

Minutes

Franklin County Budget Advisory Meeting May 7, 2025

PRESENT: Tiffany Maiuri, Rupert Pratt, Dennis O'Neil, Morgan Dunham, Dean Collins, Janet White, Jay Reynolds, Richard Morton, Michael Wells, Earl Martin, and LeeAnn Dalessandro.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V., Donna Perry, Nathan Hiltz, Tom Saviello, Fen Fowler, Bob Carlton, Jim Desjardins, Jeff Gilbert, Craig Zurhorst, Meg Hatch, Noelle Coyne, Rebecca Gage, Tara Marble, Laure Johnson, Sara Caton, Steve Lowell, Scott Nichols, Hart Daley, Susan Black, Heidi Jordan, Nick Palmer, Pam Prodan, Amy Bernard, Jamie Sullivan, and Brenda Bitle. Zoom: Tiffany Baker, Brad Timberlake and Jake Nichols

The meeting was called to order by Tiffany Maiuri at 4:30 p.m.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Opening Comments from Chairperson** – The Chair recommended that similar to the prior meeting, they discuss how they would approach the cuts, increases or alterations to the budget before they go department by department. LeeAnn Dalessandro – pass. Michael Wells – indicated that most of the Franklin County Budget is from payroll and benefits, he agreed with Budget Committee Member Pratt that you need to pay good people to keep good people. His concerns are restructuring and how it was formulated, noting that he has nothing to compare it to, the increase in expenses over the past 10 years and employee turnover. Earl Martin – pass. Morgan Dunham – indicated that this is her 7th year on the Budget Committee and it's the 1st time she's has been good with the Commissioner's Budget. Jay Reynolds – stated that it was his 1st year on the Budget Committee, and he sees some large raises and increases but understands that we are trying to equalize and keep employees but is happy with the budget at this time. Dean Collins – indicated that his concerns are the step increase, grade increase and COLA increase. He indicated that the economics of Franklin County is not rich enough to support some of these salaries offered. Richard Morton – indicated that he would like to see a reduction in the COLA to 2.5%, the part-time staff that is shared between the Treasurer's office and Commissioner's office could be eliminated, a reduction in the business services line in the Treasurer's Office

to \$30,000, he shared that he is skeptical of having two fulltime staff in the Technical Services Department and is unsure of the pay scale that is in place. Rupert Pratt – indicated that he only sees two large increases. His concern is that if they cut them, then, the cut won't happen where he thinks it should occur and someone deserving of a raise may not receive it. Janet White - indicated that her concerns are the step increase, grade increase and COLA increase. Dennis O'Neil – stated that he felt his job was to come and ask questions and understand the information that was provided to him. He believes he has worked diligently to understand the information that was given to him; however, he still has questions. In reviewing the Budget Summary, he understood that the budget was going up, however he was unsure how the jail and the unorganized territories played into that increase. He is not opposed to grades and steps within the salary structure, and he believes in COLA increases, however, he did not understand how we came up with the updates and adjustment to the grades within the structure. Tiffany Maiuri – indicated that she did not understand the step and grade process methodology, however she would have to trust the process. She indicated that she looked at different areas for savings within the budget.

The Chair discussed the voting process.

3. Initial Vote on Department Budgets, County Wide Services and Other Committee Proposed Considerations –

A. EMA – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$310,740: Morgan Dunham/Tiffany Maiuri (4/7) Janet White, Rupert Pratt, Richard Morton, Dennis O'Neil, Earl Martin, Michael Well, and LeeAnn Dalessandro opposed (failed). Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$268,137 (increase the FY2025 Budget by 4% to cover cost of living increases and pay increases): Michael Wells/Earl Martin, Amend Motion to a 4% increase of the FY2025 Personnel Budget Line, \$216,501 for a total FY2026 EMA Budget of \$280,351: Michael Wells/Earl Martin.

Motion to Move Vote: Tiffany Maiuri/Earl Martin (10/1).

Vote on Amended Motion to a 4% increase of the FY2025 Personnel Budget Line, \$216,501 for a total FY2026 EMA Budget of \$280,351: (5/6) Morgan Dunham, Jay Reynolds, Dennis Collin, Rupert Pratt, Dennis O'Neil and Tiffany Maiuri opposed (Fails).

Motion to adjust the Department Budget by decreasing the health insurance line by \$15,000 for a total FY2026 EMA Budget of \$295,740: Tiffany Maiuri/Earl Martin.

Amend Motion to decrease the health insurance line by \$15,000 and decrease the Deputy Department Head line by \$8,000 for a total FY2026 EMA Budget of \$286,740: Tiffany Maiuri/Dean Collins.

Amend Motion to decrease the health insurance line by \$15,000, decrease the Deputy Department Head line by \$8,000, decrease the payroll taxes line by \$804 and decrease the retirement line by \$920 for a total FY2026 EMA Budget of \$286,016: Tiffany Maiuri/Earl Martin (11/0) Unanimous.

B. District Attorney's Office – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$388,665: Dean Collins/Michael Wells.

Motion to move the question: Earl Martin/Dean Collin (11/0).

Vote on Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$388,665: (11/0) Unanimous.

C. Superior Court - Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$3,000: Morgan Dunham/LeeAnn Dalessandro (11/0) Unanimous.

D. Commissioner's Office – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$421,040 by not funding the part-time secretary position and reducing the additional stipend for the Commissioner Chair: Richard Morton/LeeAnn Dalessandro.

Richard Morton withdrew his Motion.

LeeAnn Dalessandro rescinded her second.

Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$400,000 by not funding the part-time secretary position, reducing the additional stipend for the Commissioner Chair, reducing the payroll taxes line and removing the 35% health insurance stipend the Commissioners receive out of the health insurance line: Rupert Pratt/Janet White.

Motion to move the vote: Michael Wells/LeeAnn Dalessandro (11/0).

Vote on Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$400,000 by not funding the part-time secretary position, reducing the additional stipend for the Commissioner Chair, reducing the payroll taxes line and removing the 35% health insurance stipend the Commissioners receive out of the health insurance line: (9/2) Morgan Dunham and Dennis O'Neil opposed.

E. Treasurer's Office – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$279,023: Morgan Dunham/Dean Collins (3/8) Tiffany Maiuri, Rupert Pratt, Dean Collins, Janet White, Richard Morton, Michael Wells, Earl Martin, and LeeAnn Dalessandro opposed.

Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$259,165 by not funding the part-time staff and reducing the business services line from \$40,000

to \$30,000: Richard Morton/Janet White (9/2) Rupert Pratt and Morgan Dunham opposed.

F. Technical Services – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$504,717 by decreasing the other professional services line by \$700: Dean Collin/Morgan Dunham (7/4) Dennis O’Neil, LeeAnn Dalessandro, Michael Wells and Morgan Dunham opposed.

G. Facilities – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$439,879: Morgan Dunham/Richard Morton (10/1) Michael Wells opposed.

H. Registry of Deeds – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$250,961: Michael Wells/Jay Reynolds (11/0) Unanimous.

I. Registry of Probate – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$329,782: Richard Morton/Morgan Dunham (11/0) Unanimous.

J. Sheriff’s Office - Motion to approve Department Head FY2026 Budget for \$3,139,143: Dean Collins/Janet White
Amend Motion to approve Commissioner’s FY2026 Budget for \$3,064,143: Dean Collins/Janet White (11/0) Unanimous.

K. Communications – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$1,396,668: Richard Morton/Michael Wells (11/0) Unanimous.

L. County Wide – Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$694,145 Tiffany Maiuri/Jay Reynolds.
Amend Motion to reduce Soil and Water Conservation by \$7,500 to \$30,000, resulting in a new County Wide FY2026 Budget of \$686,645: Tiffany Maiuri/Jay Reynolds (8/3) Rupert Pratt, LeeAnn Dalessandro and Michael Wells opposed.

M. Jail - Motion to approve FY2026 Budget for \$3,536,649: Jay Reynolds/Earl Martin (10/1) Michael Wells opposed.

4. Acceptance of Meeting of Minutes of April 30, 2025 – Motion to accept the April 30, 2025, meeting minutes: LeeAnn Dalessandro/Jay/Reynolds.

Motion to Amend the April 30, 2025, meeting minutes to indicate that Tiffany Maiuri will pay \$75.00, not has paid as indicated in the Opening Comments from the Chairperson: LeeAnn Dalessandro/Jay/Reynolds (11/0) Unanimous.

5. Confirmation of Public Hearing date and Venue Location – Public Hearing to be held on at 4:30 p.m. on May 21, 2025, at 120 County Way, Farmington, Maine.

6. Other Business – None

7. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.: Dean Collins/Jay Reynolds (11/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.