

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

December 17, 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, December 17, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Justin Chenette

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
Donna Ring

County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager Linda Hutchins-Corliss, Sheriff William King, Jail Administrator Lori Marks, Chief Jeremy Forbes, Major Craig Sanford, Chief Advancement Officer Rachel Stansfield, Finance Director Lori Lemieux, EMA Director Arthur Cleaves (via Zoom), Deputy EMA Director Megan Arsenault, Fire Administrator Rod Hooper, Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond 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)

David Plavin, Vice President of SOS Saco Bay and Chair of the City of Saco Shoreline Commission, thanked the Commissioners for their letter of support in resolving issues that delayed the dredge from leaving port. He praised Art Cleaves, EMA Director, for his determination and acknowledged collaboration with SOS President Kevin Roach and others. Mr. Plavin also thanked Commissioner Chenette for leading the effort among commissioners and noted additional support from state representatives and a senator, which helped achieve progress. The dredge is expected to be in Wells in January and then in Saco, allowing sufficient time for work. He expressed optimism about a strong Regional Economic Growth (REG) program moving forward and emphasized the potential for future success with continued support.

Kevin Roach, President of SOS Saco Bay, thanked the county commissioners, Art Cleaves, and all levels of government for overcoming challenges to get the dredge operational. He noted the initial controversial vote about three years ago, its launch last year, and anticipated use this winter. Kevin emphasized the long-term benefits, highlighting that Saco is slated for the Army Corps Jetty Project, one of Maine's largest federal projects, with sand replenishment scheduled for 2027. He suggested that the county dredge could serve as the dredge for that project, saving costs and increasing efficiency. This winter's smaller project is seen as a "practice run" that could build momentum for broader use of the dredge in southern

49 Maine and beyond, bringing attention and benefits to the region. He concluded by expressing optimism
50 about future opportunities.

51
52 Janet Drew (York, ME) thanked the Commissioners and wished them happy holidays. She shared that the
53 Board of Visitors recently toured the new training center and found it impressive, noting it seems ahead of
54 schedule. Janet also mentioned the Board of Visitors report prepared by Susan Wiswell and asked about
55 the status of the food pantry.

56
57 County Manager Zinser responded that the food pantry is very active, distributing over 700 Thanksgiving
58 baskets including turkeys. Demand remains high, and donations are encouraged. Regarding the training
59 center, the first EMS class is scheduled for January 7th or 8th, confirming the project is slightly ahead of
60 schedule and will be a valuable asset for the county.

61
62 **2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

63
64 a. Commissioners' meeting of December 3, 2025

65
66 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to table the minutes of December 3, 2025. Commissioner**
67 **Chenette seconded the motion.**

68 **Motion carried 3:0**

69
70 **3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

71
72 a. Warrants to be approved on December 3, 2025, in the amount of \$459,733.96

73
74 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated December 3, 2025, in the**
75 **amount of \$459,733.96. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

76 **Motion carried 3:0**

77
78 b. Warrants to be approved on December 10, 2025, in the amount of \$1,541,048.55

79
80 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated December 10, 2025, in the**
81 **amount of \$1,541,048.55. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

82 **Motion carried 3:0**

83
84 **4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

85
86 Commissioner Chenette commended David Plavin and Kevin Roach, from SOS Saco Bay, for their
87 advocacy and emphasized that recent progress on the dredge and beach nourishment projects was an all-
88 hands effort involving the county, SOS Saco Bay, and multiple levels of government. He praised Art
89 Cleaves and his team for their leadership and highlighted collaboration with state and local officials.
90 including Senator Bailey, Representatives Archer, Copeland, Gramlich, Mayor Jodi MacPhail, Bob Foley,
91 and others as well as congressional staff. These projects are critical to protecting homes, livelihoods, and
92 the local economy from storm damage. With bureaucratic hurdles cleared, dredging is expected to begin
93 in Wells in January, followed by Saco and Old Orchard Beach. Commissioner Chenette stressed that this
94 is just the beginning, with more work ahead, and commended the county's role as a coordinating force to
95 protect the coastline and support future resilience efforts.

97 County Manager Zinser noted an additional agenda item regarding county manager authority under Title
98 30-A, which includes a proposed motion, rationale paragraph, and a resolution requiring execution. He
99 will provide details later in the meeting. He thanked Art Cleaves and the EMA team for their extensive
100 efforts on recent projects, emphasizing the significant time and communication involved. The County
101 Manager then addressed the hiring of seven public safety instructors for the Regional Training Center,
102 suggesting the board could approve items 1-7 as a single consent action to save time, though it was
103 optional. Commissioner Clark expressed preference to review them individually as usual.
104

105 **5. NEW BUSINESS**

106

107 a. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:
108

109 i. To seek hiring approval of Jarrett Clarke in the position of Public Safety Instructor II in
110 the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

111 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Jarrett Clarke in the position of
112 Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date
113 of January 5, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

114 **Motion carried 3:0**

115

116 ii. To seek hiring approval of Dalton Marriott in the position of Public Safety Instructor II in
117 the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

118 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Dalton Marriott in the position of
119 Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date
120 of January 5, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

121 **Motion carried 3:0**

122

123 iii. To seek hiring approval of Christopher Carpenter in the position of Public Safety
124 Instructor II in the YC Training Center office with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

125 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Christopher Carpenter in the
126 position of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an
127 effective date of January 5, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

128 **Motion carried 3:0**

129

130 iv. To seek hiring approval of Mathew McRae-Cyr in the position of Public Safety Instructor
131 II in the YC Regional Training Center with and effective date of January 5, 2026.

132 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Mathew McRae-Cyr in the position
133 of Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective
134 date of January 5, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

135 **Motion carried 3:0**

136

137 v. To seek hiring approval of Sean Connell in the position of Public Safety Instructor II in
138 the YC Regional Training Center with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

139 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Sean Connell in the position of
140 Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date
141 of January 5, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

144 **Motion carried 3:0**

145 vi. To seek hiring approval of Douglas Williams in the position of Public Safety Instructor II
146 in the YC Regional Training Center with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

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148 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Douglas Williams in the position of**
149 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date**
150 **of January 5, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

151 **Motion carried 3:0**

152 vii. To seek hiring approval of Russell Osgood in the position of Public Safety Instructor II in
153 the YC Regional Training Center with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

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155 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Russell Osgood in the position of**
156 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the YC Regional Training Center office with an effective date**
157 **of January 5, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

158 **Motion carried 3:0**

159 viii. To seek hiring approval of Irene Prescott in the position of Grand Jury Manager in the
160 District Attorney's office with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

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162 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Irene Prescott in the position of**
163 **Grand Jury Manager in the District Attorney's office with an effective date of January 5,**
164 **2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

165 **Motion carried 3:0**

166 ix. To seek hiring approval of Samantha Felt in the position of Victim Witness Advocate in
167 the District Attorney's office with an effective date of January 5, 2026.

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169

170 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Samantha Felt in the position of**
171 **Victim Witness Advocate in the District Attorney's office with an effective date of January 5,**
172 **2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

173 **Motion carried 3:0**

174

175 b. York County Jail Biennium Inspection

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177 County Manager Zinser announced that the commissioners received the biennium jail inspection report,
178 and the county jail scored 100% compliance across all 132 criteria. He congratulated Sheriff King, Major
179 Lori Marks, Jail Administrator, and the entire team for their hard work in compiling the extensive
180 documentation required by the Department of Corrections. Sheriff King echoed the praise, highlighting
181 Major Marks' leadership in achieving the perfect score.

182

183 c. Flock Camera Discussion

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185 County Manager Zinser introduced the topic of Flock license plate reader (LPR) cameras, noting that
186 commissioners received a proposal from Chief Deputy Forbes prior to the meeting. The purpose of this
187 discussion was to introduce the concept, clarify its intended use, and address initial questions.

188

189 Chief Deputy Forbes explained that the cameras would help address challenges posed by the county's
190 large coverage area (300+ square miles) and limited staffing (3–5 deputies on duty). He emphasized that
191 the technology only captures vehicle plates on public roads, not faces or personal tracking, and that data is
192 retained for 21 days by law. Chief Deputy Forbes highlighted benefits for solving crimes, locating
193 suspects, and supporting public safety initiatives such as mental health interventions, Amber Alerts, and
194 Silver Alerts. He also noted potential uses for traffic management and evacuation planning, referencing
195 EMA's prior interest in similar technology. Chief Deputy Forbes assured that strict policies and
196 transparency measures, similar to those implemented for body cameras, would govern the system. He
197 invited commissioners to meet with Flock representatives for further details.
198

199 Commissioner Questions and Comments

200 Commissioner Chenette thanked Chief Deputy Forbes for the presentation and stressed the need for a
201 careful, transparent evaluation process, including public input, given concerns raised at the municipal
202 level. Key points discussed:

- 203 • Traffic enforcement: Chief Deputy Forbes confirmed the cameras will not be used for speeding or
204 seatbelt violations.
- 205 • Federal access to data: Chief Deputy Forbes stated that any access would require going through
206 the Sheriff's Office and be limited to public safety issues. Commissioner Chenette requested
207 more clarity on internal processes and statutory authority for a future meeting.
- 208 • Local approval: Placement on private property requires owner consent, while placement on state
209 DOT property requires town approval and compliance with conditions (speed limit ≤ 35 mph, no
210 traffic obstruction).
- 211 • Other jurisdictions: Chief Deputy Forbes noted that several municipalities (Lewiston, York,
212 Auburn, Falmouth) use Flock cameras successfully, but no other counties currently do.
213 Commissioner Chenette expressed interest in understanding why other counties, such as
214 Cumberland, have not adopted them.
- 215 • Independent review: Commissioner Chenette asked about accountability measures to ensure
216 compliance with data retention and usage policies. Chief Deputy Forbes responded that while
217 there is no formal external audit, the Sheriff's Office would provide open access for review and
218 could conduct quarterly reports if requested. He reiterated that Flock does not have access to
219 vehicle owner information and only captures vehicle and plate data.

220 Commissioner Chenette emphasized the importance of public awareness and engagement before moving
221 forward and suggested scheduling a follow-up meeting with Flock representatives for detailed answers.
222

223 Commissioner Clark voiced concerns about privacy and surveillance, citing his lifelong commitment to
224 personal privacy. He acknowledged that technology already tracks individuals but stated he is
225 uncomfortable expanding monitoring through cameras. While he trusts current leadership, he worries
226 about future administrations misusing the technology and called for real guarantees against abuse, though
227 he admitted uncertainty about how to achieve that. Commissioner Clark expressed skepticism that
228 cameras make people feel safer and shared serious reservations about the proposal, while appreciating the
229 opportunity for discussion and agreeing to revisit the topic in future meetings.
230

231 County Manager Zinser thanked Chief Deputy Forbes for the presentation and stated that the next steps
232 will include scheduling additional meetings, obtaining answers to outstanding questions, and developing a
233 plan of action in coordination with the Sheriff's Office. The finalized proposal will be brought back to the
234 board for consideration at a future date.
235

236 d. MDEA MOU Discussion and Approval (executive session may be necessary)
237

238 County Manager Zinser presented a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between York
239 County and a deputy assigned to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA). He explained that this
240 agreement is part of a longstanding arrangement with the state and would allow a concurrent promotion
241 for the deputy, enabling eligibility for a supervisory position within MDEA. County Manager Zinser
242 noted that the MOU is straightforward and requested board consideration.

243
244 He advised that any detailed questions should be addressed in executive session under 405(6)(A) due to
245 personnel matters. County Manager Zinser also emphasized the urgency, stating that delaying action
246 could make the agreement moot because of a closing application window for the supervisory role.
247 Commissioner Chenette asked if this was the same agreement previously flagged for concern by
248 Commissioner Ring. County Manager Zinser confirmed it was and explained that, since the item was
249 already posted on the agenda, only the board could remove it as requested by Commissioner Ring.
250

251 **MOTION: Commissioner Chenette moved to proceed with the Memorandum of Understanding**
252 **between the County of York and MDEA Deputy Regan. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.**
253 **Motion carried 3:0**

254
255 e. FY25 Surplus Allocation
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257 County Manager Zinser presented a memo requesting approval for the annual surplus allocation, which is
258 traditionally done at year-end following audit site work. The county ended the fiscal year with
259 approximately \$800,000 in surplus revenues and about \$300,000 from the jail, totaling close to \$1
260 million.

261 The proposal includes:

- 262 • reallocating \$800,000 from the general fund to contingency, capital improvements, employee
263 wellness, special projects, employee training and development, technology upgrades, and payroll
264 liabilities.
- 265 • reallocating \$300,000 from the jail fund: \$200,000 to jail capital improvements and \$100,000 to
266 replenish the jail insurance reserve.

267 Additionally, County Manager Zinser recommended closing or consolidating outdated reserve accounts
268 (e.g., ergonomics fund, EMA facility garage fund, and government building renovation fund) and
269 reallocating those balances to active accounts such as special projects. He assured that sufficient funds
270 will remain for building maintenance and noted that capital improvement reserves will provide backup for
271 major repairs.

272
273 County Manager Zinser emphasized that all details, including starting balances, proposed reallocations,
274 and ending balances, are outlined in the attached document and invited commissioners to ask questions.
275

276 Commissioner Chenette asked for clarification on certain budget lines, specifically "Special Projects." It
277 was explained that this fund was created about six or seven years ago to support initiatives such as the
278 renovation of the former Layman Way Recovery Center and continues to fund recovery center projects.
279 For building-related needs, the Capital Reserve account holds approximately \$200,000, separate from the
280 \$100,000 allocated for capital improvements in the operating budget. Additionally, an unrestricted reserve
281 account has about \$294,000 available for emergencies or major building expenses. Regarding the food
282 pantry, minor costs like a freezer would first be covered by the operating budget; if that is not feasible,
283 funds could come from reserves. The discussion also addressed the Employee Wellness budget, which
284 covers staff engagement activities, plaques, and maintenance or replacement of gym equipment.
285 Commercial-grade equipment, such as treadmills, can cost around \$5,000, which justifies the increase of
286 this budget to \$40,000.

MEMO

TO: Board of Commissioners
 FROM: Finance Director Lori Lemieux
 DATE: December 12, 2025
 RE: Transfer of End of Year Allocations

This request is to transfer the excess allocations from our unassigned accounts to specific reserves for use in the future. The attached document shows the beginning balances and the ending balances if the following transactions are approved.

Please keep in mind that these are from unaudited records and are contingent on the completion of the FY25 Audit. Once the audit is near completion, these may need to be amended in accordance with the audited information.

After conferring with the County Manager, Greg Zinser, I am proposing the following transfers:

- 1) To move \$800,000.00 from the General Fund Unassigned to seven separate reserves:
 - a. Contingency \$79,167.70
 - b. Capital Improvement \$100,000.00
 - c. Employee Wellness \$20,000.00
 - d. Special Projects \$480,832.30
 - e. Employee Training and Development \$40,000.00
 - f. Technology Upgrades \$30,000.00
 - g. Payroll Liabilities \$50,000.00
- 2) To move \$300,000.00 from the Jail Fund Unassigned to two separate reserves:
 - a. Jail Capital Improvements \$200,000.00
 - b. General Fund Insurance Reserve \$100,000.00
- 3) To reallocate internal General Fund Reserves from the following:
 - a. New Government Building \$200,000.00
 - b. Maine 200 \$11,195.00
 - c. Projects \$4,640.95
 - d. Ergonomics \$550.40
 - e. Pers Record \$454.50
 - f. EMA/Facility Garage \$25,012.22
 - g. The above totaling \$241,853.07 to be reallocated to Special Projects

Thank you for the consideration of the above assignments.

288
289

**290 MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the FY25 surplus allocations as
291 presented. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

292 Motion carried 3:0

293

294 f. Resolution on Authority of York County Manager

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296 County Manager Zinser explained the need for a resolution affirming the authority of the county manager
 297 under Title 30A, as requested by the bank during the process of securing a line of credit. This line of
 298 credit is intended to protect the county from potential federal funding delays, particularly as it undertakes
 299 a \$5 million dredging project that requires upfront payments with expected reimbursements. Zinser noted
 300 that federal reimbursement processes can be unpredictable and highlighted the risk of a government
 301 shutdown if a continuing resolution is not passed by January 30. The resolution, which was previously
 302 approved many years ago, is rarely requested but necessary for the bank to proceed. Zinser asked the
 303 commissioners to review the proposed motion and authorize signing the updated resolution.

304
305
306 The Commissioners reviewed the following: As we know, the County Manager is required to implement
307 the actions and directives of the York County Commissioners. In order to do so, he needs to engage in
308 discussions and negotiations in some matters and to take action on others, which may include the signing
309 of various documents on our behalf. Because some third parties wish to see his authority set forth in a
310 formal manner, I hereby make the following motion which may be memorialized in a written resolution:

311 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to authorize County Manager Zinser to take action on**
312 **behalf of the York County Commissioners confirming, implementing and/or executing on the**
313 **directives, actions, guidance, and/or votes of the York County Commissioners, including, but not**
314 **limited to engaging in discussions and negotiations with other parties as well as the preparation and**
315 **execution of agreements, letters, awards, payments, personnel actions, banking and financial**
316 **documents (including but not limited to checking, savings accounts, reimbursements, advances,**
317 **lines of credit, grants, and other contractual arrangements), procurements, leases, audits,**
318 **memoranda, applications, commitments, settlements, resolutions, and all other documents as**
319 **necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Commissioners. Commissioner Chenette seconded the**
320 **motion.**

321 Motion carried 3:0

322 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

323 County Manager Zinser announced that the Benggio abatement appeal has officially been withdrawn.

324
325 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to dismiss the tax appeal as a settlement has been made**
326 **between the applicant and the Town of Cornish. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**

327 Motion carried 3:0

328 **7. TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT**
329 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR**
330 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR**
331 **NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION**
332 **WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**
333 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**

334 a. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) Personnel matters

335 Not necessary.

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

337 Susan Wiswell asked for clarification regarding the amounts listed under “Special Projects” and whether
338 the figures were additive. County Manager Zinser explained that the amounts include both new money
339 from the surplus and the reallocation of older reserves that are no longer needed. Specifically, the total
340 consists of \$480,000 plus another \$480,000 and \$241,853.07, for a combined balance of approximately
341 \$1.7 million. Zinser emphasized that these are two separate actions: adding surplus funds and moving
342 existing reserves into Special Projects.

343 Commissioner Clark wished everyone in attendance and everyone watching at home a Merry Christmas
344 and a Happy New Year. Commissioner Andrews seconded the sentiment.

351
352 **9. ADJOURN**
353 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**
354 **Motion carried 3:0**
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356 Meeting adjourned at 5:28pm.
357
358 Respectfully Submitted,
359
360 Patricia Murray
361 Executive Assistant to the County Manager
362