

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

July 1, 2026

The regular meeting of the York County Commissioners was held on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 4:30 PM at the York County Government Building in Alfred.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble (arrived 4:42pm)
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Justin Chenette
Donna Ring

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

County Manager Greg Zinser, Facilities Director Rick deRochemont, EMA Director Art Cleaves, EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault, Sheriff William King, Chief Advancement Officer Rachel Stansfield and Finance Director Lori Lemieux 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)

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

a. Commissioners' meeting of June 17, 2026

Commissioner Clark had two corrections, change "in the position of..." to "to the position of..." on lines 222 and 232.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2026, as amended.

Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

a. Warrants to be approved on June 17, 2026, in the amount of \$1,655,554.23

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated June 17, 2026, in the amount of \$1,655,554.23. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

b. Warrants to be approved on June 24, 2026, in the amount of \$396,652.74

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated June 24, 2026, in the amount of \$396,652.74. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. County Manager Greg Zinser to present new hires/transfers:

i. To seek hiring approval of Lucas Labbe in the position of full time Patrol Deputy in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of July 6, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Lucas Labbe in the position of full time Patrol Deputy in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of July 6, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

ii. To seek hiring approval of Erik Rae in the position of full time Patrol Deputy in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of July 27, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Erik Rae in the position of full time Patrol Deputy in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of July 27, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

iii. To seek status change approval of Drew Babkirk to the position of full time CNA/CRMA from per diem CNA/CRMA in the Integrated Medical and Behavioral Health Division with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the status change of Drew Babkirk to the position of full time CNA/CRMA from per diem CNA/CRMA in the Integrated Medical and Behavioral Health Division with an effective date of July 1, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

iv. To seek hiring approval of Sara Al-Shishani in the position of part time Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of July 20, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Sara Al-Shishani in the position of part time Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of July 20, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

v. To seek hiring approval of Cecelia Blake in the position of full time Registered Nurse in the Integrated Medical and Behavioral Health Division with an effective date of August 3, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Cecelia Blake in the position of full time Registered Nurse in the Integrated Medical and Behavioral Health Division with an effective date of August 3, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0

- vi. To transition Steven Danzig from reserve to full time Behavioral Health Director effective July 1, 2026, rather than July 15, 2026.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the transition of Steven Danzig to the position of full time Behavioral Health Director from reserve Behavioral Health Director in the Integrated Medical and Behavioral Health Division with an effective date of July 1, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0

- a. Department Reports:
 - i. Rachel Stansfield, Chief Advancement Officer

Rachel Stansfield reported that Foundation efforts over the past year have focused on strengthening board development, community engagement, and fundraising capacity. The Foundation expanded its board to seven members, with an additional candidate under consideration, and provided board training on fundraising, donor development, and capital campaigns.

Community outreach efforts included presentations, site tours, donor events, and meetings with local organizations, resulting in increased engagement and new funding opportunities. Partnerships continue to grow with businesses, schools, community organizations, and regional partners.

The food pantry has seen significant growth, serving approximately 1,200 client visits in the most recent month. Extended service hours, new partnerships, and enhanced donor outreach efforts have helped increase support and accessibility.

Rachel reported continued success in securing donations, sponsorships, and grant opportunities. Several state and federal funding requests have been submitted, with some advancing through initial review. The Foundation's fundraising goal is approximately \$750,000 annually to help address operational funding needs.

Discussion also included the Foundation's future growth, including the potential need for additional administrative, financial, and communications support, as well as the development of a formal process for county funding requests. County Manager Zinser noted the FY budget includes a \$100,000 Foundation contribution to support county programs.

- b. FY 2027 Budget Ratification

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to ratify the FY 2027 Budget as approved by the Budget Committee. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0

- c. Review and Approve Tax Assessments

MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Commitment in the amount of \$27,131,630.00. The Tax Commitment assessed to each city and town will be due on or before September 1, 2026. Interest at the rate set by the Maine State Treasurer's Office of 7.0% will begin after October 31, 2026, for any unpaid taxes. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

d. Schedule Poverty Abatement Appeal for August 5, 2026

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to schedule the poverty Abatement Appeal for August 5, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

e. Schedule Jail tour for August 5, 2026

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to schedule the Jail tour for August 5, 2026, at 3:30pm. 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 matters

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

Motion: Commissioner Chenette moved to come out of executive session. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0

Commissioner Ring departed the meeting at approximately 6:26pm and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to direct the County Manager, in coordination with Emergency Management Agency (EMA) staff, to present a proposed reorganization plan and staffing recommendations at the August 5, 2026, Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0

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

Heard before Item 7, Executive Session.

Cynthia Forrest, Town of York, urged the Commission to reconsider its decision regarding the Pride Proclamation presented at the June 17, 2026, Commissioners meeting. She stated that recognizing Pride reflects inclusivity, respect, and freedom for all residents, including members of the LGBTQ+ community, and thanked Commissioners Chenette and Clark for their support. Ms. Forrest expressed concern that religious considerations had influenced the discussion, emphasizing both inclusivity and the separation of church and state. She also noted the positive impact of Pride celebrations on the county's reputation and economy and encouraged the Commission to remain thoughtful and inclusive in its decisions.

9. ADJOURN

**Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0**

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Murray, Executive Assistant to the County Manager