

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2  
3 **November 5, 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 November 5, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P.M.

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9 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- 10 Richard R. Dutremble  
11 Richard Clark  
12 Robert Andrews  
13 Justin Chenette  
14 Donna Ring

15  
16 **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

17 None

18  
19 County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager Linda Hutchins-Corliss, Sheriff William King,  
20 Finance Director Lori Lemieux, Deputy EMA Director Megan Arsenault, and Facilities Director Rick  
21 deRochemont 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)**

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29 Sheriff King announced a no-cost makeover for upcoming police cruisers. The next six vehicles ordered  
30 will be black in color, following a trend seen in other agencies like Cumberland County. The change aims  
31 to boost morale and improve durability, as black paint better hides minor damage and makes maintenance  
32 easier. It also simplifies graphic removal for repurposing vehicles. The high-quality black gloss will  
33 enhance appearance, but only applies to new orders, existing cruisers will remain unchanged.

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35 **2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

- 36  
37 a. Commissioners' meeting of October 15, 2025

38 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2025. Commissioner**  
39 **Andrews seconded the motion.**

40 **Motion carried 4:0 with Commissioner Chenette abstaining**

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42 **3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 43  
44 a. Warrants to be approved on October 15, 2025, in the amount of \$2,372,213.35

45 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated October 15, 2025, in the**  
46 **amount of \$2,372,213.35. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

47 **Motion carried 5:0**

- 48  
49 b. Warrants to be approved on October 22, 2025, in the amount of \$2,249,879.13

50 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated October 22, 2025, in the**  
51 **amount of \$2,249,879.13. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
52 **Motion carried 5:0**

53

54 c. Warrants to be approved on October 29, 2025, in the amount of \$583,172.48

55 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated October 29, 2025, in the**  
56 **amount of \$583,172.48. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
57 **Motion carried 5:0**

58

59 County Manager Zinser clarified that the payments totaling over \$2 million contain payment to cover the  
60 cost of construction for the training center and recovery center.

61

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

63

64 **Commissioner Chenette reported the following:**

65

66 Commissioner Chenette reminded residents about the First County Food Pantry. He commended Chief  
67 Advancement Officer Rachel Stansfield, Pantry Manager Rob Boyd, and the volunteer team for their  
68 outstanding work in maintaining the facility. The pantry currently serves approximately 3,000 people each  
69 month, including about 500 children last month. He noted that the foundation recently announced that  
70 services will be provided to all individuals regardless of income or geographic location, which is  
71 especially important given current uncertainty surrounding SNAP benefits and the federal government  
72 shutdown. Commissioner Chenette expressed appreciation for the foundation's efforts and the  
73 Commissioner's work on addressing food insecurity. He also reminded constituents that the pantry is  
74 open on Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 3:00 p.m. at 5 Swetts Bridge Road in Alfred.

75

76 **Commissioner Clark reported the following:**

77

78 Commissioner Clark followed up on Commissioner Chenette's comments by encouraging donations to  
79 support the food pantry. He advised that checks should be made payable to the First County Foundation,  
80 with "Food Pantry" noted on the memo line and delivered to the county building. Additional information  
81 is available on the county's website. Commissioner Clark expressed appreciation for the support and  
82 thanked everyone for their contributions.

83

84 **Commissioner Dutremble reported the following:**

85

86 Commissioner Dutremble shared that he recently visited the food pantry with Senator Henry Ingwersen.  
87 During the visit, Senator Ingwersen took photos and expressed how impressed he was with the way the  
88 pantry is being operated. Commissioner Dutremble noted that this positive impression may lead to  
89 potential financial support in the future and emphasized the importance of continuing to advocate for  
90 resources.

91

92 **Commissioner Andrews reported the following:**

93

94 Commissioner Andrews reported taking a recent tour of the new training center currently under  
95 development. He expressed enthusiasm about the progress, noting that although the facility is not yet  
96 complete, it is impressive and coming together well. It was mentioned that further improvements have  
97 been made since the visit, and the center is expected to be operational soon.

98

99 County Manager Zinser extended an open invitation to Commissioners to tour the new training center at  
100 their convenience. Members were encouraged to contact him or Fire Administrator Rod Hooper to  
101 schedule a visit, as progress is visible and changes occur daily. The training center is expected to require a  
102 couple more weeks of work before moving into the cleaning and punch list phase. Final paving was  
103 completed, and other finishing tasks are underway. Regarding the recovery center, there was a delay due  
104 to a shortage of roof trusses for about a month; however, the first shipment arrived last week, framing has  
105 resumed, and additional trusses are expected by Friday. Installation is scheduled for next week to bring  
106 the project back on track. While the building is still in the framing stage, it is considered impressive, and  
107 members are welcome to visit. The fire pond behind the facility is nearly complete, and overall progress  
108 is positive with no major concerns reported.

109  
110 The anticipated timeline for opening the new training center was discussed. The first class is scheduled  
111 for January 3, with additional programs already being booked. Upcoming courses include EMS classes,  
112 Advanced EMT beginning January 9, Basic EMT starting around February 4, and several fire officer and  
113 instructor courses through March. A basic police officer reserve course is planned for June. The schedule  
114 continues to expand as the facility is nearing completion. A grand opening is tentatively planned for May,  
115 pending coordination with senators' offices to accommodate their schedules. The goal is to hold the event  
116 during warmer weather. Overall, progress is moving forward, and Commissioners were encouraged to  
117 reach out to arrange site visits.

118  
119 **5. NEW BUSINESS**

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

121 i. To seek transfer approval for Danielle Campbell from Receptionist to Legal Secretary  
122 in the District Attorney's Office effective November 17, 2025

123 Commissioner Ring inquired about Ms. Campbell's start date as a full-time county employee, which was  
124 confirmed as July 2025. It was noted that she has not yet reached six months of full-time employment,  
125 although she previously worked as a temporary employee for a few months. Commissioner Ring asked  
126 about employment requirements, and it was clarified that transfers are at the discretion of the department  
127 leader, and in this case, both the receiving and leaving departments were under the same leadership, so no  
128 issues were identified. When Ms. Campbell applied for the receptionist position, a legal secretary position  
129 was not available. It was confirmed that she will begin a new probationary period as outlined in her offer  
130 letter, and she has been informed of this requirement.

131  
132 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the transfer of Danielle Campbell from**  
133 **Receptionist to the position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's office with an effective date**  
134 **of November 17, 2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
135 **Motion carried 5:0**

136 ii. To seek hiring approval of Matthew Plumley in the position of Reserve Public Safety  
137 Instructor II in the training Center with an effective date of November 17, 2025

138 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Matthew Plumley in the position of**  
139 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the training Center with an effective date of November 17,**  
140 **2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
141 **Motion carried 5:0**

142 b. Retire Rehire/Hire Policy

143 County Manager Zinser and Deputy County Manager/HR Director Hutchins-Corliss introduced a  
144 proposed retire-rehire policy, noting that the County currently has no policy addressing this issue. The  
145 policy responds to a 5% penalty imposed by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MEPERS)  
146 when rehiring retirees. Currently, the County has two to three employees subject to this penalty, which  
147 applies primarily to law enforcement positions under the Participating Local District (PLD) plan.

148 The proposal would split the penalty evenly between the County and the employee and adjust ICMA  
149 contributions to maintain equity, reducing the County match by 2.5%. Retiree rehires would be limited to  
150 an initial three-year term, with an option to extend for an additional three years and must meet minimum  
151 qualifications and follow the standard hiring process. The policy does not guarantee reemployment or  
152 create any right or privilege for employees. It applies only to retirees drawing a MEPERS pension; other  
153 retirement plans are unaffected.

154 Commissioners discussed concerns about transparency, favoritism, and alignment with union contracts, as  
155 well as the need for HR policies to be accessible online. Recruitment challenges, particularly in law  
156 enforcement, were highlighted as a driving factor for the policy, given statewide and national shortages.  
157 Commissioners agreed the issue needs to be addressed and expressed flexibility on term limits. Legal  
158 review has been completed, and language adjustments will be made for clarity.

159 **Action Item:** Approval of the retire-rehire policy was deferred. Staff will revise Section 4E to show a  
160 2.5% reduction and update the term limits to three years with an optional three-year extension. A red-lined  
161 and clean version of the updated policy will be circulated and brought back for consideration at the next  
162 meeting.

163 c. Transfer of the Defendants in Rem Asset Forfeiture

164 **MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved that now comes the County of York, Alfred, Maine, by and**  
165 **through its legislative body, the York County Board of Commissioners, and does hereby grant**  
166 **approval pursuant to 15 MRSA §5824(2) and §5826(6) to the transfer of the above captioned**  
167 **Defendant(s) in Rem, namely \$34,000 U.S. currency, or any portion thereof, on grounds that the**  
168 **York County Sheriff's Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of this**  
169 **or a related criminal case.**

170 **Wherefore, the York County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve of the transfer of the**  
171 **Defendants in Rem, or any portion thereof, pursuant to 15 MRSA §5824(2) and §5826(6) by vote of**  
172 **the Commissioners on November 5, 2025.**

173 **Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.**

174 **Motion carried 5:0**

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176 County Manager Zinser provided an example of how forfeiture funds are utilized, noting that a recent  
177 purchase included a vehicle lift for the garage at a cost of approximately \$15,000.

178

179 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

180 None.

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182 **7. TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT**  
183 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR**  
184 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR**  
185 **NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION**

186 **WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**  
187 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**

- 188  
189 a. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) Personnel matters – Leave of Absence  
190 Request

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192  
193 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)**  
194 **(A) to consider a leave of absence request. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**  
195 **Motion carried 5:0.**

196  
197 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Chenette**  
198 **seconded the motion.**  
199 **Motion carried 5:0**

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201 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the request for a medical leave of absence for a**  
202 **period of two months beginning November 11, 2025, and ending on January 11, 2026.**  
203 **Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.**  
204 **Motion carried 5:0**

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

207 None.

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209 **9. ADJOURN**

210 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**  
211 **Motion carried 5:0**  
212 Meeting adjourned at 5:14pm.

213  
214 Respectfully Submitted,

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216 Patricia Murray  
217 Executive Assistant to the County Manager  
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