

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

October 1, 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, October 1, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble

Richard Clark

Robert Andrews

Justin Chenette

Donna Ring

County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager Linda Hutchins-Corliss, Jail Administrator Lori Marks, EMA Director Art Cleaves, and Facilities Director Rick DeRochemont 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)

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

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

a. Commissioners' meeting of August 6, 2025

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

Motion carried 5:0

b. Commissioners' meeting of September 3, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

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

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

45 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

47 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated September10, 2025, in the**
48 **amount of \$604,621.72. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

49 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

51 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated September17, 2025, in the**
52 **amount of \$974,976.52. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

53 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

55 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated September24, 2025, in the**
56 **amount of \$709,604.38. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

57 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

59 **Commissioner Clark reported the following:**

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

63 Dear York County Commissioners,

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

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

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

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

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

83 With Warm Regards,

84 Adam Goad, Director of Massabesic Adult and Community Education

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

87 County Manager Zinser shared that the recent event was a great success, with surprising demand and
88 quick registration. The initiative is gaining traction, as other organizations have expressed interest in
89 participating. County Manager Zinser expressed pride in the work being done, noting that Andrew is
90 doing an excellent job organizing and managing the records. He estimated that Andrew has at least two
91 more years of work ahead just with the current materials, not including additional tasks. The effort
92 requires time and dedication, and the County is very proud of the progress and professionalism shown.
93

94 **Commissioner Chenette reported the following:**

95
96 Commissioner Chenette shared that he had the honor of attending and emceeing the Old Orchard Beach
97 Fall Fest over the weekend. He described it as a wonderful celebration of community and family and
98 thanked Holly Korda and the volunteer team at Community Friendly Connection for organizing the event.
99

100 **Commissioner Andrews reported the following:**

101
102 Commissioner Andrews shared his recent visit to Mainspring during their open house. He described
103 Mainspring as the Seacoast Social Services Collective and highlighted their support for Fair Tide, a low-
104 cost housing initiative. He expressed deep admiration for the organization's work, including their thrift
105 store and food pantry, noting the dignity they provide to those they serve. Commissioner Andrews
106 emphasized that Mainspring's approach is a model for similar programs and expressed pride in having
107 such an impactful organization within York County.
108

109 **5. NEW BUSINESS**

110 a. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:
111
112 • To seek hiring approval of Ashley Powers in the full-time position of Corrections Officer
113 in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 22, 2025

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

117 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

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

124 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

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

130 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

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

136 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

139 **MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the hiring of Wyatt Whitten-Childs in the full-**
140 **time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of September 29,**
141 **2025. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

142 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

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

148 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

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

154 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

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

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

172 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

175 • County Manager Zinser emphasized the need to update the County's Earned Paid Leave
176 (EPL) policy to align with recent statutory changes approved in the last legislative
177 session. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss provided a
178 summary of the amendment to Maine's EPL law, which took effect on September 24,
179 2025. The key change requires employers to allow employees to carry over unused
180 earned paid leave from one calendar year to the next without reducing their ability to
181 accrue additional leave in the new year. This primarily affects reserve employees (e.g.,
182 corrections, EMA instructors) who work limited hours and previously could not roll over
183 unused EPL. The updated policy now permits a maximum balance of up to 80 hours (40
184 hours accrued + 40 hours carried over), though usage may still be capped annually. This
185 change does not affect full-time employees, who accrue leave under separate PTO
186 policies and contracts. The rest of the EPL policy remains unchanged, with only the
187 carryover provision updated.

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

191 **Motion carried 5:0**

193 d. Set date and time for Spirit of America Award Ceremony (recommend prior to the November
194 19, 2025, Commissioners meeting at 3:00 p.m.)

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

201 **MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to schedule the Spirit of America awards on November 19,
202 2025, at 3pm. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.**

203 **Motion carried 5:0**

204

205 e. Dredge Update

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

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

216

217 Additional funding efforts include:

218 ○ \$260,000 in GOPIF grants in collaboration with local municipalities.
219 ○ A pending \$1.7 million CDS for Category G engineering (100-year flood protection).
220 ○ Applications for hazard mitigation funding to support Old Orchard Beach.
221 ○ A proposal for an innovative training grant through the Department of Defense to
222 bring in Army equipment for beach restoration.

223

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

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

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

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

240 ○ 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

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

Options discussed:

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

Funding sources identified:

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

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

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

Motion carried 5:0

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

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)

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

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

Motion carried 5-0.

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

Motion carried 5-0

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**

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

335 None.

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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