

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2 **April 2, 2025**

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6
7 At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and
8 holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York,
9 being held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

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12 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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14 Richard R. Dutremble
15 Richard Clark
16 Robert Andrews
17 Justin Chenette
18 Donna Ring
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20 County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the
21 meeting.

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23 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

24
25 **04-02-2025**

26 **ITEM**

- 27 **1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
28 None

- 29
30 **2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
31 a. Commissioners' meeting of March 19, 2025
32 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Andrews
33 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- 34
35 **3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
36 a. Warrants to be approved on March 19, 2025 in the amount of \$1,646,398.37
37 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews
38 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
39 b. Warrants to be approved on March 26, 2025 in the amount of \$730,771.67
40 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews
41 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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44 **4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY**
45 **COMMISSIONERS**
46 None
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5 **NEW BUSINESS**

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

- i. To seek hiring approval of Jeremy Jeannette in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Jeremy Jeanette in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025.

- ii. To seek hiring approval of Jason Gilpatrick in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Jason Gilpatrick in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- iii. Robert Brodeur in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 14, 2025

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the hiring of Robert Brodeur in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 14, 2025. Vote 5-0.

- iv. Alison Bachelder in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 14, 2025

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the hiring of Alison Bachelder in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 14, 2025. Vote 5-0.

H.R. Director/Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss informed the Board that there are now 46 full-time correction officers.

- b. To begin FY'2026 budget review

- i. County Manager Greg Zinser, to give an overview and review administration budgets-County Manager Zinser stated that the big items in the budget are that the first full year of the correctional union contract is in the FY'2026 budget. We are bargaining now with the FOP and MSEA unions. He added that the Board will see large increases in salaries and benefits.

The County Manager continued that revenues stayed pretty stagnant, but we are starting to see an uptick.

The supplemental pages show what each city/town's county tax bill will be. Energy consumption has gone up and therefore energy contracts costs will increase. Technology increases are also shown in this budget.

This budget factors in costs for the new buildings, explained County Manager Zinser.

He continued that there is one new request for a groundskeeper in the Facilities budget and explained that last year the county went out to bid for these services. The bids received were very high.

County Manager Zinser added that he is proposing a 4% COLA increase for non-union.

Commissioner Ring stated that she noticed quite an increase in the telephone lines throughout the budget.

County Manager Zinser replied that the County has added services to include increasing bandwidths and managed services.

Commissioner Chenette asked how long it has been since the County has gone out to bid as sometimes vendors get complacent. County Manager Zinser replied that we have been with the company for 7 to 8 years but that it is not easy to just go out to bid and that there is something to be said about relationships. Commissioner Ring questioned whether or not the line increases have to do with just telephones? County Manager Zinser replied that deputies all have cell phones and air cards. The District Attorney's office and EMA also have some cell phones. We did reallocate costs to some departments based on the number of phones in their department as well as six or seven months ago we eliminated some lines. Commissioner Ring commented that she wanted to again bring to light that the county budgets for salaried employees to sell back 10 days and it looks like to her that most employees do sell back their days. Also, the salaried employees get 41 days of earned time up front when they are hired. This is not common in the real world, she stated. Commissioner Ring stated that she thinks this need to be looked at for future hires. Commissioner Ring questioned why the life insurance line shows such an increase. County Manager Zinser explained that Maine Municipal Association provided life insurance, but Harvard Pilgram does not, so we had to purchase it.

ii. District Attorney Kathryn Slattery to present budget

District Attorney Kathryn Slattery presented her budget to the Board and stated that the Biddeford office is nice inside. She informed all that the backlog created during COVID is cleared. York County D.A.'s office extradited 48 fugitives out of 85 arrested. 401 deferred disposition cases were added for a total of 1404 cases in 2024. 9,759 charges were reviewed by the D.A.'s office and of those, 625 were domestic violence related. \$117,130 was collected in supervision fees and \$245,281 was collected in restitution for victims.

D.A. Slattery informed the Board that her office has a fully staffed domestic violence division as of April 7th with over \$245,000 received for victims in York County.

Her department is transitioning to E-prosecutor. As well, the D.A.'s office has seen lots of personnel changes as three long-time employees retired. Currently, there are six vacancies.

D.A. Slattery informed all that the paid interns are very valuable to her office and one just became an extern meaning that they get class credits.

Commissioner Ring asked D.A. Slattery how many interns she has and how many hours do they work.

D.A. Slattery responded that there are currently four interns that work 40 hours per week. She added that second year interns can go into the courtroom.

Commissioner Clark asked if they are all from the University of Maine.

D.A. Slattery replied, yes.

Commissioner Ring asked D.A. Slattery for a copy of the statistics she stated at the beginning of her presentation.

Commissioner Ring asked if now that the D.A.'s office is caught up with their cases, pre-trial prisoners by reduced?

D.A. Slattery responded that it should.

Commissioner Chenette questioned D.A. Slattery as to why a 92% increase in her meals and lodging budget line is shown?

D.A. Slattery explained this is for the annual conference that all eighteen of her Assistant District Attorneys attend. They receive all their yearly credits at this yearly conference.

- iii. Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond to present budget
County Manager Zinser explained that this budget shows a reduction due to the Records Specialist position being moved to administration.

Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond informed the Board that documents recorded in 2024 were down 500 from the prior year. 7200 deeds were recorded in 2024. Register Hammond informed all that the Association is preparing new legislation to increase recording fees. This has made it through committee so it should pass. The overall collection of fees will go up and we will flat rate everything.

Register Hammond commented that the hiring of the Records Management Specialist was a great hire. He has been of great assistance to York County residents.

She explained that the reduction in professional services is due to the fact that Paige is not traveling here as much and is working with Andrew (Records Management Specialist) via Zoom.

Register Hammond spoke about a Bill being introduced by Representative Fecteau. She explained that a buyer using Maine Housing would be exempt from paying transfer tax. Register Hammond said the impact is not significant and the increase in fees would be an offset.

There was discussion of LD 1082. Register Hammond informed all that the State is taking steps to accept electronic payments, so it is not far off to think they are setting themselves up to take 10% of the (county deeds) fees.

She added that there is still a value in the services the Registry provides. Maine does have the lowest recording fees in New England.

- iv. EMA Director Art Cleaves to present budget
EMA Director Art Cleaves thanked the Commissioners and other county staff for their support. He stated that EMA's budget shows an 8.96% change. Wages show an 11% increase. They have one open position.

The overtime line shows \$15,000. This is due to storm activations and the coastal resiliency effort. EMA was able to give York County residents over \$40 million back due to the January disaster of 2024. EMA receives \$262,000 in EMPG funding, \$251,000 in Homeland Security funding every year as well as \$16,000 from Seabrook.

Commissioner Chenette stated that he always wants us to be cognizant of the operational costs of the dredge.

EMA Director Cleaves explained that currently dredge costs are offloaded to Cat B FEMA costs. We continue to seek grant funding. The dredge should be self-sustaining in a couple of years.

County Manager Zinser stated that we are leveraging Federal funding currently and that is what is floating the program. Maintenance dredging is when the program will shine through.

Commissioner Dutremble asked EMA Director Cleaves if their overtime budget line request is enough.

County Manager Zinser replied that the bottom line is no. We want to bring attention to what EMA does. We have been taking costs and claiming them under Homeland Security and reserve monies. We are unsure of the Federal Government ongoing and their willingness to give us Homeland Security funds. We can only spend the funding in certain areas.

v. Chief Fire Administrator Roger Hooper to present Regional Training Center budget

County Manager Zinser told all that the training center building is ahead of schedule. This budget is a starting point to recognize costs to run the facility. These funds are going to get us going for the first six months. You should expect the budget to go up, County Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners.

Chief Hooper explained that this past year over 500 First Responders have been here at the York County Government Building for trainings held. That number will easily triple once we have the Training Center up and running. We will be offering programs by using training contractors. We've been doing that here for the last three years. Our goal is for the center to never be idle. Ems is not as robust due to training problems. There are no clinical facilities in this State. We will expand this training, stated Chief Hooper. Commissioner Clark suggested that since it is difficult to know what you need to open the training center, should we put money in a contingency fund for this (center) to be able to run?

Commissioner Chenette replied that he is not opposed to what Commissioner Clark is proposing but wondered if an outside consultant might be needed to help determine costs.

Chief Hooper explained that the programs already exist and we have received good input from the Chiefs in York County as well as good data from similar facilities around the Country. He added that he believes we are in good shape to get started. We are creating RFQ's to look nationwide for agencies to provide the courses that we are looking for. I think we should wait and see, suggested Chief Hooper.

County Manager Zinser clarified that our police and fire chiefs know what they want for courses. Our unknowns are more like will MCJA be a part of our center? We certainly would welcome having a contingency as items will come up that we need.

Fire Chief Hooper agreed and stated that some of the training equipment needs maintenance every time it is used.

Commissioner Chenette asked if there was a projected out estimated revenue? County Manager replied that he can get that information to Commissioner Chenette. We are planning on having four full-time employees.

Commissioner Clark motioned to put \$50,000 aside in a contingency fund. Before these funds can be accessed, Chief Hooper needs Commissioner approval. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Chenette questioned how we came to this amount. Would it not be helpful to have the projections, he asked? He added there is nothing before him showing what these monies can be used for.

Chief Hooper gave an example that the pond and dry hydrants could have

one of the hydrants break and not be warrantied. One of the steel doors on the drill tower could get damaged-wear and tear types of things. Commissioner Chenette explained that it is helpful to understand how we will ramp up to eventually \$600,000 to \$700,000 a year. It is hard for me to process this vision, he stated.

Administration budget- County Manager Zinser explained that the big changes are in salaries as the Records Management Specialist was moved from Deeds to Administration. As seen in other departments, supplies and other items are increasing.

Commissioner Dutremble asked if the auditors had finished their audit. The County Manager replied, yes and Commissioner Chenette asked, "don't they typically give a presentation".

County Manager Zinser replied that they have some years and can certainly do so if the Commissioners want. He added that there were only two minor Findings in the Management letter. County Manager Zinser congratulated the Finance Department on a job well done! He added that he has had positive conversations with our auditing firm.

Treasurer budget-County Manager Zinser reviewed with the Commissioners. Commissioner Chenette asked if the Treasurer had weighed in on everything? County Manager Zinser replied that the Treasurer has no statutory budget authority. He added that he did not engage her in the copulation of the budget.

Commissioner Clark requested that the Treasurer be sent a copy of the budget and the audit.

Communications budget- County Manager Zinser explained that this is a contract. He added that they have been working on other communications issues such as the towers and a hybrid satellite UH and VHF system.

Recovery Center budget- The true costs, explained County Manager Zinser have been carried over from Layman Way Recover Center ahead of schedule as we need to plan for the opening in 2026.

He reminded the Commissioners that we carried over \$125,000 in funds for the homelessness issue and we converted that to medical consulting. He explained that they reduced consulting by \$50,000 and likewise for medical and added the monies to the operational costs.

County Manager Zinser explained that it will be necessary to fund the recovery center at \$1.5 million over the next two years.

County Manager Zinser informed all that it will cost approximately \$6 million to run all five programs. With MaineCare billing, we should receive reimbursement of \$4.5 to 4.6 million. We are starting with detox and that is the most expensive program.

Mental/Dental Insurance budget-County Manager Zinser explained that the costs are rising so we are asking for a new expense line. We have been using the remaining funds from the H.R.A. employer contributions but the insurance reserve is dwindling.

302 Retirement budget- this is a function of wages and based on the contracts the
303 County Manager explained.

304
305 Public Agencies budget- The Extension services asked for a small increase
306 this year but they do pay to rent office space to us (rent at the courthouse) so
307 there is an offset of \$40,000. We have two renters.

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309 MEDATS- County Manager Zinser explained that this is the Maine District
310 Attorney Technical Services Center. We charge a fee to all counties for using
311 this service. It is a pass-through account.
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314

315 **6 OLD BUSINESS**

- 316 a. To review and approve Neil Linsky v. Town of Berwick Findings of Fact
317 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the Findings of Facts as presented.
318 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
319

320 **7 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL**
321 **ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF**
322 **REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT**
323 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT**
324 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL**
325 **COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**
326 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**
327 None
328

329 **8 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

330 None
331

332 **9 ADJOURN**

333 Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
334 motion. Vote 5-0.
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1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2 **April 9, 2025**

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7 At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and
8 holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York,
9 being held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

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12 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

13
14 Richard R. Dutremble
15 Richard Clark
16 Robert Andrews
17 Justin Chenette (excused)
18 Donna Ring
19

20 County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the
21 meeting.

22
23 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

24
25
26 **04-09-2025**

27 **ITEM**

- 28 **1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
29 None

30
31 **2 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 32 a. Warrants to be approved on April 2, 2025 in the amount of \$876,317.58.
33 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Ring
34 seconded the motion. Vote 3-0. (Commissioner Andrews not present yet.)
35

36
37 **3 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

38 Commissioner Clark commented that he took a drive to look at the new buildings.
39 He reported that the Recovery Center foundation is in, and the roof is going on the
40 training building.
41 County Manager Zinser added that the training center is a couple of weeks ahead of
42 schedule and the Recovery Center building is two weeks ahead of schedule.
43 Commissioner Dutremble told all that he recently attended a Maine County
44 Commissioner Association meeting and there are groups working in Augusta
45 making sure we get accurate funding for the jails.
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4 NEW BUSINESS

a. To continue FY'2026 budget review

i. Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont to present budget
County Manager Zinser stated that there is a new request for a groundskeeper.

Facilities Manager Rick DeRochemont explained to the Board that most of the budget items increases are due to the new buildings and increased costs with the D.A.'s office. He pointed out that a new item is county vehicle maintenance line. We have more vehicles, and we travel to Biddeford. Gas and oil costs are up since we have more vehicles and fuel for last year's groundskeeping. There are huge increases in electricity. Facilities Manager DeRochemont stated that the heating and repairs line includes the new buildings. Another increase is due to the inventory software program. Commissioner Ring asked if the groundskeeper position has been advertised for yet? County Manager Zinser replied, not yet. He added that it is a topic of conversation with the Union. He continued that last year we had bids come in for grounds maintenance that doubled in the amount of around \$60,000. We rejected the bids. The County Manager explained that we worked through Manpower through the summer months. We don't have any plan B for maintenance for the county. If approved, we will ask to move forward.

ii. Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy to present budget-
Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy addressed the Board.

She informed all that in 2024, York County Probate processed 178 passport applications and that so far in 2025 they've processed 75. In 2024, there were 1481 filings and proceedings. To date in 2025, there have been 303 new proceedings. Register Lovejoy explained that she has requested \$15,000 as a new request for electronic records (online). She explained that Catalyst was the vendor we had and that \$17,000 was the original cost of the contract. The yearly maintenance fee is about \$3,500. We have no idea what the contract is going to be. They've been unresponsive.

County Manager Zinser explained that they arrived at \$15,000 for that line after conversation. If we need more, we will take it from tech. reserve. Register of Probate Lovejoy explained that this is being handled through the Register's association. We aren't entirely sure where it is going to go.

Commissioner Ring stated that workers compensation costs are very high. County Manager Zinser explained that the rates went up on clerical positions. In general, the cost is going through the roof, he stated. Also, we pay higher rates because of the jail.

Commissioner Ring asked Register of Probate Lovejoy if the revenue amount shown of \$500,00 is a good number? Register Lovejoy replied, yes, we have been consistently over that amount.

County Manager Zinser informed the Board that they are giving the Judge an additional one day per month to be used at the Judge's discretion. In conversation with the Judge, the County Manager learned that the Judge was teaching higher education classes. This service he provides is huge. County Manager Zinser stated that he is proposing to compensate Judge Houde when

100 he teaches these 8 or 9 classes per year. County Manager Zine stated that we
101 are grateful for Probate services and all that they do. Judge Houde addressed
102 the Board and informed them that he has 60-80 people for these classes. He
103 designs them and moderates them, and all participants receive approved
104 credits. County Manager Zinser stated that this is a huge value to the county.
105

106 Commissioner Ring asked Register of Probate Lovejoy about the court's
107 scheduling. Register Lovejoy replied that the court is pretty up to date but
108 there are a lot of emergency guardianships right now.
109

110 iii. Sheriff King to present Sheriff's Office budget-

111 Sheriff King explained that he is increasing the overtime budget after an
112 analysis of the last couple of years showed overages. The Uniforms/safety
113 equipment line is up because we need new vests.

114 The Employee Training line was also increased, Sheriff King explained
115 largely due to the SRT support. We use this team quite often. Also, quite a
116 few deputies are using the education-employee development benefit. Sheriff
117 King added that meals and lodging budgets are up as lots of training is held
118 out of the area.

119 Sheriff King continued that the county vehicle maintenance is increased as
120 we had to go out to get some vehicles fixed. We hope after this year to do
121 more in-house. The vehicles budget line reflects the purchase of seven
122 vehicles and that is our yearly rotation. Vehicles are increasing in value.
123 County Manager Zinser explained that we broke out weapons (in the budget)
124 as we were taking the funds out of safety equipment, but we now recognize it
125 as an actual expense.

126 Commissioner Ring questioned the increase of \$32,000 in the SRT support
127 line and asked what is that for?

128 Sheriff King responded training lights on their firearms.

129 Commissioner Ring asked how many? Sheriff King replied, three.

130 Commissioner Ring commented that training has usually been charged to the
131 overtime account. She added that she thinks that is a high increase. There is
132 no breakdown of \$32,000. I would like more detail, she stated.

133 Sheriff King replied that in 2023 we spent \$58,000 and in 2024 we went
134 over.

135 Commissioner Ring stated that she is concerned about the increases.

136 Chief Deputy Forbes explained that they only had a \$20,000 training budget
137 before, and that tuition reimbursement came out of that account.

138 Commissioner Ring responded that we have a reserve account for that.

139 County Manager Zinser replied that we do but we don't want to drain that
140 account.

141 Commissioner Ring replied that when they request tuition reimbursement, it
142 should be done prior to the budget so you have a number. Sheriff King
143 replied that we make sure they adhere to the guidelines.
144

145 Finance Director Lori Lemieux explained what items are taken out of the
146 budget line to include a training subscription to Dirigo Safety Another
147 conferences (training sessions), shooting range, and additional higher
148 training.

149 Commissioner Ring commented regarding the Sheriff's Office vehicles that
150 from the vehicle inventory report she was given there are seven vehicles right

151 now that are new and unassigned, forty-six vehicles total with three to be
152 sold. We have seven new vehicles so why do we need to buy seven more?
153 There are only five vehicles that have over 80,000 miles on them. The rest
154 are all under 80,000 miles. They have to buy all new equipment to fit the
155 vehicles. Our officers are not operating high mileage vehicles right now.
156 Sheriff King responded because we are staying with this rotation.
157 Commissioner Ring stated to Sheriff King that if he wants a little more in
158 some of his lines, maybe no new vehicles. She stated that she believes there
159 are some budgets we can look at and reduce. She stated that she cannot
160 support seven new vehicles.
161 Commissioner Dutremble asked the Sheriff if that (vehicle budget) number is
162 high enough?
163 Sheriff King replied that it is his understanding that this is a good number.
164 County Manager Zinser added that we don't know how tariffs will affect us.
165 Commissioner Ring stated that the overtime wages could be better managed.
166 She added that there is a lot of P.R. stuff done that could be managed better.
167 Commissioner Ring asked for a projection on what they (Sheriff's Office)
168 think they are going to use this year. We used to have this in the budgets.
169 County Manager Zinser explained in regard to overtime, we are trying to
170 resolve some articles in the Union contract that would have a good impact.
171

172 iv. Major Lori Marks to present jail budget

173 County Manager Zinser explained that we have to increase wages for the
174 contract approved. State funding plays the larger issue here. We are putting
175 in \$2.4 million in the budget, which is the same as in prior years but last year
176 we received less. The only thing that kept us going was due to receiving the
177 supplemental amount of \$255,000. There is a chance that the \$2.4 million we
178 put into the budget is too much, explained the County Manager.
179 There is a chance that the State may put \$4 million back in (the budget) but it
180 is a big role of the dice this year on what we are getting.
181

182 Commissioner Dutremble stated that the committee is working on revenues.
183 Maine Municipal Association put a bill in also. A lot of other entities are
184 working on this (jail budgets), and he feels we will get more money.
185

186 County Manager Zinser explained that the medical assisted treatment
187 program costs \$600,000 to \$700,000 but we only get \$120,000 from the
188 State. We are required to do this under the Department of Corrections
189 Standard, he explained.

190 Medical is a huge and ongoing concern, stated the County Manager. We
191 have a \$300,000 bill that may come due for us. We have been having internal
192 conversations about the feasibility of looking at our own medical program.
193

194 Jail Administrator Lori Marks addressed the Board and stated that the only
195 increase she is asking for is in the uniforms and safety equipment lines. With
196 increased hiring, the need for more uniforms, safety equipment and wages
197 has gone up. In regards to the inmate supplies budget, with our population at
198 almost 200, there are things we are mandated to provide, so our number has
199 gone up.
200

201 Jail Administrator Marks continued that their budget shows significant

202 decreases in the equipment/copier repair lines. Tech related stuff shows a
203 30% decrease to help offset some of the increases, also.
204

205 Commissioner Ring asked Jail Administrator Marks what the daily average
206 population is. Jail Administrator Marks replied, 185 to 190.

207 Commissioner Ring commented that this budget is about as reasonable as
208 you can get. The increase in uniforms is a necessity. Commissioner Ring
209 Stated, "Good job!"

210 Commissioner Dutremble informed all that las spring the Saco/Biddeford
211 Rotary went to the jail and were impressed with how the facility was run.
212

213 County Manager Zinser completed the general review of the budget.
214

- 215 b. To vote to approve FY'2026 budget and transmit to budget committee
216 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the FY'2026 budget in the amount
217 of \$28,492,088. Commissioner Andrews seconded the vote. Vote 3-1
218 (Commissioner Ring opposed)
219

220 **5 OLD BUSINESS**

221 None
222

223 **6 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL**
224 **ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF**
225 **REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT**
226 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT**
227 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL**
228 **COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**
229 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**
230

231 **7 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

232 None
233

234 **8 ADJOURN**

235 Commissioner Ring motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
236 motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2 **May 7, 2025**

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7 At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and
8 holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York,
9 being held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

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12 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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14 Richard R. Dutremble
15 Richard Clark
16 Robert Andrews
17 Justin Chenette
18 Donna Ring
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20 County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the
21 meeting.

22
23 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

24
25 **05-07-2025**

26 **ITEM**

27 **1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

28 Janet Drew addressed the Board via Zoom. She congratulated the person affiliated
29 with the jail retired after 48 hours.

30
31
32 **2 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 33 a. Warrants to be approved on April 9, 2025 in the amount of \$956,111.18
34 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews
35 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
36 b. Warrants to be approved on April 16, 2025 in the amount of \$4,001,206.34
37 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews
38 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
39 c. Warrants to be approved on April, 23, 2025 in the amount of \$760,377.28
40 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews
41 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
42 d. Warrants to be approved on April 30, 2025 in the amount of \$476,476.78
43 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner
44 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

45
46 **3 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY**
47 **COMMISSIONERS**
48

Commissioner Chenette reported that he attended the Emergency Management Agency Open House and it was a wonderful event. He stated that it was a wonderful turnout and lots of families attended. It was a wonderful opportunity to educate our constituents, stated Commissioner Chenette.

Commissioner Dutremble informed al that the Maine County Commissioners Association is still working very hard to get more jail funding.

4 NEW BUSINESS

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

- i. To seek hiring approval of Marilyn Mitchell in the full-time position of Deeds Clerk in the Deeds Office with an effective date of hire of May 12, 2025.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Marilyn Mitchell in the full-time position of Deeds Clerk in the Deeds Office with an effective date of hire of May 12, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- ii. To seek hiring approval of Wendy Staples in the full-time position of Deeds Clerk in the Deeds Office with an effective date of hire of May 27, 2025. Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Wendy Staples in the full-time position of Deeds Clerk in the Deeds Office with an effective date of hire of May 27, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- iii. To seek hiring approval of Denise Darcy in the full-time position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of May 12, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Denise Darcy with an effective date of hire of May 12, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- iv. To seek hiring approval of Louise Pridham in the full-time position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of May 12, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Louise Pridham in the full-time position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of May 12, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- v. To seek hiring approval of Vanessa Folk in the full-time position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of May 19, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Vanessa Folk in the full-time position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of May 19, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- vi. To seek hiring approval of Mia Behrenshouser in the full-time position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of June 16, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Mia Behrenshouser in the full-time position of Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of June 16, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark asked how many positions are still vacant in the D.A.'s office after these hirings? Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss replied that this will put them at full but dependent upon the Commissioners' approval of the internal transfer, there will be one opening in D.A.'s office.

- vii. To seek approval of transfer of Michaela Susbury from full-time Victim Witness Advocate in the District Attorney's Office to full-time Victim Witness Advocate Director in the District Attorney's Office with a date of transfer of May 12, 2025

Commissioner Clark approved the transfer Of Michaela Susbury from full-time Victim Witness Advocate to full-time Victim Witness Advocate Director in the District Attorney's Office. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- viii. To seek approval of Richard Gibbs in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of May 19, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Richard Gibbs in the full-time position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of May 19, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- b. To review and approve the job description for Facilities Operations Specialist- County Manager Zinser explained when we went out to bid last year for grounds maintenance last year costs were high. We are presenting a new job description as we were unable to come to an agreement with the Union. We have residual monies set aside and are asking for the approval of a Facility Operations Specialist. They will also take care of some of the new equipment being installed at the new buildings.

County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that we have talked about this position from time to time. Outside at all facilities need attention.

Commissioner Clark asked if this position is funded in the upcoming budget? County Manager Zinser replied, yes. We have reached out to Manpower for interim mowing but no one is available.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the job description for Facilities Operation Specialist. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked if this (position) is basically the grounds keeper?

County Manager Zinser responded that it is a variant and not what was presented to prior groups. It includes more technical aspects of facilities maintenance.

Commissioner Ring asked if this job comes under the 41 days up front?

County Manager Zinser replied, yes.

Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.

- c. To award CAD/RMS contract-

County Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners that about a year ago we went out to bid for a computer-aided dispatch records management system. There were many meetings with the committee as well as meetings with vendors. The final pricing came about a month ago and it is more of a product approach.

It was the unanimous recommendation of the committee (fire and police and EMS and EMA people) to award to (pending successful contract negotiations)

Motorola Solutions. We will probably be looking at a zone approach, explained County Manager Zinser.

Commissioner Ring asked if this is a system that is compatible with the State system?

County Manager Zinser responded that it is called FLEX. It will benefit the D.A.'s office and it is compatible to as what they refer to cross agency checks. It is a unified, cloud-based system. We are close.

Commissioner Chenette motioned to award the bid to Motorola.

Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

Commissioner Clark asked what we are approving as we don't have a number.

County Manager Zinser explained that it will probably cost around \$50,000 to \$60,000 for us to purchase the software. That will come back to the Board.

Commissioner Clark clarified, so, we are authorizing you to negotiate?

County Manager Zinser replied, yes, we will continue to work together.

Commissioner Clark explained that his concern is that he doesn't want to approve a number if he doesn't know it.

County Manager Zinser explained that it will be a multi-year implementation process.

Vote 5-0.

- d. Discussion of York County Shelter closing. County Manager Zinser stated that the closing took us off guard. For the record, The York County Shelter Programs have nothing to do with County Government. It is a separate entity and has never been part of the county government. We do have a contract with them for the Layman Way Recovery Center, and it is now slated to close on June 30th. To be clear, the running of the emergency shelter has nothing to do with the county but that doesn't mean we cannot help. They have a lot of housing stock out there also.

We are not in a position to help with the emergency shelter, but we can look at the operations of the Food Pantry, said the County Manager. We could take that over and assist. We have a long-term lease with the Shelter to run the Pantry, and they lease the building from us. We are in a position since the costs are low, we could fund that at least for the next couple of months.

We are talking with the Budget Committee tonight and it is not a bad idea as we are struggling to realize the true costs of running it, but the estimate is roughly \$100,000 a year.

Funding the emergency shelter would require a conversation with the Budget Committee.

Commissioner Chenette informed all that he attended a meeting with legislators at the State House today. This was the topic. He read a letter to Governor Mills that the York County Delegation signed.

He continued that he has heard from dozens of constituents, and they have lots of anxiety. We have a moral obligation to help lift up Mainers in need. A closure of the shelter and food pantry would be a monumental loss. Every municipality should have an interest in us taking over the Shelter and Food Pantry. We are in a unique position as the regional authority. The Budget Committee will make a final determination. We can make a policy decision. We can step it to run the Food Pantry and continue to have conversations that we take over the Shelter, recommended Commissioner Chenette.

The underlying issues of homelessness are not going away.

Commissioner Chenette motioned to appropriate up to \$25,000 from the

201 contingency and create a fund for food pantry operations.

202 Further, the County Manager is authorized to take the necessary steps
203 to run the Food Pantry, including executing any contracts and the hiring of a
204 pantry coordinator, if needed. This motion and interim actions will be reviewed
205 at subsequent meetings of this Board.

206 And, in addition we would direct a request for a \$100,000 addition to the 'FY
207 2026 budget be sent to the Budget Committee for their review for us to
208 continue food pantry operations.

209 Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.

210 DISCUSSION: Commissioner Clark stated that he is fully supportive of us
211 keeping the food pantry as it serves a lot of people. The Shelter is beyond the
212 scope of what the County can do. We have 3 major projects that are new to the
213 county- Training Center, Recovery Center and Dredge. To ask our people to
214 take on more, is not realistic. I don't think we can do it. It is beyond the
215 capacity of the County at this time.

216
217 Commissioner Ring stated that the Shelter has done a wonderful job, and they
218 have been a friend to the County. She continued that she is very sad to see this
219 happen. There are very few shelters in the State. The Shelter takes care of that
220 block of people that nobody wants to take care of; those with mental health and
221 substance abuse issues. Unfortunately, it is a very expensive program. We are
222 not in the position to take this on. We can work as a Board to work with the
223 State.

224 Commissioner Ring said that she supports taking care of Food Pantry. She
225 thanks the Shelter for their years of service.

226 Commissioner Chenette stated that maybe there is a need of continued
227 conversations with every level of government. Maybe a regional conversation
228 is needed. The issue just bounces around, and the issue is not addressed. As
229 elected officials, what is our role to be part of a solution? The non-profit
230 organizations can perhaps provide us with numbers. This is an all-hands-on
231 deck emergency. It behooves us to try, stated Commissioner Chenette.

232
233 Commissioner Dutremble informed all that the County used to subsidize a few
234 dollars to the food pantry years ago. He stated that he is going to approve the
235 \$25,000 but not the \$100,000 until we know the facts and numbers, it's a waste
236 of time.

237 Commissioner Andrews commented that he really believes we need to get
238 something done. With the \$25,000, we can get help from others to show us
239 how to run it. It is very important as there is a base of people who rely on the
240 food pantries for their survival. As far as the \$100,000 is concerned, it's a shot
241 in the dark but we need to get a group of people to help us figure out how we
242 can get a shelter program on board. There are people who know the ropes and
243 we could put together some sort of plan to help these people. Maybe we can't
244 run the whole thing, but we could get a group together to "push this ball down
245 the road."

246 Commissioner Clark stated that the Food Pantry currently exists and uses a
247 county building. My understanding is there is one full-time and one- part time
248 employee and the rest is done with volunteers. Asking for \$100,000 for the
249 upcoming year is not unreasonable. We won't be in the budget process again
250 until next year.

Commissioner Clark continued that he thinks the budget board should be asked. This just came to us, but he stated that we can support \$100,000. We will work around that if it isn't the right number. I do think we need to ask for something, he stated.

Commissioner Dutremble clarified that we would be taking \$125,000 through the contingency fund?

County Manager Zinser replied, no, the \$25,000 will be through the contingency fund for the remainder of the year. We will ask for \$100,000 as a new item in the budget.

That motion gives me the authority to hire an individual, stated County Manager Zinser. He added that the ballpark at \$100,000 isn't probably far off. The County Manager stated that by the end of June, he can probably have a draft budget to run the Food Pantry for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Dutremble added that we did pay for a freezer a few years ago. County Manager Zinser stated that the building is very old. He added that he has heard there are issues with the refrigerators and freezers. There could be other expenses.

Vote 5-0.

5 OLD BUSINESS

None

6 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 on personnel issue(s) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A).

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A). Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.

Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to extend the leave of absence of employee A until July 20, 2025. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

None

8 ADJOURN

Commissioner Ring motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.

Vote 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.