

Minutes

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

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting September 2, 2025

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

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Scott Nichols, Donna Perry, Ryan Close, Hart Daley, Marin Hainley, Nathan Hiltz, LeeAnna Lavioe, Brad Timberlake, Susan Black, Heidi Jordan, David St. Laurent, Sue Pratt, William Gilmore, Dave Bryant, David Rackliffe, Jake Nichols, Pam Prodan, Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: Eric Geisman, Sr.

RECOGNITION:

1. **Communications** – Brad Timberlake, Communications Director, recognized Marin Hainley as the Employee of the 2nd Quarter for 2025. Marin continues to go above and beyond her role as a night shift emergency communications specialist. Marin obtains a strong work ethic, is reliable, dependable, flexible, professional and has a positive attitude. Congratulations Marin Hainley.

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Administrator's Report – Motion to accept the Administrator's Report:** Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello, Amend Motion to accept and approve the Administrator's Report (5/0).
2. **Minutes – Motion to accept the Minutes of August 19, 2025, as presented:** Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (4/0) Commissioner Saviello abstained.
3. **Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report:** Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
4. **UT Report on Roads and Bridges – Motion to accept the UT Report:** Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).
5. **COSSUP Grant Update** – Sargent Close and LeeAnna Lavoie Director, MaineHealth Healthy Community Coalition updated the Board regarding the COSSUP Grant.
 - The grant award was one million dollars, to-date, they have spent \$147,629, 15% of the total award, which covers the two corrections officer's salaries, the medical director stipend, the administrative stipend and the program and reentry coordinator.

- To date they have administered 14 extended-release Bupropion shots with the anticipation of giving more. This process is proving to be successful so far.
- The anticipated construction completion of the jail medical addition will be closer to the end of the year.
- Grant allows data to be tracked. Looking at mental health and substance abuse disorder within the jail and when they are released.
- Sheriff Nichols indicated that for the past two months the jail has been overcrowded. As of today, we have 13 inmates being housed at the Somerset County Jail for \$90 per day, per inmate. He stated that he will be looking into a federal grant to help cover the cost of potentially adding on a “pod” to hold additional inmates. The jail capacity is 39 inmates.

6. Emergency Maintenance Services:

- a) **On-Call Mechanical Services Bid(s)**
- b) **On-Call Plumbing Services Bid(s)**
- c) **On-Call Electrical Services Bid(s)**
- d) **On-Call General Contractor Bid(s)**

Motion to go back out to bid for on-call Mechanical Services, Plumbing Services and General Contractor: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Motion to open the on-call electrical services bids Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Electrical Bids:

- i. **Adrenaline Electric:** Master Electrician - \$65 per hour, helper - \$35, emergency calls are billed at time and a half above the hourly rate, materials are billed out with a 30% markup.
- ii. **IEC:** \$85 per hour, emergency calls \$127.50 and materials are billed out with a 15% markup.
- iii. **E.S. Boulis Company:** Need more information, reach out to company for clarification.

Motion to Table: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

7. Website Design Bid(s) – Motion to allow Administrator to open bids and put into a spreadsheet for evaluation: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

8. Plog Project – Stream Bank Stabilization Bid(s) – Four bids were received for the Sandy River stream bank stabilization project:

- a) **Fenwick Construction** – \$364,500
- b) **CCC Construction, LLC** – \$124,950
- c) **E.L. Vining & Sons** – \$228,577
- d) **Jordan Excavation** – \$248,090

Motion to turn bids over to the UT Road Supervisor to review bids and come back and make a recommendation: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

9. TIF:

- a) **Project Application** – A discussion was had regarding future projects, relating to similar stream bank stabilization projects. **Motion to Table: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).** Steps: Gather information – Buyout, Conversation with the Plogs, Review Contract with NRCS, and review bids.
- b) **Scholarship** – **Motion to approval TIF Committee’s recommendation to award \$6,800 to attend CDL Driving School: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

10. Sheriff's Office Requests:

- a) **Mobile Computers for Cruisers** – The Sheriff's office is requesting replacement of six mobile laptops. Three have recently failed. They have received three quotes: **Telrepco** - \$22,769, **ITS** - \$23,037.92 and **Rugged Depot** - \$24,603.96. **Motion to award the quote from Telrepco for \$22,769 to be paid out of the Sheriff's Capital Equipment Reserve Account: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
- b) **Thermal Monoculars** – The Sheriff's office is looking to purchase four thermal monoculars that will allow the deputies to see at night and in dark spaces. Some of them are beginning to fail and the batteries are not replaceable. They have received three quotes: **Jackson Hicks** - \$7,999.95, **West Marine** - \$9,570.05 and **Defender Marine** - \$9,580. **Motion to award the quote from Jackson Hicks for \$7,999.95 to be paid out of the Sheriff's Capital Equipment Reserve Account: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

- 11. Opioid Committee Structure** – Commissioner Saviello requested that this matter be put on the agenda. He indicated that the committee had been successfully restructured. He indicated that they had worked with the University of Maine to develop an objective scoring system. Commissioner Saviello would like to make some changes to the current structure of the committee. He would like to allow MaineHealth and the Sheriff's office to be able to apply for opioid funds, he would like Sue Pratt to become the facilitator of the Committee and be compensated as such and would like Jamie Sullivan to become a voting member of the committee. **Motion to allow Sue to become the facilitator and Jamie to become a voting member: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (No Vote).** Amy indicated that if the committee would like to make the changes, the Bylaws would need to be discussed and changed in a public meeting **Commissioner Skolfield rescinded his Motion, Commissioner Saville rescinded his second to the Motion. Motion to Table: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

Recess @ 12:06 p.m.

End Recess @ 12:17 p.m.

Executive Session 1 MRS 405(6)(D) Labor Negotiations: Teamsters

Motion to enter Executive Session 1 MRS 405(6)(D) Labor Negotiations: Teamsters at 12:18 p.m.: Bob Carlton/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

End Executive Session 1 MRS 405(6)(D) Labor Negotiations: Teamsters at 12:32 p.m.

Motion to ratify Contract with Teamsters as of August 17, 2025: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. **Legal Opinion – Authority to Reallocate County Funds After Budget Committee Reductions** – The Commissioners discussed the legal opinion provided by Attorney Libby

regarding the Counties authority to reallocate funds after the budget committee's reductions. There were some disagreements with respect to the interpretation of the letter and statute, and it was suggested by Commissioner Saviello to send the Attorney's legal opinion to the Attorney General for interpretation. He indicated that he would reach out to Russell Black to agree to send the request to the Attorney General. Commissioner Skolfield indicated that we should reach out to our legislative delegation to have the bill changed regarding the advisory committee being an advisory committee and not a legislative committee. Amy indicated that the Personnel Policy needs to be changed in order to not offer the benefits provided. **Motion to ask our Legislative Delegation, Senator Black, Senator Martin, Representative Sobileski, Representative Lyman, Representative Bunker and Representative Frost to present the Legal Opinion – Authority to Reallocate County Funds After Budget Committee Reductions to the Attorney General for review: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).** The packet is to include: letter to Attorney Libby, both responses from Attorney Libby and supporting documents.

2. **Legal Opinion – Reporting Structure of Elected Officials** – The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the legal opinion provided by Attorney Libby regarding the reporting structure of the elected officials. **No action required.**
3. **Mission Statements** – Pursuant to the request of the Commissioner, missioner and vision statements were provided by each department, except for the administration department and HR Department. **Motion for administration to prepare a Mission Statement: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (3/2) Commissioner Carlton and Commissioner Gilbert opposed.**
4. **HR Consulting Evaluation** – Commissioner Skolfield has requested this matter be on the agenda. He wanted to see where we were with this process. Prior to moving forward, it was requested that certain matters be completed: Commissioners' Mission and Vision Statement, Department's Mission and Vision Statement and reporting structure. Now that those items have been completed, we can move forward with the setting up interview the three potential proposals. The HR consulting evaluation was not budgeted for. **Motion to use ARPA interest to pay for the HR cultural evaluation: Tom Saviello/Fen Fowler (4/1) Jeff Gilbert opposed.**

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. **Jail Medical Expansion-Requisition** – Motion to authorize Sheriff Nicols to sign the Jail Medical requisitions throughout the entire project (5/0).
2. **LeeAnna Lavoie request that the Commissioner's tour the Recovery Center after a Commissioner's Meeting.** This will take place on October 7, 2025.
3. **Commissioner Saviello is working on the Pump Hydo Storage Project that is being done in Oxford County.** The company heading the project would like to speak at the next commissioner meeting.
4. **Commissioner Saviello requested that we not print off the entire packet for the meetings.**

WARRANTS: County AP, UT, ARPA and Payroll: Motion to sign Warrants: Tom Skolfield/Jeff Gilbert (5/0).

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.: Motion to adjourn: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.

Bob Calk
TP Sull
Thomas H. Saviello
Tom Skolfield

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: Angela B. [Signature], CLERK