

Minutes

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

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting **January 20, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 1:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Sue Pratt, David Rackliff, Jake Nichols, Pam Prodan, Michelle St. Clair, Ryker Sampson, Hunter Lowell, Laurel Sampson, Steve Govoni, Earl Martin, Jacob Ricahrds, Ryan Close, Louise Hiltz, Steve Lowell, Shelly Lowell, Save Davol, Dave St. Laurent, Hart Daley, Brad Timberlake, Karen Rea, Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: Donna Perry, Deeds, Rebecca Gage, and Marc Roy.

RECOGNITION:

1. **Communications Employee of the Quarter** – Brad Timberlake, Communications Director, presented 3rd and 4th quarter Employee of the Quarter for 2025. Ryker Sampson was selected Employee for the 3rd Quarter. Brad indicated that Ryker began working as a Dispatcher in June 2025. He completed his training quickly and has demonstrated his ability to learn, retain information and continually grow. He is flexible, dependable, dedicated and has a positive attitude. Congratulations Ryker!

Hunter Lowell was selected for the Employee of the 4th Quarter. Hunter joined the Franklin County Regional Communication Center in June 2022. Hunter is experienced, knowledgeable, proficient, professional, and reliable. He too is flexible in his schedule to fill in the scheduling gaps when needed. He is an APCO Training Officer, he helps train new employees, he has a great sense of humor and provides support to coworkers who are struggling. Congratulations Hunter!

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Administrator's Report** – ARPA Interest is no longer needed to pay the County's contribution of \$636.56 to buyback Lorna's years of service from MainePers, **Motion to accept the Administrator's Report: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
Motion to hire Mackenzie McInnis and Thomas Robinson for Corrections: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).
2. **Minutes** – **Motion to approve the January 6, 2026, Minutes: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
3. **Treasurer's Report** – **Motion to have the Administrator contact the Maine Revenue Service and legislative delegation and ask where our money is: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report – Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

4. **Wentworth Partners & Associates – RFP Process for Quick Stream Bridge** – Steve Govoni, President from Wentworth Partners & Associates discussed when bid documents were sent out, when addendums were sent out, responses from companies who bid on the project. The project went out to bid three times. The second time the bid went out in January 2025, Wentworth Partners & Associates sent it to 13 companies. On February 23, 2025, it was discovered the Jordan Excavation was not included in the bidding process. A bid package went out for a third time in February 2025 which included being posted on the Franklin County website and MMA website. Bids were due March 28, 2025. The Final addendum for the project went out on March 25, 2025, and final questions regarding the bid proposal were received March 25, 2025. In an e-mail sent by Dirigo Bridge Company to the contractors on March 20, 2025, indicated they removed the cost of steel from their cost estimate. Dirgo also emailed Franklin County asking if they intended on making final payment. This went unanswered, due to not having the appropriate information and time to answer the question. Another addendum was sent out on March 25th indicating that Franklin County would be making final payment. The first estimate for steel was \$235,021. The County paid \$100,000 for a deposit on the steel. Wyman and Simpson incorporated the payment for the steel in their bid, Jordan Excavation did not. Wyman and Simpson ended up being the lowest bidder by \$6,200. Mr. Govoni argued that during the third bidding process, every contractor had the same information and addendums. Jordan Excavation has not been paid the remaining balance of the contract due to the matter of the steel. **Motion to pay out of the UT Budget \$111,000 and some change to Jordan Excavation: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0).** Lump sum bids were received by the contractors. The County thought by prebuying the steel in February, 2025 that the steel was paid for any balance due was going to come out of the contractor's costs. Mr. Govoni, indicated that he would pay Jordan Excavation or the County \$6,200. **Motion for Wentworth Partners and Associates to refund the UT \$6,200: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
5. **LD 2124 Discussion** – This bill reduces the percentage of transfer tax revenue received by the counties to be paid over to Maine State Housing Authority for the shelter operating housing subsidy. Susan Black indicated that she would like the MCCA to take the lead on this matter and testify against this bill. **Motion to prepare testimony to speak against LD 2124: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
6. **UT Road Inventory** – Robert Lightbody, UT Road Supervisor presented to the Commissioners a five-year Road Inventory, Maintenance & Improvement Plan. He stated in his report you will find an explanation as to why a five-year plan is important, how it's implemented and the methodology behind it. He projected some of the upcoming work that has already been budgeted or anticipated to be done. He provided a spreadsheet and rating system based upon roads most travelled, requiring the most emergency services to determine work priorities. He indicated that rating system did not consider spring conditions, which may affect the road ratings. **Motion to accept Road Inventory, Maintenance & Improvement Plan as a draft: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
7. **Review of Bank Reconciliations from July to December and Monthly Expenses Reports** – the Counties' accountant, Marc Roy, Blue Star Accounting presented the monthly bank reconciliations from July 2025 through December 2025 for the Commissioners to review and sign off on pursuant to recommendations provided by the

Auditor. Going forward, the Reconciliation Report will be provided each month for the Commissioners to review and acknowledge. Monthly Expense Report will also be provided to the Commissioner for their review and acknowledge. **No Action Required.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Inclement Weather Policy – Revision** – Pursuant to the Commissioner's request, the policy was revised to include additional news and media outlets where notices of delays and cancellations will be listed. In addition, a designee was added to the language in case the Administrator was not able to provide notifications. **Motion to approve the revised Inclement Weather Policy to include the added media outlets and designee language: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Commissioner Saviello indicated that the Budget Committee would be sending a letter to the Commissioners with requests. He also indicated that there would be a caucus for Farmington on the evening of January 27th and he would invite the two other towns in his district to attend.

WARRANTS: County AP, ARPA, Payroll & UT – Motion to sign Warrants: Jeff Gilbert/Fen Fowler (5/0).

WORKSHOP:

1. **Salary Structure** – Salary Structure discussion was moved to January 27, 2026, to be include in the Budget Advisory Committee Orientation.
2. **Treasurer – Elected verses Appointed** – Amy provided the Commissioners with the information provided by the Secretary of State to Commissioner Saviello, which outlined the two options the County has. One way is it can come from the Commissioner, and the other option is to get the signatures to be placed on the ballot. Commissioner Saviello would like to work with the Administrator to see what changes might take place if there was a full-time Treasurer. **Motion to for Commissioner Saviello to work with Amy develop a plan, providing scenarios, pros and cons: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton: (5/0).**
3. **Charter** – Commissioner Skolfield requested this matter be on the agenda. He indicated that this is a lengthy process and would like to come up with the pros and cons in having a Charter. Having a Charter clarifies the job duties of the Administrator and the Board. Amy suggested hiring a consulting firm to walk the County through this process, which will be timely and costly. Amy suggested looking into what the pros and cons would be to become a Charter, what the timeline would be, and the costs involved in having an in-depth discussion. **No Action Required.**

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 3:57 p.m.: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.

Bob C. Johnson

Thomas H. Stegeman

Jilly F. Duer

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: Angie L. Babb, CLERK