

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2  
3 **October 1, 2025**

4  
5 At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York  
6 County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday,  
7 October 1, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P.M.

8  
9 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

10 Richard R. Dutremble

11 Richard Clark

12 Robert Andrews

13 Justin Chenette

14 Donna Ring

15  
16 County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager Linda Hutchins-Corliss, Jail Administrator Lori  
17 Marks, EMA Director Art Cleaves, and Facilities Director Rick DeRochemont were present at the  
18 meeting.

19  
20 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

21  
22 **ITEM**

23  
24 **1. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

25 County Manager Zinser acknowledged an issue with the Zoom link for the meeting. The original link was  
26 invalid, prompting the creation and distribution of a new link around 2:30pm. While some attendees  
27 received the updated link in time, others may have missed it. He assured the commissioners that the  
28 meeting video will be available for anyone who was unable to join due to the link issue.

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

31 a. Commissioners' meeting of August 6, 2025

32 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of August 6, 2025. Commissioner**  
33 **Andrews seconded the motion.**

34 **Motion carried 5:0**

35  
36 b. Commissioners' meeting of September 3, 2025

37 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025.**  
38 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

39 **Motion carried 5:0**

40  
41 **3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

42 a. Warrants to be approved on September 3, 2025, in the amount of \$375,461.51

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated September 3, 2025, in the amount of \$375,461.51. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

b. Warrants to be approved on September 10, 2025, in the amount of \$604,621.72

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated September 10, 2025, in the amount of \$604,621.72. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

c. Warrants to be approved on September 17, 2025, in the amount of \$974,976.52

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated September 17, 2025, in the amount of \$974,976.52. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

d. Warrants to be approved on September 24, 2025, in the amount of \$709,604.38

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated September 24, 2025, in the amount of \$709,604.38. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

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

**Commissioner Clark reported the following:**

A letter was received from Massabesic Adult and Community Education and read aloud during the meeting. The letter commends two York County employees for their exceptional service and partnership in a community education initiative.

Dear York County Commissioners,

I am writing to highlight and commend the outstanding work of two York County employees, Nancy Hammond, Registrar of Deeds, and Andrew O'Neill, Records Management Specialist.

These two individuals partnered with the Massabesic Adult and Community Education to offer to the public, free of charge, a tour of the historic York County Courthouse and a display and review of the historical documents housed within.

York County residents from several different towns attended. I was extremely impressed with the high level of professionalism, expertise, and pride that both Ms. Hammond and Mr. O'Neill demonstrated while highlighting the rich history of the courthouse and the documents it holds. I was in attendance myself and can share that I and many others in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the tour and talk.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to partner with local government to provide these educational experiences for our community members. It is rare for a community to have access to such a wealth of history right in our own backyard. And we in adult education are hoping to make this event a regular occurrence.

Thank you for supporting the work of these two individuals. It was exceptionally well received by the community.

With Warm Regards,

Adam Goad, Director of Massabesic Adult and Community Education

Congratulations were extended to Nancy Hammond and Andrew O'Neill for their outstanding contributions and community engagement.

County Manager Zinser shared that the recent event was a great success, with surprising demand and quick registration. The initiative is gaining traction, as other organizations have expressed interest in participating. County Manager Zinser expressed pride in the work being done, noting that Andrew is doing an excellent job organizing and managing the records. He estimated that Andrew has at least two more years of work ahead just with the current materials, not including additional tasks. The effort requires time and dedication, and the County is very proud of the progress and professionalism shown.

**Commissioner Chenette reported the following:**

Commissioner Chenette shared that he had the honor of attending and emceeding the Old Orchard Beach Fall Fest over the weekend. He described it as a wonderful celebration of community and family and thanked Holly Korda and the volunteer team at Community Friendly Connection for organizing the event.

**Commissioner Andrews reported the following:**

Commissioner Andrews shared his recent visit to Mainspring during their open house. He described Mainspring as the Seacoast Social Services Collective and highlighted their support for Fair Tide, a low-cost housing initiative. He expressed deep admiration for the organization's work, including their thrift store and food pantry, noting the dignity they provide to those they serve. Commissioner Andrews emphasized that Mainspring's approach is a model for similar programs and expressed pride in having such an impactful organization within York County.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

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

- To seek hiring approval of Ashley Powers in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 22, 2025

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the hiring of Ashley Powers in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 22, 2025.**

**Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

- To seek hiring approval of Nicholas Raucci in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 22, 2025

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Nicholas Raucci in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 22, 2025.**

**Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

- To seek hiring approval of Tyler Mathews in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 29, 2025

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the hiring of Tyler Mathews in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 29, 2025.**

**Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

- To seek hiring approval of Jayson Milyaro in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 29, 2025

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the hiring of Jayson Milyaro in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 29, 2025.**

**Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

- To seek hiring approval of Wyatt Whitten-Childs in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 29, 2025

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the hiring of Wyatt Whitten-Childs in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 29, 2025.**

**Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

- To seek hiring approval of Dominik Milyaro in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of October 6, 2025

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the hiring of Dominik Milyaro in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of October 6, 2025.**

**Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

- To seek hiring approval of Colin McGoff in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of October 6, 2025

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the hiring of Colin McGoff in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of October 6, 2025.**

**Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

b. Lori Marks to recommend promotion of Colton Sweeney to Captain effective October 5, 2025

- Jail Administrator Lori Marks shared her strong endorsement for Colton Sweeney's promotion to the rank of Captain. She highlighted their 18-year working relationship, beginning in 2007 when Colton served as the Community Works Officer. Over the years, Colton has advanced to his current role as Intake Supervisor, demonstrating exceptional attention to detail, patience, and dedication. Ms. Marks emphasized Colton's invaluable support during her transition to Jail Administrator and praised his hard work and cooperation. She expressed full confidence in his leadership abilities and recommended him as an outstanding candidate for promotion.

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the promotion of Colton Sweeney to Captain with an effective date of October 5, 2025. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

c. Update and Approval of the County Earned Paid Leave Policy

- County Manager Zinser emphasized the need to update the County's Earned Paid Leave (EPL) policy to align with recent statutory changes approved in the last legislative session. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss provided a summary of the amendment to Maine's EPL law, which took effect on September 24, 2025. The key change requires employers to allow employees to carry over unused earned paid leave from one calendar year to the next without reducing their ability to accrue additional leave in the new year. This primarily affects reserve employees (e.g., corrections, EMA instructors) who work limited hours and previously could not roll over unused EPL. The updated policy now permits a maximum balance of up to 80 hours (40 hours accrued + 40 hours carried over), though usage may still be capped annually. This change does not affect full-time employees, who accrue leave under separate PTO policies and contracts. The rest of the EPL policy remains unchanged, with only the carryover provision updated.

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the amendment to the Earned Paid Leave Policy to meet compliance with State statute effective September 24, 2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

d. Set date and time for Spirit of America Award Ceremony (recommend prior to the November 19, 2025, Commissioners meeting at 3:00 p.m.)

- County Manager Zinser announced preparations for the annual Spirit of America Awards, recommending the event be held on November 19th at 3:00pm, consistent with previous years. Patty Murray, who is coordinating the event, reported that 21 recipients have been selected. She requested that Commissioners sign the award letters so they can be mailed promptly. Due to the number of honorees, a 3:00 PM start time was proposed to allow sufficient time for the ceremony.

**MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to schedule the Spirit of America awards on November 19, 2025, at 3pm. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5:0**

e. Dredge Update

- Arthur Cleaves, EMA Director, provided an update on the dredging project related to the January 2024 storm, which caused over \$40 million in public infrastructure damage. The project has been approved under FEMA Category B Emergency Protective Measures, allowing reimbursement for dredging activities. Despite numerous delays due to environmental, historic preservation, and permitting challenges, dredging is scheduled to begin this fall, with Saco, Wells, and Old Orchard Beach approved for work.

The dredging contractor, Michaels Construction, plans to start in November, though the federal government shutdown may delay environmental approvals and funding disbursements. Payments are currently scheduled by December 8 but may be postponed for 1–3 months.

Additional funding efforts include:

- \$260,000 in GOPIF grants in collaboration with local municipalities.
- A pending \$1.7 million CDS for Category G engineering (100-year flood protection).
- Applications for hazard mitigation funding to support Old Orchard Beach.
- A proposal for an innovative training grant through the Department of Defense to bring in Army equipment for beach restoration.

The total project cost is estimated at \$4.5 million, with concerns raised about cash flow and reimbursement timing due to the shutdown. Further discussions will be needed regarding contract management and financial planning. The long-term goal is to qualify York County beaches for future disaster relief under Category G protections.

Chair Dutremble raised concerns about whether the ongoing political tensions between the Governor and the President might impact federal grant funding. County Manager Zinser responded that the impact depends on the specific grant and its funding source. Grants related to EMA, MEMA, and FEMA have faced scrutiny due to perceived requirements for cooperation with federal immigration agencies, particularly ICE. However, a recent federal court ruling dismissed those requirements, and current Homeland Security funding does not mandate ICE contracts.

County Manager Zinser noted that while York County has a limited agreement with Border Patrol, there is no contract with ICE, and concerns remain about strings attached to federal grants, especially regarding cash flow and reimbursement timing amid the federal government shutdown.

To mitigate potential delays in funding, the County is exploring options such as:

- Securing a line of credit (not a bond) to maintain project momentum.

- 241                   ○ Using opioid settlement funds to support cash flow.  
242                   ○ Structuring repayments to avoid taxpayer burden.
- 243                   These measures are being considered due to the County’s significant financial  
244                   commitments, including:
- 245                   ○ Completion of ARPA-funded projects.  
246                   ○ Upcoming \$4 million dredging project.  
247                   ○ Reliance on CDS grants and reserve funds.
- 248                   County Manager Zinser emphasized that this shutdown differs from past ones due to the  
249                   County’s deep involvement in ongoing projects, making proactive financial planning  
250                   essential.
- 251                   Commissioner Chanette inquired about potential funding gaps despite FEMA Category B  
252                   support. EMA Director Arthur Cleaves clarified that the Emergency Protective Measures  
253                   Grant covers 75% federal, 15% state, and 10% local costs, with Saco, Wells, and Old  
254                   Orchard Beach responsible for their local share.
- 255                   While a full coalition of towns was not formed, participating communities are  
256                   coordinating efforts to reduce costs through shared mobilization of the county-owned  
257                   dredge, which will operate sequentially across towns. Additional towns are expected to  
258                   join through the CDS grant, which includes full engineering support for six  
259                   municipalities, three of which are new to the initiative.
- 260                   Commissioner Chanette also raised concerns about:
- 261                   ○ Storm-related delays to the dredging timeline.  
262                   ○ The need for long-term funding strategies, including potential legislation.  
263                   ○ A proposed \$75 million bond by Senator Bailey to support coastal resilience.  
264                   ○ The importance of direct investment to sustain the county-run dredge program  
265                   beyond federal disaster declarations.
- 266                   County officials are still assessing the full operational costs of the dredge, which will  
267                   become clearer through the current reimbursement-based approach. Commissioner  
268                   Chanette expressed appreciation for the extensive work by EMA Director Arthur Cleaves  
269                   and County Manager Zinser, emphasizing the importance of protecting York County’s  
270                   coastal communities and economy.
- 271                   f. Facilities Work Truck Discussion
- 272                   • County Manager Zinser and Facilities Director Rick deRochemont presented the need for  
273                   a new facilities truck to support expanded responsibilities, including snow removal at the  
274                   training center and food pantry, which were not previously budgeted or contracted. The

275 current truck, a hand-me-down from EMA, passed inspection but is not safe for towing or  
276 plowing. With the training center project ahead of schedule and additional grounds  
277 maintenance duties, a reliable vehicle is urgently needed.

278 Options discussed:

- 279 • New 2024 Chevy 3500 with dump body and plow for \$71,000, available immediately.
- 280 • Other new models priced between \$82,000–\$91,000, requiring ordering and
- 281 customization.
- 282 • Used trucks were considered but offer minimal savings and greater risk due to age and
- 283 mileage.

284 Funding sources identified:

- 285 • \$30,000 from other settlement funds.
- 286 • \$70,000 from surplus in the garage project account.

287 The Board was asked for guidance on whether to proceed with a new or used vehicle, with a  
288 strong recommendation leaning toward purchasing new for reliability and warranty coverage.

289 **MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to authorize the purchase of a facilities work truck not to**  
290 **exceed \$85,000.00 from reserve accounts. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

291 **Motion carried 5:0**

292

293 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

294 None.

295

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

- 302 a. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A)Personnel matter - County  
303 Manager Evaluation

304 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)**  
305 **(A). Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

306 **Motion carried 5-0.**

307

308 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Andrews**  
309 **seconded the motion.**

310 **Motion carried 5-0**

311



312 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to designate Chair Dutremble to discuss the County**  
313 **Manager's evaluation with him and to schedule talks regarding salary and contract at a later time.**  
314 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
315 **Motion carried 5-0**

316 b. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F) review of  
317 confidential records pursuant to Title 1, Section 402-paragraph 3 (Public Records)  
318 Q- "Security plans, staffing plans, security procedures, architectural drawings or risk  
319 assessments prepared for emergency events that are prepared for or by or kept in the custody of  
320 the Department of Corrections or a county jail if there is a reasonable possibility that public  
321 release or inspection of the records would endanger the life or physical safety of any individual or  
322 disclose security plans and procedures not generally known by the general public. Information  
323 contained in records covered by this paragraph may be disclosed to state and county officials if  
324 necessary to carry out the duties of the office of the officials or the Department of Corrections  
325 under conditions that protect the information from further disclosure."

326 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)**  
327 **(F). Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
328 **Motion carried 5-0.**  
329

330 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session. No action was taken.**  
331 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
332 **Motion carried 5-0**  
333

334 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**  
335 None.  
336

337 **9. ADJOURN**  
338 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.**  
339 **Motion carried 5-0**  
340 **Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.**  
341

342 Respectfully Submitted,  
343  
344 Patricia Murray  
345 Executive Assistant to the County Manager