of \$2,221,048.27. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

50 **Motion carried 5:0**

51

52 **4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

53 None.

54

55 **5. NEW BUSINESS**

56

57 a. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:

58 i. To seek hiring approval of Moria Townsend in the position of Reserve Public Safety
59 Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of April 21,
60 2026.

61

62 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Moria Townsend in the position of**
63 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of**
64 **April 21, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

65 **Motion carried 5:0**

66 ii. To seek hiring approval of Austin Lewis in the position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor
67 II in the Regional Training Center with an effective date of April 21, 2026.

68 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Austin Lewis in the position of**
69 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of**
70 **April 21, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

71 **Motion carried 5:0**

72 iii. To seek hiring approval of Scott Bourque in the position of Reserve Public Safety
73 Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of April 21, 2026.

74
75 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Scott Bourque in the position of**
76 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of**
77 **April 21, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

78 **Motion carried 5:0**

79 b. FY 2027 budget review

80 i. Public Agency Review

81 1. Review and Consider York County Community Action funding request of
82 \$20,000

83
84 County Manager Zinser introduced Tom Reinauer of York County Community Action as part of the
85 evening's public agency presentations. He noted that Mr. Reinauer was here to present a \$20,000 request
86 for transportation-related funding, which had been provided to the Board by email and included in the
87 meeting packets. With no questions from the Board, County Manager Zinser invited Mr. Reinauer to
88 come forward and turned the floor over to him.

89
90 Tom Reinauer, Transportation Director for York County Community Action, requested \$20,000 to support
91 two countywide transportation programs: weekly local ride services (often referred to as the shopping
92 bus) serving multiple communities, and the York County Transport Program, which provides medical
93 transportation primarily for veterans and older adults. He noted the programs provide thousands of trips
94 annually, serve residents who do not qualify for MaineCare, rely heavily on volunteers, and face rising
95 operating costs as federal funding covers only 50% of eligible expenses.

96
97 Commissioner Chenette thanked Mr. Reinauer for his presentation and asked whether any of the
98 transportation programs provide rides to food pantries.
99
100 Mr. Reinauer responded that transportation to food pantries can be provided if requested in advance so
101 rides can be scheduled. He noted that during COVID, the program also delivered food and prepared
102 meals, and similar assistance remains available with prior notice.
103
104 Commissioner Chenette confirmed that York County Community Action riders are made aware of food
105 pantry options and asked whether staff share that information. Mr. Reinauer responded that pantry
106 locations are shared internally through the agency's Economic Opportunity and WIC offices and provided
107 to schedulers to assist riders.
108
109 Commissioner Chenette also asked whether trip data is available by town of residence to better
110 understand service impacts by district. Mr. Reinauer replied that such data is collected, particularly
111 through quarterly reports required by the Area Agency on Aging and can be provided.
112
113 Finally, Commissioner Chenette asked for an estimate of how many additional people could be served
114 with the requested funding. Mr. Reinauer stated he could provide cost-per-trip estimates and explained
115 that the \$20,000 local allocation would enable the agency to draw down an additional \$20,000 in federal
116 funds, effectively supporting approximately \$40,000 in total service capacity.
117
118 Commissioner Ring asked whether York County Community Action currently serves 13 towns and
119 whether the requested funding would allow service expansion into additional towns. Mr. Reinauer
120 confirmed that the shopping bus operates approximately eight routes covering about 13 communities and
121 stated that the agency plans to expand service, noting recent requests from Lyman, Waterboro, and
122 Buxton that were previously constrained by driver availability and funding.
123
124 County Manager Zinser clarified that the Board is under no obligation to act on the \$20,000 YCCA
125 request at this time and could choose to discuss or consider it during final budget deliberations.
126 Commissioner Ring confirmed the request is not included in the current budget. Commissioner Chenette
127 raised a point of order regarding the timing of a vote to forward the budget to the Budget Committee,
128 noting the request was newly received and warranted further review. County Manager Zinser confirmed
129 the intent to vote on forwarding the budget this evening, and the Board agreed to continue with the budget
130 review, thanking Mr. Reinauer for his presentation.
131
132 ii. Continue Administration budget review
133
134 County Manager Zinser stated that while administration budgets had begun review at a prior meeting, he
135 proposed skipping further administration review and proceeding directly to the Register of Probate budget
136 review. With no objection from the Commissioners, the Board moved on to hear from Register Lovejoy.
137
138 iii. Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy to present Probate budget
139
140 Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy presented her proposed budget and a brief operational update. She
141 reported increased activity in passport applications and new probate filings, noted staffing longevity
142 within the office, and described impacts of a new statute making adult guardianship and conservatorship
143 records confidential on public websites. She highlighted recent improvements to courtroom audio-visual
144 systems and back-office workspace reconfiguration.

145
146 Budget highlights included decreases for the high-density storage project now moving forward and
147 electronic records costs, reflecting a finalized multi-year contract. The budget also includes funding for
148 four new courtroom tables to replace aging furniture.

149
150 In response to a question from Commissioner Ring regarding court security overtime, County Manager
151 Zinser explained that overtime costs for courtroom coverage, previously absorbed by the Sheriff's Office,
152 are now proposed within the Probate budget to cover backfilling and overtime when deputies are required
153 for hearings.

154
155 iv. Regional Training Center Director Roger Hooper to present RTC budget
156

157 Director Roger Hooper presented the Regional Training Center's budget for its first full year of operation,
158 highlighting strong early utilization and increased operating costs. He reported that the facility opened
159 January 3 and has already logged approximately 1,500 student days, with extensive use by fire, EMS, and
160 law enforcement agencies. He described successful live-fire and instructor training at the burn tower,
161 noting the center's unique capabilities and growing interest statewide.

162
163 Key budget drivers include the cost of operating the new facility, particularly electricity, which remains
164 the largest and least certain expense. Additional changes reflect the transition from planning to full
165 operations, including staffing support for certifications, increased reserve instructor stipends, minor
166 equipment, and building maintenance needs.

167
168 Director Hooper explained that professional services funding supports required certifications and
169 licensing efforts to become a licensed EMS training center and a fire service certification agency, with
170 certifications requiring periodic renewal.

171
172 In response to commissioner questions, it was clarified that training programs are funded through a
173 separate special revenue account and are designed to be self-sustaining, while the operating budget
174 primarily supports the facility itself. Director Hooper also noted that contingency funds from the prior
175 year have not yet been used, aided by grant funding, but may support the upcoming grand opening
176 planned for May 1.

177
178 **York County Regional Recovery Center Budget**
179

180 County Manager Zinser presented the proposed York County Regional Recovery Center budget, noting it
181 represents a significant change from prior years as the program transitions to operations. The proposed
182 request totals \$1.8 million and will be maintained in a separate fund, similar to the jail budget, to meet
183 DHHS and federal accounting requirements.

184
185 County Manager Zinser explained that the County plans to launch detox services and a six-month
186 recovery program, modeled after the former Layman Way Recovery Center, with a projected program
187 start date of December 2026. Staffing and licensing efforts are expected to begin in summer 2026, with
188 the State assisting throughout the licensing process.

189
190 The budget includes MaineCare reimbursements, interfund transfers from the General Fund, and
191 anticipated foundation support, with staffing identified as the primary cost driver. Detox operations will
192 be nursing-intensive, while the recovery program will require clinical staff. Additional expenses include
193 food service, utilities, licensing, professional services, and furnishings.

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County Manager Zinser clarified that existing reserve funds from the Layman Way fund are proposed to remain untouched, while unspent budget amounts will support building construction and furniture purchases as operations ramp up. He explained that expenditures will be managed through interfund transfers, handled administratively, with the Commission kept informed as operations move forward.

Food Pantry

County Manager Zinser presented the Food Pantry budget, noting it has been placed in a separate fund totaling \$111,000. The budget covers personnel costs, benefits, utilities, heating fuel, and general facility operations. He explained that food purchases are largely covered through successful foundation fundraising, primarily sourcing food from Good Shepherd, and that the County has not needed to directly fund food purchases.

In response to commissioner questions, County Manager Zinser stated that staff are regularly deployed to collect food donations, particularly during peak seasons, with the majority of donated food coming from Hannaford. He also noted that recent donations through the Foundation have funded facility improvements, including new flooring, paint, entryway updates, and the donation of new freezers and coolers, eliminating the need for major capital purchases at this time.

County Manager Zinser acknowledged the building's age and the potential future need for roof replacement but stated that sufficient capital reserves are available if needed and that he does not anticipate requesting additional funding from the Commission.

Medical and Dental Benefits/Retirement

County Manager Zinser reviewed remaining countywide budget line items, reporting a projected approximately 7% increase in medical and dental benefits, which he characterized as modest and consistent with prior projections. Retirement contributions were noted to be tied directly to wages, with a projected decrease of approximately \$10,000, attributed to recent higher-salary retirements.

Reduction in Jail Funding

County Manager Zinser advised the Board of a \$407,000 reduction in state jail funding resulting from the exclusion of jail funding from the supplemental state budget. He explained that the reduction was incorporated into the county budget and distributed updated pages reflecting the change.

The reduction shifts costs to the County, resulting in an increase in property tax support for the jail, with the overall jail budget increasing by just over 5%, but the property tax portion increasing by approximately 10%. The reduction increases the overall property tax impact by roughly 1.5–1.6%, contributing to a total county budget increase hovering around 10%, which Zinser stated remains near the middle compared to other municipalities.

County Manager Zinser expressed disappointment with the State's action, noting broad support for jail funding through legislative committees and advocacy groups prior to its removal, and outlined additional administrative burdens placed on counties, including separate audits and reporting requirements. He emphasized that the only new funding request in the budget is a facilities position starting in January, with no other significant expansions proposed.

243 County Manager Zinser concluded by noting that the updated budget figures, including the impact of the
244 state reduction and any consideration of the Community Action Program request, are now before the
245 Board for deliberation.

246
247 c. To vote to approve the FY 2027 budget and transmit to the Budget Committee

248
249 Commissioner Ring expressed support for the proposed \$20,000 transportation funding request, citing
250 transportation as a long-standing and critical need in York County, particularly in rural areas. She noted
251 prior discussions during opioid settlement funding deliberations and emphasized that even modest
252 assistance can have meaningful benefits for residents. Commissioner Ring stated that the amount would
253 not significantly impact the County's budget and affirmed her support for the request.

254
255 Commissioner Chenette expressed support for the transportation funding request, noting a preference for
256 directing resources toward service expansion when possible rather than solely stabilizing existing
257 services. He emphasized the importance of expanding transportation access in rural communities,
258 including access to food pantries, and highlighted the value of supporting veterans as a particularly
259 worthy population. He stated that he hoped the funding would meaningfully assist in those efforts.

260
261 Commissioner Andrews spoke in support of transportation funding, citing his experience in the medical
262 field and noting that lack of transportation frequently prevents individuals from attending medical
263 appointments. He emphasized that transportation barriers are a real and ongoing issue and stated that any
264 efforts to improve access would be beneficial.

265
266 Commissioner Clark stated that he would not support the \$20,000 transportation funding request. He cited
267 concerns about the County's recent \$407,000 increase in costs due to reduced state jail funding and
268 emphasized the cumulative impact on taxpayers. He also questioned the process for allocating funds to
269 individual nonprofit organizations, noting that the County eliminated funding for many charitable and
270 social service organizations years ago despite ongoing needs. While acknowledging the value of York
271 County Community Action's work, Commissioner Clark expressed concern about how funding priorities
272 are determined and how the County justifies supporting one organization over others with similar needs.

273
274 **Motion: Commissioner Ring moved to accept the funding request from York County Community
275 Action for transportation related funding in the amount of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2027.**

276 **Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

277 **Motion carried 3:2 with Commissioners Dutremble and Clark opposing**

278
279 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the County of York fiscal year 2027 General Fund
280 budget in the amount of \$31,643,169. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

281 **Motion carried 5:0**

282
283 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to transmit the proposed County of York fiscal year 2027
284 General Fund budget in the amount of \$31,643,169 to the Budget Committee. Commissioner
285 Andrews seconded the motion.**

286 **Motion carried 5:0**

287
288 d. Discussion of proclamations in general

289 a. Review and consider 2 Proclamations – for Men's Health month and ALS

290

291 County Manager Zinser initiated a discussion regarding the Board's approach to proclamations, noting
292 two recent requests, for ALS awareness and Men's Health Month, and seeking guidance on whether the
293 County should establish criteria or limits for issuing proclamations. He referenced prior discussions
294 related to flags but was unsure whether a formal policy on proclamations had been adopted, stating that
295 current practice appears to allow requests to be brought forward for Board consideration.

296
297 Commissioner Clark expressed opposition to disease- or awareness-based proclamations, stating that
298 while many causes are worthy, proclamations do not materially contribute to solutions and they consume
299 Board time. He emphasized that financial contributions and direct action are more impactful and raised
300 concerns about inconsistency, prioritization, and unintended associations. He indicated greater support for
301 proclamations recognizing concrete local achievements or milestones, such as centennials, Eagle Scout
302 projects, or championship wins.

303
304 Commissioner Chenette supported the ability of individual commissioners to bring items, including
305 proclamations, forward for the agenda, emphasizing that such requests should come through a
306 commissioner rather than informally. He stated that the Board retains the authority to vote proclamations
307 up or down and that this process allows for appropriate vetting.

308
309 Commissioner Chenette expressed that proclamations can play a meaningful role in raising awareness,
310 affirming county values, and supporting causes that impact constituents, noting that the Board's public
311 platform can be used to elevate critical issues. While cautioning against overuse, he stated that
312 proclamations brought forward by commissioners who feel strongly about them are appropriate for
313 discussion and vote, and he indicated his support for the proclamations under consideration.

314
315 County Manager Zinser clarified that the two proclamation requests were submitted directly to him and
316 did not come through any commissioner. He noted that one request arrived via general email and another
317 by mailed letter, and that he was forwarding them to the Board for consideration since he does not issue
318 proclamations himself. County Manager Zinser stated that if the Commissioners choose not to proceed, a
319 motion to respectfully decline would be appropriate and he would notify the requesting parties.

320
321 **Motion: Commissioner Ring moved to deny the proclamation requests received. Commissioner**
322 **Clark seconded the motion.**
323 **Motion carried 5:0**

324
325 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

326
327 None.

328
329 **7. TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT**
330 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR**
331 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR**
332 **NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION**
333 **WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**
334 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**

335 None.

336
337 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

338 Susan Wiswell, Kittery, spoke. She raised concerns about the proclamation process, questioning why
339 proclamations supported by individual commissioners should take priority over requests from other

340 county taxpayers and noting that proclamations may reflect the values of commissioners rather than the
341 broader public.

342
343 Commissioner Chenette responded that proclamations, like legislation, are appropriately brought forward
344 by elected officials, and that constituents may request a commissioner to sponsor an item, with the
345 decision to proceed resting with that commissioner and ultimately subject to a Board vote.

346
347 Ms. Wiswell expressed concern that proclamations reflecting commissioners' values may conflict with
348 those of the public and create division, particularly when the subject matter is controversial.

349
350 County Manager Zinser clarified that any proclamation must be approved by a majority vote of the Board,
351 regardless of personal views, and that constituents may request a commissioner to sponsor a proclamation
352 for Board consideration.

353
354 Commissioner Dutremble noted that differing viewpoints are addressed through the voting process.
355 Commissioner Ring stated that she does not intend to support proclamations, citing concerns about
356 divisiveness and difficulty determining which causes should be recognized.

357
358 **Commissioner Clark reported the following:**

359
360 Commissioner Clark expressed concern about a recent newspaper article regarding the use of opioid
361 settlement funds by counties and municipalities, stating that York County was portrayed unfairly. He
362 noted that the article relied on external data suggesting the County had not used opioid settlement funds
363 as intended, despite the County's substantial investment in treatment infrastructure.

364
365 Commissioner Clark emphasized that the County has committed significant ARPA funding toward
366 construction of a treatment facility and that the Board has agreed that opioid settlement funds will support
367 that center. He stated that information reflecting this work was reportedly removed during editing and
368 expressed disappointment that the County's efforts were not fully acknowledged.

369
370 He further stated that while criticism is appropriate if warranted, broad claims suggesting counties are
371 mismanaging opioid funds are inaccurate and offensive. Commissioner Clark emphasized that both the
372 Board and County staff have invested considerable time and effort addressing opioid-related challenges
373 and should have those efforts recognized. He concluded by stating that if deficiencies exist, they should
374 be clearly identified so they can be corrected, and noted he would make the article available to fellow
375 commissioners for review.

376
377 **9. ADJOURN**

378
379 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
380 **Motion carried 5:0**

381
382 Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.

383
384 Respectfully Submitted,

385
386 Patricia Murray, Executive Assistant to the County Manager

AARON M. FREY
ATTORNEY GENERAL



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
6 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0006

TEL: (207) 626-8800
TTY USERS CALL MAINE RELAY 711

REGIONAL OFFICES
84 HARLOW ST. 2ND FLOOR
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
TEL: (207) 941-3070
FAX: (207) 941-3075

125 PRESUMPSCOT ST., SUITE 26
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
TEL: (207) 822-0260
FAX: (207) 822-0259

14 ACCESS HIGHWAY, STE. 1
CARIBOU, MAINE 04736
TEL: (207) 496-3792
FAX: (207) 496-3291

March 31, 2026

Sheriff William L. King, Jr.
York County Sheriff's Department
1 Layman Way
Alfred, ME 04002

Re: State v. Chantal L. Margolis
Required Vote of County - Approval of Transfer of Forfeited Assets

Dear Sheriff King,

Please find enclosed a County of York approval form for submission to the County Commissioners.

I have put in for transfer of the funds to York County due to the contributions of the York County Sheriff's Department in this case. Please submit the Approval to your Commissioners as soon as possible.

Please inform the Commissioners that:

A. 15 M.R.S.A. §5824(3) requires that, before any forfeitable item may be transferred to a State Agency, County, or Municipality through a Final Order of the Superior Court, the governmental body of that entity must publicly vote to accept the item or items.

B. Under rules issued by the Department of Attorney General, a public vote must be made on each forfeiture approval, and a continuing resolution of all future approvals cannot be accepted.

C. As with all forfeitures, an approval of a transfer by the legislative body does not guarantee that the Defendant in Rem will in fact be forfeited or, if forfeited, that the Court will order the item or items transferred to the approving Department, Agency, County, or Municipality. The legislative body's approval only signifies that if the assets

are in fact ordered forfeited and, if the Attorney General and the Court agree that a transfer of all or part of the assets to the Department, Agency, County or Municipality is appropriate, then the governmental entity is willing to accept the assets. As we seek the necessary approvals **before** the Final Order of Forfeiture by the Court, both the governmental entity and the police agency are cautioned not to use or encumber the assets until a Final Order giving them lawful title is delivered to them from our office.

Assuming that your governmental body does grant its approval, kindly see to it that the accompanying form is signed by the appropriate person and is embossed with the seal of that legislative body. Then please return the original to me for filing, and retain a copy for your records.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



John Risler
Assistant Attorney General

JR/ml
Enclosure

STATE OF MAINE
YORK, ss

UNIFIED CRIMINAL COURT
BIDDEFORD
Docket No. YRKCD-CR-2023-04135

State of Maine	}	
	}	County of York
v.	}	Approval of Transfer
	}	15 M.R.S.A. §5824(2)
Chantal L. Margolis	}	
Defendant;	}	
	}	
and	}	
	}	
\$1,000.00 U.S. Currency	}	
Defendant(s) In Rem	}	

NOW COMES the County of York, Maine, by and through its legislative body, the York County Board of Commissioners, and does hereby grant approval pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. §5824(2) & §5826(6) to the transfer of the above captioned Defendant(s) in Rem, namely \$1,000.00 U.S. Currency, or any portion thereof, on grounds that the York County Sheriff's Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of this or a related criminal case.

WHEREFORE, the York County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve of the transfer of the Defendants in Rem, or any portion thereof, pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. §5824(2) & §5826(6) by vote of the Commissioners on or about _____.

Dated: _____

Chairperson/Commissioner/Clerk
York County Board of Commissioners

(impress Legislative Body Seal Here)