

Minutes

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

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting

April 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience (Present): Amanda Simoneau, Jake Nichols, Susan Pratt, Ryan Close, Nathan Hiltz, Louise Hiltz, Jake Ducharme, Robert Lightbody, Earl Martin, Nick Palmer, Margot Joly, Brad Timberlake, David St.Laurent, David Rackliffe, Heidi Jordan, Susan Black Sarah Caton, Steve Lowell, Scott Nichols, Donna Perry, Charlie Woodworth, Tim Hardy, Janice Walker, Tara Marble, Beth Wright, Craig Zurhorst, Dustin Richards, Bobby White, Rebecca Gage, Noelle Coyne, Leslie Ogilvie, Meg Hatch, Corie Willard, Renee Whitely, Nick Rawley, Pamela Prodan, Mt. Blue T.V., Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, Jamie Sullivan and Brenda Bittle.

Audience (Zoom): Marc Roy, Neil McLean, AAG, and Kerry Chasteen

RECOGNITION: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Courthouse Remodel – Electrical Bid Review/Award** – Two bids were received for the electrical work to be done at the Courthouse, IEC for \$27,249 and Adrenaline Electric for \$26,000. **Move to go with the lowest bidder, provided they meet all the criteria established by the County Administrator: Tom Skolfield/Jeff Gilbert (5/0).**
- 2. Quick Stream Bridge, Reed Road, Salem Township – Bid Review/Award** – Steve Govoni, President of Wentworth Partners and Associates, presented bids for the replacement of the Quick Stream, Reed Road, Salem Township bridge. Four bids were submitted. Wyman & Simpson for \$1,124,44, Fenwick Constructions for \$1,196,474.78, Jordan Excavation \$966,000 and New England Infrastructure for \$2,998,000. **Motion to accept the lowest bidder after being reviewed by the Administrator, Road Agent and the Engineer provided all criteria is met Bob Carlton/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

3. **HR Consulting Bid Review (open and schedule interviews)** – The Commissioners had requested that the County go out to bid for an HR Consultant to provide a workplace culture assessment. Ten bids were received: MGT Consulting for \$31,500, Roman Three Operations for \$14,500 plus travel, Mejorando Group for \$29,250, Abbott Advantage for \$25,000, Government Leadership Solutions for an hourly rate, Steven Francek for \$23,975, Clarity Scientific for \$29,192, BMC Management Consultants for \$25,000, Simplify for \$39,625 and Barkwell Group for \$12,000. **Move to have the HR Director review the bids to see if they meet the criteria and schedule interviews: Tom Skolfield/Jeff Gilbert (5/0).** Tom Saviello and Tom Skolfield requested to be part of the interview group. Amy suggested all Commissioners sit in on the interviews. Commissioner Fowler indicated that he thought it would be difficult to get all Commissioners ready to interview the candidates. He stated that he trusted Tom and Tom to work with the HR Director. Commissioner Carlton requested that anyone interested be part of the interview group.
4. **MCCA On-site Meeting in July** – Andre Cushing, President of the MCCA requested that the MCCA meeting in July be held at the Emergency Operations Center. **Move to hold MCCA meeting in July at the Emergency Operations Center: Tom Skolfield/Jeff Gilbert (5/0)**
5. **Commissioner Meeting – April 15, 2025** – Commissioner Carlton and the County Administrator will be on vacation during the week of April 14, 2025, and will be unable to attend the Commissioners Meeting on the April 15, 2025. **Motion to stay with the Commissioner's Meeting on April 15, 2025: Tom Saviello/ Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
6. **Summerfest – Use of parking lot on July 26, 2025** – Susan Terese, requested permission to use the Employees Parking Lot on July 26th, 2025, for the Summer Fest vendors. They requested to be able to allow vendors to set up after closing hours on Friday the 25th. **Move to allow use of the parking lot on July 26, 2025, for Summer Fest: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
7. **Sheriff's Office - Scheduling Software** – The Sheriff's Office is looking for Permission for the Sheriff to enter into contract with Power Time, a subsidiary of Power DMS, a timekeeping and scheduling software. This software program would eliminate the use of paper timesheets. **Motion to authorize the Sheriff to sign a three-year contract on behalf of the County for the Power DMS scheduling software: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
8. **Motion to move Old Business, Miscellaneous and Warrants to Item 8 and Item 8, FY2026 Budget to Item 9: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

OLD BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

- A. Nathan Hiltz questioned whether the Members of the Budget Committee would be selected for staggered terms as set forth in LD1350 and if the terms would be shared with the public. Commissioner Saviello indicated that the language in the statute states that "Each Commissioner district has 2 permanent members. Members serve for 3-year terms. There is a rotating member who serves a one-

year term, selected in 2025 by Commissioner District One, selected in 2026 by Commissioner District Two, selected in 2027 by Commissioner District Three, selected in 2028 by Commissioner District Four, selected in 2029 by Commissioner District Five and selected in 2030 and succeeding years in the same order as the first 5 years under this paragraph. If a committee member ceases to be a municipal officer during the term of membership, the committee member shall resign the membership, and the next district caucus shall elect a qualified municipal officer to fill the membership for the remainder of the unexpired term.” The Administrator indicated that she thought that there would be staggered terms, however that was not what made it into the statute. Mr. Hilton discussed “unallocated language/allocated language” as it pertains to law. Commissioner Saviello also indicated that he would look into this matter. Commissioner Skolfield suggested that the eleventh member of the Budget Committee be from the Unorganized Territories and that they caucus separately to choose a member. **Motion for Commissioner Saviello to review the law and understand why it comes into place and begin the conversations with our Legislation Delegation to change the term limits: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

- B. Commissioner Fowler provided a ten-year history of funding per department. Amy will add an additional five years to be able to look at the trends when discussing the budget and spending in the County. He also has requested that Amy provide the valuation for the Towns over the last 10 years.**
- C. Treasurer’s Report – Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
- D. Minutes – Motion to accept the Minutes of March 18, 2025: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
- E. Motion for County to be the Fiscal Agent for the Sandy River Association Forums that will be held in the spring: Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
- F. Motion for the County to pay for the cost of Mt. Blue T.V. for filming the Sandy River Association Forums: Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (5/0)**
- G. Administrator’s Report – Motion to accept the Administrator’s Report: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
- H. Warrants - County AP, UT and ARPA Warrant - Motion to sign the Warrants: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

9. FY2026 Budget

- A. 10 – EMA – Motion to accept EMA FY2026 Budget as presented: Fen Fowler/Bob Carlton (4/1) Tom Saviello opposed.**
- B. 15 – District Attorney - Motion to accept District Attorney FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (4/1) Tom Saviello opposed.**
- C. 16 - Superior Court - Motion to accept Superior Court FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**

- D. 20 – Commissioner’s Office - Motion to accept Commissioner’s Office FY2026 Budget as presented: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield.** Commissioner Skolfield stated that he wanted to give the Chair a stipend of \$1,200 due to having additional responsibilities. Commissioner Fowler accepted Commissioner Skolfield Amendment to the Motion. **Motion to Amend Motion: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield: (3/1/1) Tom Saviello opposed; Bob Carlton abstained.**
- E. 25 – Treasurer’s Office - Motion to accept Treasurer’s FY2026 Budget as presented: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/1) Tom Saviello opposed.**
- F. 30 – Technical Services - Motion to accept Technical Services FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello.** It was requested to add \$700 to the services line (line 7259) for services provided by Mt. Blue T.V. to record and broadcast the Sandy River Association Forums. **Motion to Amend to include \$700 to the services line (line 7259) for services provided by Mt. Blue T.V. to record and broadcast the Sandy River Association Forums: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
- G. 40 – Facilities - Motion to accept Facilities FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (4/1) Tom Saviello opposed.**
- H. 65 – Registry of Deeds - Motion to accept Registry of Deeds FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
- I. 70 – Registry of Probate - Motion to accept Probates FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
- J. 75 – Sheriff’s Department - Motion to accept Sheriff’s Department FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield, Motion to Amend Motion to accept to Sheriff’s Department FY2026 Budget as presented to buy three vehicles one vehicle to be funded through the Reserve Account and two through the budget: Bob Carlton/Fen Fowler (5/0). Motion to Amend to include the Chief, Lieutenant and two supervisors to receive a 10% stipend based on their salary to recognize the risk they take when coming to work (Non Standard Pay), using the 2026 Department Head Numbers: Elected Official \$107,889 plus 10%, Department Deputy Head \$101,229 plus 10%, Lieutenant \$184,234 plus 10%, an increase of \$39,335.29 amended to include payroll taxes and Maine PERS \$47,536: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (2/3) Bob Carlton, Jeff Gilbert and Fen Fowler opposed. Motion to accept Sheriff’s Department FY2026 Budget as Amended: Bob Carlton/Fen Fowler (4/1) Tom Saviello opposed.**
- K. 80 – Communications - Motion to accept Communications FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
- L. County-Wide – Motion to approve County-Wide FY2026 Budget in the amount of \$694,145 as proposed: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
- i. Other Expenditures**
 - ii. Program Grants**
 - a. Franklin County Extension Association – Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$69,885: Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
 - b. Franklin County Soil & Water - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$37,500: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

- c. Franklin County Task Force - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$15,000: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- d. Franklin County Adult and Community Education - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$1: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- c. Western Maine Community Action - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$55,850: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- f. Seniors Plus - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$40,000: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- g. SAPARS - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$20,000: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).
- h. Andwell Health Partners - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$37,500: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).
- i. Greater Franklin Development Corp. - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$1: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- j. Franklin County Firemen's Association - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$3,700: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- k. Western Maine Transportation - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$40,000: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- l. Safe Voices - Motion to approve funding for FY2026 in the amount of \$25,000, funds are to be earmarked for Franklin County: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
- iii. Debt Services Principal– Motion to approve Debt Services Principal in the amount of \$46,319: Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (5/0).
- iv. Debt Services Interest – Motion to approve Debt Services Interest in the amount of \$3,689: Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (5/0).
- M. Jail - Motion to accept the Jail's FY2026 Budget as presented: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).

OLD BUSINESS: None

Executive Session 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Complaint - Motion to enter into Executive Session 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter at 3:27 p.m. Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0).

Motion to end Executive Session 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Complaint – at 3:46 p.m.: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0) – No Action Taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 3:50 p.m.: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.

Thomas W. Thompson
2nd Vice
Bill & Lu
Hunt

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: Amy L. Burt, CLERK