

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 25, 2026

The regular meeting of the York County Commissioners was held on Wednesday, February 25, 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 (via Zoom), EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault (via Zoom), Chief Advancement Officer Rachel Standfield and Regional Training Center Director Rod Hooper were present at the meeting.

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ITEM

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

None.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

- a. Commissioners' meeting of February 4, 2026

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2026, as presented.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

- a. Warrants to be approved on February 4, 2026, in the amount of \$789,797.17

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated February 4, 2026, in the amount of \$789,797.17. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

- b. Warrants to be approved on February 11, 2026, in the amount of \$2,156,202.61

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated February 11, 2026, in the amount of \$2,156,202.61. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

c. Warrants to be approved on February 18, 2026, in the amount of \$679,140.61

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated February 18, 2026, in the amount of \$679,140.61. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chenette reported that he recently toured the Regional Training Center and thanked Director Roger Hooper for leading the visit. He said he was impressed with the facility, noting its quality, strong collaboration among leadership and staff, and the countywide support behind it. He highlighted the center's capabilities, emerging strategic partnerships, and its role in positioning York County as a regional leader. He praised the center as a unique asset and expressed enthusiasm for future programming, reiterating how impressed he was with last week's visit.

Commissioner Clark noted that earlier in the week, EMA Director Art Cleaves published an op-ed in the *Portland Press Herald* addressing the infrastructure required to deliver electricity, including the costs and the importance of maintaining and improving that system. Commissioner Clark praised the piece as well written and congratulated Director Cleaves on its publication. He encouraged others to read the op-ed if they had not yet seen it.

Commissioner Dutremble reported that he attended the Biddeford City Council meeting last Tuesday, where the Council considered a resolution in support of LD 2124, *An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Real Estate Transfer Tax Revenue*. He stated that during public comment, he presented the County's position of "ought not to pass." Following public comment, the Council voted on the resolution, which ultimately did not pass.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:
 - i. To seek hiring approval of Francis Bruno in the position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of March 9, 2026.

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Francis Bruno in the position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of March 9, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

- ii. To seek hiring approval of Zachary Goeben in the position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of March 9, 2026.

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Zachary Goeben in the position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of March 9, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

- iii. To seek hiring approval of Alexander Morin in the position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of March 9, 2026.

**MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Alexander Morin in the position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of March 9, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5:0**

- iv. To seek hiring approval of Bianca O'Brien 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 Bianca O'Brien 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 5:0**

- v. To seek hiring approval of Krishna Fry 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 Krisna Fry 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 5:0**

- vi. To seek hiring approval of Colby Salamacha 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 Colby Salamacha 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 5:0**

- vii. To seek hiring approval of Quentin Acevedo 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 Quentin Acevedo 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 5:0**

- viii. 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. - **WITHDRAWN**

Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss reported that the next Corrections Academy session will take place in March, and staff are working to ensure all recently approved hires are enrolled in that session. She noted that the following academy will not occur until July, which the County only recently learned.

Commissioner Ring asked for the total number of individuals scheduled for the March Academy and the current number of vacancies. Director Hutchins-Corliss stated she did not have the exact figures available at the meeting but estimated approximately 30–35 vacancies, noting that a few staff members had recently left. She committed to verifying the data in Munis and sending the updated numbers to the Commissioners by email.

b. Vehicle Use Policy discussion with possible approval

County Manager Zinser provided an overview of the Vehicle Use Policy, explaining that it had been developed and revised over several years and recently reprioritized to incorporate additional items. All affected departments reviewed the draft, and their suggested edits were included. A major update was the addition of volunteer drivers, particularly from EMA, who will now be covered by and required to comply with the policy. Other revisions addressed prohibited uses, de minimis personal use with potential IRS implications, and guidance for non-law-enforcement staff who may need to test vehicles. Relevant unions have been notified, and draft contract wording has been prepared.

Commissioner Ring sought clarification on how the policy distinguishes between fully marked law enforcement vehicles, unmarked law enforcement vehicles, and other County vehicles. She raised concerns about whether non-law-enforcement staff, such as corrections personnel, could drive marked units equipped with lights and sirens, and whether they were authorized to use that equipment. County Manager Zinser noted that only the Sheriff's Office takes vehicles home and acknowledged that the policy must clearly define who is authorized to operate emergency equipment. He explained that sensitive equipment in vehicles, such as weapons, is secured and inaccessible to unauthorized staff.

Sheriff King added that corrections staff do operate marked transport units with light bars and may, in limited situations, such as encountering a crash scene, be permitted to activate emergency lights, though not sirens or "Code 3" responses. He agreed to verify current authorization. County Manager Zinser emphasized that if non-sworn personnel drive marked vehicles, emergency lights must be covered or marked "Out of Service" to prevent misrepresentation.

Commissioner Chenette confirmed his understanding that non-law-enforcement employees must not use emergency equipment when operating marked units, and County Manager Zinser affirmed this. Sheriff King clarified that the metaphorical "bags" referenced in discussion are actually magnetic out-of-service signs, which will continue to be used. County Manager Zinser emphasized that there had been no written requirement for such markings previously, but the new policy formalizes the practice.

Commissioner Chenette asked whether the Sheriff's Office would be required to follow the County's policy. County Manager Zinser explained that while the Commissioners set County policy, the Sheriff, as an independently elected official, maintains separate SOPs for sworn personnel. Both sides are working to ensure their policies align, and no conflicts are anticipated. Sheriff King stated he had not yet completed a detailed review but believed the two policies are generally consistent.

Discussion then turned to enforcement. Commissioner Chenette suggested adding language noting that violations may be referred to law enforcement if criminal behavior is suspected. County Manager Zinser

explained that potential criminal matters are always referred through law enforcement channels and agreed such language could be added.

Commissioner Clark recommended including explicit requirements that employees driving County vehicles must obey all traffic laws, including speed limits, and refrain from using electronic devices while driving. County Manager Zinser agreed and committed to adding these provisions.

County Manager Zinser concluded by outlining next steps:

- Add restrictions on electronic device use
- Add adherence to all applicable laws
- Add reference to potential criminal referral
- Correct lettering inconsistencies
- Return with the updated draft at the next meeting

He also noted the policy will be included in onboarding, communicated to all staff, and distributed to unions for impact bargaining, particularly regarding initial enforcement and disciplinary expectations.

- c. Review and Approval of new Training Support Specialist job description - **POSTPONED**

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Seek Commissioners approval on Findings of Fact for abatement 02/04/2026

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve and sign the Findings of Fact related to the abatement hearing held on February 4, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0

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)

- a. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), personnel issues.

Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) personnel issues. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.

Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to come out of executive session and noted no action was taken. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5:0

8. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S) (heard prior to Item 7 – Executive Session)

Susan Wiswell, Kittery, asked about item 5.c. Review and Approval of new Training Support Specialist job description. Chair Dutremble stated that item is postponed.

9. ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Murray
Executive Assistant to the County Manager