

Minutes

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

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting **January 13, 2026**

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

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Sue Pratt, David Rackliff, Jake Nichols, Pam Prodan, Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: Jason Grunndy, Gene Libby, Esq., Deeds, Marlene, Maureen Haley, and Jessica Westhaver, Parker Appraisals.

NOTICE OF TAX ABATEMENT APPEAL HEARING IN THE MATTER OF: *Petitioner Jason Grunndy v. Respondent Town of Phillips*

Mr. Grunndy argued two matters: He stated he is being taxed on having 2 and ½ bathrooms, when the property only has 1 full bathroom. This increases the building valuation by \$11,000. He also indicated that he is being assessed \$44,000 for a finished basement that the Town of Phillips stated was finished after he purchased the property in 2023. Mr. Gundy indicated that it is not a true fact as the basement was already finished when he purchased the property.

Jessica Westhaver, Parker Appraisals, speaking on behalf of the Town of Phillips, stated that they believed after reviewing similar properties in the Town of Phillips, they believed that Mr. Grunndy's property was fairly and equitably assessed. Ms. Westhaver indicated that they could only go off the information that they had available to them. They were unaware the property only had 1 full bathroom. She indicated that the base assessment of the property would be \$295,680, after making that change.

Motion to grant the abatement at an assessed value of \$295,680 for the building: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield

Amend motion to support the value of the property for approximately \$295,680: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Motion for Attorney Libby to prepare the Finding of Facts: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Administrator's Evaluation Procedure/Process** – A discussion was had regarding the process of evaluating the County Administrator. The Commissioners indicated that they would like to be able to provide comments and ratings based upon the job

description. Amy would also provide a written self-evaluation. They would meet in an executive session to discuss and review the information as a group. **Motion to have Tiffany develop a self-evaluation for Amy to complete and an appraisal for the commissioners to complete: Tom Saviello/Fen Fowler (5/0).**

2. **PLD Membership Matter** – Lorna Nichols requested that she be able to buy back her years at the county from MainePers. This has been an ongoing matter for the past four years. The auditors asked the county to provide a written record from the employees that were not receiving MainePers waiving that right and sign off on a notification. The prior board at that time picked and chose who they were going to offer MainePers to. The elected officials were not offered MainePers, however they never signed off on waiving their right to receive it. Because of that, a large penalty was incurred and had to be back to MainePers. At that time, Lorna asked the Commissioner to buy back her time. The County accepted responsibility for not properly offering Lorna membership in MainePERS and understand the amount the County contributed to an alternate retirement plan for Lorna plus related investment earnings will be rolled over by Lorna towards the County's portion of the cost for Lorna's back time and the County agrees to remit payment for any difference up to \$636.56. **Motion to allow Lorna to buy back her time and the County pay \$636.56 for its contribution from ARPA interest: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Commissioner Gilbert discussed a bill that will go before legislature, regarding Counties filing for bankruptcy and the implications it would have on bond ratings, loans, and municipalities. **Motion to provide written testimony on behalf of the Commissioners against Counties' ability to file bankruptcy and send alternative solutions: Tom Saviello/Bob Carlton (5/0).**
2. Commissioner Fowler asked which Commissioner's would be attending the Budget Advisory Committee's meeting on the 15th.
3. Commissioner Saviello indicated that he heard back from the Secretary of State regarding the Treasurer matter and will forward to Amy.
4. Commissioner Skolfield spoke with the Secretary of State. They have made changes to the district maps on the website.
5. Commissioner Skolfield requested Tiffay share the outcome of the meeting they had with the HR Consultant, Mr. Francek. She indicated that she submitted to the Attorney the suggested revisions to the contract. Mr. Francek requested that the County find a workaround for the cyber liability insurance coverage. He has agreed to obtain professional liability insurance. We are waiting to hear back from the Attorney to move forward.
6. A discussion was also had regarding contracts and our current RFP process.
7. Commissioner Saviello indicated that they had received the report from the Legislative Advisory Committee which included the report concerning the jails and what their recommendations were. He wanted to make sure Sheriff Nichols had the report.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 12:00 p.m.: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.

Bob Clegg
Thomas H. Dwyer

Jeff Lee

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: Angela L. Babb, CLERK