

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 4, 2026

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Donna Ring

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Justin Chenette

County Manager Greg Zinser, Sheriff William King, Facilities Director Rick deRochemont, EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault (via Zoom), Chief Advancement Officer Rachel Standfield and Finance Director Lori Lemieux 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)

None.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

- a. Commissioners' meeting of February 25, 2026

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

Motion carried 4:0

3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

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

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

Motion carried 4:0

4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Hires/Transfers:

- i. To seek hiring approval of Kiara Velilla in the position of full time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of March 16, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Kiara Velilla in the position of full time Correctional Officer in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of March 16, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3:1 with Commissioner Ring opposing

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

MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the promotion of Corporal Kenneth Hamilton to Sergeant with an effective date of March 8, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4:0

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

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the promotion of Deputy Travis Jones to Sergeant with an effective date of March 8, 2026. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4:0

- d. FY27 Budget Development Review

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review and Approval of Vehicle Policy

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

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

Motion carried 4:0

7. **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.

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

None.

9. **ADJOURN**

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Murray
Executive Assistant to the County Manager