

Minutes

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Public Hearing and Franklin County Budget Committee Meeting

April 25, 2024

PRESENT: Tiffany Maiuri, Gary McGrane, John Archer, Rupert Pratt (Zoom), Dennis O'Neil, Tom Goding and Janet White

AUDIENCE: Marc Roy, Zoom, Mt. Blue T.V., Corie Willard, Rene Whitley (Zoom), Jake Nichols (Zoom), Richard Morton, Joyce Morton, Josh Bell, Paul Mills, Janis Walker, Ruth Archer, Craig Zurhorst, Tiffany Wing, James Trundy, Mary Redman-Luce, Tom Skofield, Jeff Gilbert, Donna Perry, Amanda Simoneau, Jim Andrews, Sarah Caton, Jim Desjardins, Nick Palmer, Brandon Gray, Doug Blauvelt, Scott Nichols, Susan Black, Marley Bradley, Heidi Jordan, Steve Lowell, David St. Laurent, David Rackliffe, Nathan Hiltz, Doug Hiltz, Louise Hiltz, Amy Bernard, Jamie Sullivan, and Brenda Bitle.

The meeting was called to order by Tiffany Maiuri at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing

Open Public Hearing at 5:32 p.m.

Joshua Bell, Farmington, requested that the Chairperson state the budget request amounts for each department.

Nathan Hiltz, Wilton, discussed Commissioner, elected officials and other county employee's salaries as well as the process.

Joshua Bell, Farmington, requested an explanation of the health insurance increase, to which County Administrator answered.

Dick Morton, Farmington, inquired as to whether all the differences in the budget were due to the 3% versus the 4% COLA increase.

Dick Morton, Farmington, inquired as to the security system, being budgeted though the reserve fund. Questioned if there was anything in the budget for the ongoing maintenance and the expense of the security system going forward that is budgeted in the budget.

Heidi Jordan, Farmington, spoke in support of voting to bring on a new hire to train for a year, versus the 3 months that the Commissioners budgeted for.

Paul Mills, Farmington, spoke in favor of voting to increase the Probate Budget to reflect the hiring of a new employee to train for one year, prior to the Deputy Register retiring.

Joyce Morton, Farmington, also spoke in favor of voting to increase the Probate Budget to reflect the hiring of a new employee to train for one year, prior to the Deputy Register retiring.

Corie Willard, Soil and Water Conservation, spoke in depth in favor of her request for funds.

Nathan Hiltz, Wilton, spoke about funding for Western Maine Transportation and the difference in opinions for the service. Suggested a public forum to discuss the substance of the rides and the business and to see what changes can be made to come to an agreement and have the same views.

End Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.

Opening Comments from Chairperson – Chairperson discussed the purpose of the Budget Committee for the Public Hearing and went over the purpose of the Public Hearing as well as the rules and procedures of the Public Hearing.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2024 – Motion to Accept the April 10, 2024 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes: Gary McGrane/Janet White (7/0)

Adopt Final Vote Discussion (to occur immediately vs set future date) – Motion to approve to move to adopt a final budget: Gary McGrane/John Archer (7/0)

Adoption of Budget Committee Vote on Department Budgets, County Wide Services and Other Committee Proposed Considerations:

1. **EMA** – Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget of \$257,824: Dennis O’Neil/John Archer (7/0) Passed

2. **District Attorney** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget of **\$378,633**: Dennis O'Neil/Gary McGrane (7/0) Passed
3. **Superior Court** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget of **\$3,000**: Gary McGrane/Dennis O'Neil (7/0) Passed
4. **Commissioners** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget of **\$381,764**: Gary McGrane/Dennis O'Neil (4/3) Tom Goding, John Archer and Tiffany Maiuri did not approve, Passed
5. **Treasurer** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget of **\$243,084**: Dennis O'Neil/Gary McGrane (7/0) Passed
6. **Technical Services** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget of **\$459,578**: Gary McGrane/John Archer (7/0) Passed
7. **Courthouse** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget of **\$285,646**: Gary McGrane/John Archer (7/0) Passed
8. **Jail** – Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget for **\$3,166,309**: Janet White/Gary McGrane (6/1) Tom Goding did not approve, Passed
9. **Registry of Deeds** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget for **\$269,730**: Gary McGrane/John Archer (7/0) Passed
10. **Registry of Probate** - Motion to approve FY2025 budget for **\$283,636**: Gary McGrane/John Archer (2/5) Tom Goding, Gary McGrane, John Archer, Janet White and Tiffany Maiuri did not approve, Failed. Motion to approve FY2025 budget for **\$308,148**: Dennis O'Neil/Gary McGrane (5/2), Tom McGrane and Rupert Pratt did not approve. This increase is to provide 6 months of overlap training for the new Deputy Clerk, prior to the Deputy Clerk's retirement.
11. **Sheriff's Department** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget for **\$2,864,610**: Gary McGrane/Dennis O'Neil (6/1) Tom Goding did not approve, Passed
12. **Communications** - Motion to move to approve FY2025 budget for **\$1,361,755**: Gary McGrane/Dennis O'Neil (7/0) Passed
13. **County Wide** – Motion to move approve FY2025 budget for \$635,518: Gary McGrane/John Archer (3/4) Failed, Tom Goding, Dennis O'Neil, John Archer and Tiffany Maiuri did not approve. Motion to move to approve FY budget for **\$634,998**: John Archer/Gary McGrane (5/2) Tom Goding and Rupert Pratt did not approve, Passed
 - A. **Franklin County Extension Service** – Motion to move to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$63,239**: Dennis O'Neil/Tom Goding (7/0) Passed
 - B. **Franklin County Soil & Water** - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of \$35,000 Dennis O'Neil/No Second, Motion Fails, Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount

of \$24,000 Rupert Pratt/Tom Goding (2/5) Dennis O’Neil, Gary McGrane, John Archer, Janet White, and Tiffany Maiuri did not approve, Fails, Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of \$30, 000 John Archer/Janet White (5/2) Tom Goding and Rupert Pratt did not approve, Passed

C. Children’s Task Force - Motion to move to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$12,500**: Dennis O’Neil/Janet White (6/1) Tom Goding did not approve, Passed

D. Franklin County Adult Basic Education - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$20,000**: Gary McGrane/Dennis O’Neil (6/1), Tom Goding did not approve, Passed

E. Western Maine Community Action - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$55,850**: Gary McGrane/Tom Goding (7/0), Passed

F. Senior Plus - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$40,000**: Gary McGrane/Tom Goding (7/0), Passed

G. SAPARS - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$20,000**: Janet White/John Archer (7/0), Passed

H. Androscoggin Homecare & Hospice - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$30,000**: Janet White/Gary McGrane (7/0), Passed

I. Franklin County Development Corporation - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$1.00**: Dennis O’Neil/Tom Goding (6/0) Tiffany Maiuri abstained, Passed

J. Franklin County Fireman’s Association - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$3,700**: Janet White/Tom Goding (7/0), Passed

K. Western Maine Transportation - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$39,750**: Dennis O’Neil/Gary McGrane (5/2) Tom Goding and Rupert Pratt did not approve, Passed

L. Debt Service Principal - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$43,200**: John Archer/Tom Goding (7/0), Passed

M. Debt Service Interest - Motion to approve funding for FY2025 in the amount of **\$6,808**: Dennis O’Neil/Tom Goding (7/0) Passed

14. Estimated Revenues – Motion to approve receiving revenues for the FY2025 budget in the amount of \$6,170,804: Gary McGrane/Tom Goding (No Vote) Gary McGrane withdrew his Motion, Tom Goding Seconded, Motion to approve receiving revenues for the FY2025 budget in the amount of **\$1,277,966**: Gary McGrane/Tom Goding (7/0), Passed

15. Jail Fund Assessment – Motion to approve receiving revenues for the FY2025 budget in the amount of **\$300,000**: Dennis O’Neil/John Archer (7/0) Passed

16. Total Assessment – Amy stated that we normally did not vote on all the revenues, although the Budget Committee certainly could, it was not done in the past. The chairperson requested the CPA acknowledge that the revenues and expenditures match up together. The CPA stated that the Committee needed to approve. Motion to approve Total Assessment for the FY2025 budget in the amount of **\$9,037,113**: Gary McGrane/John Archer (7/0), Passed

Other Business – Dennis O’Neil asked a question regarding the Total Valuation and who determines the valuation of the Unorganized Territories Service. The County Administrator indicated that we receive our information from the Maine Revenue Services website.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:06 p.m. Gary McGrane/Tom Goding (7/0)

A recording is available for this meeting.