

## **Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Fowler, Commissioner Gilbert,  
Commissioner Saviello, and Commissioner Skolfield

The meeting was held via: Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting**

**March 4, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Audience (Present):** Jim Desjardins, Joe McDonnell, Susan Pratt, Ryan Close, Nathan Hiltz, Jake Ducharme, Robert Lightbody, Sue Black, Peter Cogley, Margot Joly, Heidi Jordan, Susan Black, Charlie Woodworth, Pamela Prodan, Donna Perry, Mt. Blue T.V., Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, and Jamie Sullivan.

**Audience (Zoom):** Brad Timberlake.

**RECOGNITION: None**

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

1. **Appointment of Amy Bernard from Rumford, Maine as the County Administrator – Motion to nominate Amy Bernard from Rumford, Maine as the County Administrator: Fen Fowler/Jeff Gilbert.** Commissioner Saviello requested issues under Maine Title 30A § 82 (1A and 1B) be discussed at the next Commissioner Meeting, specifically, the residency of the County Administrator and the County Administrator acting as the UT Manager. **Motion to Table: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (2/3) Bob Carlton, Jeff Gilbert and Fen Fowler opposed. Consideration of the main motion to nominate Amy Bernard from Rumford, Maine as the County Administrator: Fen Fowler/Jeff Gilbert (4/1) Tom Saviello opposed.**
2. **Flagstaff/Mount Blue Advisory Committee –**
  - A. **Motion to appoint Bob Carlton to the Flagstaff Advisory Committee: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0)**
  - B. **Motion to appoint Tom Skolfield to the Mount Blue Advisory Committee, to include Mount Blue, Tumbledown, and Rangeley: Bob Carlton Fen Fowler (5/0).**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Administrator's Report - Motion to accept the Administrator's Report: Tom Saviello/Jeff Gilbert (5/0).**
2. **Minutes – Motion to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2025: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

3. **Rescind the Motion to Approve the Minutes of February 4, 2025** – The Commissioner Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2025, inadvertently reported the Executive Session Motions incorrectly. **Motion to Rescind the approval of the Minutes of February 4, 2025: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
4. **Amend the Minutes of February 4, 2025** - The Commissioners approved the Commissioner Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2025, at the February 18, 2025, Meeting, however, there was an error in the reporting of the Executive Sessions, in that it looked like a motion was made in the Executive Session, but that was not what had occurred. **Motion to amend the Minutes of February 4, 2025: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0). Motion to approve the amended Minutes of February 4, 2025: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
5. **Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept the Treasurer Report: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0)**
6. **UMF President, Joe McDonnell – Status of UMF** – Joe McDonnell, President of UMF came and gave an update on the university, which has been a part of Franklin County since 1864 and the needs of the community. UMF has an annual budget of \$42 million. Approximately \$15 million comes from the State of Maine, \$9 million to students from federal grants, \$1.5 million to students from state grants. There are 307 employees at UMF, and enrollment is at 1,547 this Spring Semester. They are looking for continued support from the County and are looking forward to a close working relationship with the community and the County. **No Motion required.**
7. **Charlie Woodworth – TIF Scholarship** – Charlie Woodworth, Administrator of the TIF Committee received an application from Samantha Nevendomsky, who is attending the Beal College nursing program. The TIF Committee has recommended awarding her a scholarship in the amount of \$24,141. **Motion to approve TIF scholarship for Samantha Nevendomsky in the amount of \$24,141: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0)**
8. **Calderwood Engineering – Oberton Stream Bridge, Reeds Mill Road, Madrid Township** – The County received two electronic bids for this project. Caldwell Engineering changed the specifications on the bidding due to receiving an RFI that stated the 60-day road closure was going to be difficult, so the bids include a 60-day road closure and 90-day road closure: The first bid came from Wyman and Simpson, Inc., Alternative 1 (60-day road closure) \$1,094,980, Alternative 2 (90 day road closure) \$1,044,980. The second bid came from CPM Constructors, Inc., Alternative 1 (60-day road closure) \$1,213,428, Alternative 2 (90-day road closure) \$1,188,981. CPM noted that this work would be done in the 2026 construction season. **Motion to award the bid based upon Calderwood Engineering's review and make sure all of the conditions have been met: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield.** Amy discussed the reasoning behind asking for the 60-day road closure. She indicated that when the bridge is down, there is a 30-mile detour. Asking the school districts to keep the children on the bus for an additional 30 miles is problematic. There is also a significant delay in emergency services for the residents living on the other side. Peter Cogley indicated that Wyman and Simpson indicated that it may be difficult to complete the bridge within the 60-day road closure timeframe therefore requesting to have an alternate 90-day road closure bid. If the 60-day road closure bid was awarded and they

were unable to meet to that deadline, there may be supplemental/liquidated damages that allows them to go beyond the deadline, however they would pay \$1,000 per day out of pocket. **Motion to award the Oberton Stream Bridge, Reeds Mill Road, Madrid Township contract to Wyman and Simpson, Inc. for the 60 day road closure in the amount of \$1,094,980: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

9. **Jail Administrator Job description** – The Sheriff and Human Resources worked to revise the job description to mirror the Administrator’s position at Somerset County since they are an accredited facility. **Motion to accept the Jail Administrator job description as presented: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
10. **Opioid Committee – Request for Funds** – Commissioner Saviello requested additional funds for the Opioid Settlement Committee to award to deserving applicants. **Motion to give a budget of \$150,000 to work with for the Opioid Committee: Tom Skolfield/Jeff Gilbert (5/0).**
11. **RHR Smith & Co. – UT Engagement Letter for Audit** – The County received an engagement letter from RHR Smith & Co. to perform audit services for the Unorganized Territories for year ending June 30, 2024. **Move to authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter from RHR Smith & Co.: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
12. **RFQ for HR Consulting Services** – The Commissioners had requested that we hire an HR Consulting service to survey county employees in order to address the morale issue within the County. **Motion to approve posting the RFQ for HR Consulting Services: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/1) Jeff Gilbert opposed.**
13. **Memorandum of Agreement – NCEU** – New cameras were installed at the jail in December 2024. The union came forward and requested impact bargaining over a change in the working conditions. An agreement was established between the County and Union through negotiations on the use of these cameras. **Motion to sign Memorandum and Agreement between the County and the NCEU regarding electronic monitoring: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
14. **Road Postings** – Due to the warm weather and rain on the way Administration is requesting that the Road Supervisor be authorized to post the roads when neighboring towns are posting their roads. **Motion to authorize the Road Supervisor to post the roads when surrounding towns roads are being posted. Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
15. **Probate Court – Billing** – Judge Joly questioned charges to the probate legal fees line regarding the personnel issue that occurred in September/October, 2024. **Motion to remove charges from the probate legal fees line to County legal line: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/1) Bob Carlton opposed.**
16. **Strategic Planning Invoice** – Commissioner Saviello requested information regarding the Strategic Planning Invoice Payment to the Mejorado Group. The invoice was charged off to Countywide Advertising. Amy discussed allocated funds indicating that they were the reserve funds and also the general fund. **No Motion Required.**

17. **Letter of Support for the Arnold Trail Snowmobile Club** – Stephen St. Jean reached out to Commissioner Carlton requesting a letter of support for the Arnold Trail Snowmobile Club’s application for a grant to construct a groomer shed through the Northern Border Commission. **Motion to approve and send letter of support of the Arnold Trail Snowmobile Club: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Commissioner Meeting Operation and Ground Rules** – The Commissioners reviewed and revised the proposed Commissioner Meeting Operation and Ground Rules that were presented to them at the February 18, 2024, meeting. **Move to accept the Commissioner Meeting Operation and Ground Rules as presented. Noting that they are able to amend them at any time: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

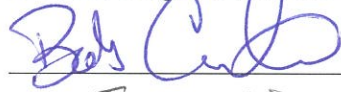
1. Commissioner Fowler’ requested that his Motion to develop a letter to the regional representatives, Maine Legislature and the Governor requesting consideration to meet to discuss the ability to have an expanded judicial building in Franklin County at the February 18, 2025 meeting be put on hold until we can find the most strategic way to have the Maine Judicial system look at our County Courthouse and come up with a longer range plan than what we have. An open meeting with Commissioner Saviello, Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Fowler, the District Attorney and Judge Joly to brainstorm ideas for a long-range plan for the Courthouse was discussed.
2. The County received an Invoice from Creative Office Solutions for \$88,000 for the office furniture for the new EOC Building. We currently have a remaining budget of \$65,000 for these costs. The Administrator is requesting that the Chair sign the Invoice for Creative Office Solutions and authorization to utilize the building reserve account for the county and the equipment reserve account for the sheriff to purchase the remaining office furniture in the amount of approximately \$20,000. **Motion to use \$20,000 in ARPA interest to pay for the soft costs line for the new EOC Building and authorize the Chair to sign the Invoice from Creative Office Solutions: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
3. Commissioner Saviello requested Jamie to e-mail the Commissioners the proposed schedule for future meetings.
4. Commissioner Saviello had requested information regarding the budget committee along with an expected timeline for the budget process.
5. Commissioner Fowler suggested paying mileage to Budget Committee members who live over ten miles away.
6. Commissioner Salary Workshop was rescheduled to March 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

7. Commissioner Skolfield requested that the website be changed from "The Foothills of Maine" to the "High Peaks Region of Maine".
8. Commissioner Skolfield requested business cards for the Commissioners.
9. Commissioner Saviello will be hosting a public meeting training with Judy Meyer. He has invited all to attend.
10. Commissioner Carlton indicated that the month of March was going to be extremely busy, with moving, renovating, window replacements, and its budget season. He suggested a timeline of how the budget process works from beginning to end.
11. Commissioner Saviello gave an update on the MCCA and legislation.
12. Commissioner Saviello suggested that the EMA Radio room be utilized as the Judge's Chambers.
13. A Discussion was had regarding the renovations/construction at the Courthouse. Commissioner Saviello's personal opinion was that we go out to bid on the electrical work. Commissioner Saviello stated that we are required to get a permit from the Fire Marshall, however, not required to get a permit from the Town.
14. Commissioner Fowler had a work session for the Sandy River Association. The plan is to hold a series of public business sessions for each one of the districts. He requested feedback from the board to go about that.

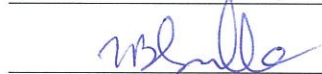
**WARRANTS: UT, County AP, TIF and Payroll – Motion to sign Warrants: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0)**

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0)**

**A recording is available for this meeting.**











FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:  CLERK