

Minutes

Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

The meeting was held via: Zoom

April 15, 2026

PRESENT: Richard Morton, Tiffany Maiuri, Scott Landry, Dennis O'Neil, Janet White, LeeAnn Dalessandro, Austin Foss, Rupert Pratt, Morgan Dunham, and Jay Reynolds.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Jake Nichols, Lee Ireland, Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Gilbert, Commissioner Fowler, Commissioner Saviello, Margot Joly, Nathan Hiltz, Louise Hiltz, Amy Bernard, and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Tiffany Maiuri at 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. Organizational Matters

- **Election of Chairperson for FY27** – Nomination for Richard Morton: Scott Landry/Janet White, Nomination for Rupert Pratt: Jay Reynolds/Morgan Dunham. Those in favor of Richard Morton: Tiffany Maiuri, Scott Landry, LeeAnn Dalessandro and Austin Foss. All in favor of Rupert Pratt: Janet White, Dennis O'Neil, Morgan Dunham, Jay Reynolds and Rupert Pratt. Rupert Pratt is the FY2027 Budget Advisory Committee Chair. LeeAnn Dalessandro questioned if there could be a Vice Chair. Rupert Pratt indicated that he did not see any issues, as long as that is what the committee wanted. Motion to have a vice chair from the previous president: LeeAnn Dalessandro/Tiffany Maiuri, Tiffany Maiuri nominated Richard Morton Jay Reynolds seconded (9/0/1) Richard Morton abstained.
- **Committee Member Introductions** - Members of the Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee include: District 1 – Tiffany Maiuri, Wilton, Austin Foss, Temple, District 2 – Dennis O'Neil, Farmington, Richard Morton, Farmington, Scott Landry, Farmington, District 3 – Rupert Pratt, Strong, Janet White, Phillips, District 4 – Jay Reynolds, Carrabassett Valley, Morgan Dunham, Kingfield, District 5 – LeeAnn Dalessandro, Jay and Tom Goding, Jay (not present).

3. Budget Review Preparation

- **Disbursement of Budget Books (if not already picked up)**
- **Opening Comments from the Chairperson: Welcome everyone and thank you for serving.** Rupert Pratt welcomed and thanked everyone for putting the time in to go through the budget process.

- **Meeting Protocols** – Rupert asked that everyone be respectful of one another during this process.

4. **Statutory Budget Process under MRSA 30-A, Article 9: FRANKLIN COUNTY BUDGET § 874**

Budget Procedures:

- A. Budget procedures – The Franklin County Commissioners shall submit itemized finance estimates in the form of a budget to the advisory committee no later than 60 days before the end of the county’s fiscal year. [PL 1991, c. 495 (NEW).]
- B. Budget review process – The advisory committee shall review the itemized budget prepared by the county commissioners, together with any supplementary material prepared by the head of each department or provided by any independent board or institution or another governmental agency. The advisory committee shall prepare a proposed budget and may increase, decrease or alter the estimated budget as long as:
 - A. The advisory committee enters into its minutes an explanation for any suggested change in the estimated expenditures and revenues as initially presented by the county commissioners; and [PL 1991, c. 495 (NEW).]
 - B. In the proposed budget, the total estimated revenues, together with the amount of county tax to be levied, equal the total estimated expenditures. [PL 1991, c. 495 (NEW).]
- C. Public hearing – The advisory committee shall hold a public hearing in the county on the proposed budget before the end of the county’s fiscal year and before the adoption of the budget. Notice of the hearing must be given in all newspapers of general circulation within the county at least 10 days before the hearing. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent or delivered to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the proposed budget. [PL 2023, c. 87, § 11 (AMD).]
- D. Finality of the budget – After the public hearing is completed, the advisory committee shall adopt the final budget and transmit that budget to the county commissioners. The county commissioners may not further increase, decrease alter or revise the budget adopted by the advisory committee, except by a 3/5 vote of the entire membership of the county commissioners. If the adopted budget is changed by the county commissioners, the advisory committee may reject that change by a 2/3 vote of its membership. Those actions are final and are not subject to further action by either the county commissioners or the advisory committee.

Rupert Reviewed the above processes with the committee. A discussion was held regarding the collaboration process being carried out this year between the Commissioners and the Budget Advisory Committee. A discussion was also had with respect to the language in the statute regarding: “The Franklin County Commissioners shall submit itemized finance estimates in the form of a budget to the advisory committee no later than 60 days before the end of the county’s fiscal year.” The County Administrator indicated that she believed the intent was to present something to the Budget Committee. She indicated that the Budget Committee would need to make a motion to accept the Commissioners’ recommended budget would be late. **Motion to accept the itemized budget from the Commissioners no later than May 5, 2026:**

