

Minutes

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

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting

April 7, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 9:08 a.m.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Earl Martin, Nathan Hiltz, Sue Pratt, Jake Nichols, Pam Prodan, Lee Ireland, Janis Walker, Laurie Johnson, Noelle Coyne, Sue Black, Heidi Jordan, Rebecca Gage, Nancy Allen, Nick Rowley, Hart Daley, Robert Lightbody, David St. Laurent, Steve Lowell, Tamra Benson, Katheryn Mardosa, Mary Redman-Luce, Raleigh Blanchet, Sarah Caton, Jake Duscharme, Scott Nichols, Richard Morton, David Rackliffe, Amy Bernard, Shawn O'Leary, Karen Rea, and Jamie Sullivan.

Zoom: Katrina Gacki, Kristen Filbreck, Marc Roy, Donna Perry and Craig Zohurst

RECOGNITION: Jail Recognition – Major Hart Daley recognized members of his staff: The food services staff at the Detention Center, **Eric Geisman, Sr.**, **Tanis Carr** and **Lisa Davis**, for their commitment to excellence. They play a critical role in the daily operations at the facility, the three of them are responsible for providing three meals per day for the inmate population. They ensure that the inmates receive proper nutrition and adequate portions. By meeting the inmates' nutritional needs helps reduce tension and contribute to a safe work environment for the corrections officers. Officer of the First Quarter for 2026, **Eric Geisman, Jr.** Sergeant Geisman has taken on several challenges over the past several months. He has ensured that the transportation of inmates has been done safely and efficiently to Somerset County Jail while construction was taking place. He resolved issues regarding improperly entered SBI Fingerprint Records, he has handled personal matters with professionalism and discretion and has demonstrated strong leadership qualities. Sargeant Geisman also addressed a significant safety matter concerning the misuse and diversion of coffee within the inmate population. The Sheriff's Lifesaving Metal was presented to **Caleb Hutchinson** for an incident that occurred in October 2024. While having breakfast with some fellow staff members, a co-worker began choking. Officer Hutchinson responded without hesitation. He calmly and effectively performed the Heimlich maneuver. His prompt and skilled actions successfully cleared the airway. His conduct reflects the highest standard of public service. His action directly resulted in the preservation of human life. He demonstrated composure and exemplary judgment. **Congratulations and thank you to all of you.** The kitchen staff provided the audience with desserts made from scratch.

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Administrator's Report – Motion to accept the Administrator's Report: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
Motion to approve the hiring of Star Thibodeau for the Trial Assistant II position at the District Attorney's Office: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).
A conversation was held regarding storage space at the courthouse for the Probate Court and the lack thereof. **Motion to establish a Probate Storage Reserve Fund for the purpose of setting aside funds to address future storage needs and related expenses for the Probate Office: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
2. **Minutes – Motion to accept the March 3, 2026, March 6, 2026, March 17, 2026, March 25, 2026, and April 2, 2026, Minutes: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
3. **Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
4. **Salary Discussion – Elected Officials** – Susan Black and Heidi Jordan spoke regarding the elected official being removed from the salary structure by vote of Commissioners in March 2025. They indicated that due to being taken off the structure last year resulting in a reduction in salary of \$6,320 for the Probate Register and \$6,825 for the Register of Deeds. They are requesting to be placed back on the Non-union Salary Structure and resetting their salaries. The Commissioner's request that additional research be done and additional analysis be completed. **Motion to Table: Bob Carlton/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
5. **Senior's Plus – Present FY2027 Request** - -- The Commissioner's had the opportunity to listen to Senior's Plus present their organization's request for funds. They are requesting \$40,000 for their Wilton Office.
6. **Tamra Benson - Community Resilience Director, Center for Ecology-Based Economy – Update** – Tamara Benson provided regarding the Commissioners vote to have a few townships participate in the CRP. Madrid, Salem and Freeman are working with CEB and Wyman Township is working with AVCOG. The main concerns have been flooding, warming and cooling centers. The Sandy River Geomorphic Study was discussed. They are looking for two communities to work together for the study. Two communities working together would generate \$175,000 in funding for the study. There is another opportunity for community action grant funding. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2026.
7. **FY2027 Budget Review Process** – Commissioner Fowler requested to move the Department Head budget forward to the Budget Advisory Committee and collaborate with the Budget Advisory Committee to listen to and ask questions together of the department heads and the non-profits, before the Commissioners vote out the budget. Commissioner Fowler indicated that this is what Farmington does and the process has worked well. Richard Morton indicated that the Farmington process does work well, but the process as a whole starts at the same time. He was concerned about the timing. The department heads and nonprofits presented their budgets to the Commissioners on March 25, 2026. Nathan Hiltz indicated that he was not clear what the board was voting on. He asked the Commissioners to review the Statute. Commissioner Carlton indicated that he was not in favor of this process He would like to be able to review and make cuts to the budget before it is presented to the Budget Committee. He stated that the process had already begun. He also indicated he is willing to work with the Budget Committee. **Motion to forward Department Head budget as revised by the Administrator to the Budget Committee:**

Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (3/2) Commissioner Carlton and Commissioner Gilbert opposed.

8. FY2027 Budget

- A. 10 – EMA
- B. 15 – District Attorney
- C. 16 - Superior Court
- D. 20 – Commissioner’s Office
- E. 25 – Treasurer’s Office
- F. 30 – Technical Services
- G. 40 – Facilities
- H. 65 – Registry of Deeds
- I. 70 – Registry of Probate
- J. 75 – Sheriff’s Office
- K. 80 – Communications
- L. 100 - Jail
- M. County-Wide
 - i. Other Expenditures
 - ii. Program Grants
 - a. Care and Share Food Pantry
 - b. Franklin County Extension Association
 - c. Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation
 - d. Franklin County Children’s Task Force
 - e. Franklin County Adult and Community Education
 - f. Western Maine Community Action
 - g. Seniors Plus
 - h. SAPARS
 - i. Andwell Health Partners
 - j. Greater Franklin Development Corp.
 - k. Franklin County Firemen’s Association
 - l. Western Maine Transportation
 - m. Safe Voices
 - n. Franklin County Healthy Community Coalition
 - ii. Debt Services Principal
 - iii. Debt Services Interest

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

- 9. **Jail – Donation from Tiffany Maiuri –** Tiffany Maiuri would like to personally donate a brand-new stand-up desk to the jail. **Motion to accept donation from Tiffany Maiuri: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
- 10. **Audit – Engagement Letter for Year Ending June 30, 2026 –** The County received the FY2026 Audit Letter from RHR Smith. The retainer is approximately \$4,000 more this year. **Motion to sign the letter: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield, amend motion to post-sign the letter by the Treasurer: (5/0).**

11. Plog – Sandy River Stabilization Project – Open Bids – Five bids were received for the Plog – Sandy River Stabilization Project: GZA out of South Portland - \$8,500, TRC out of Portland - \$8,700, Jones Associates - \$12,000, Acorn Engineering - \$13,950, Main-Land out of Livermore Falls - \$21,700. **Motion to have Bob Lightbody look over and make a recommendation: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield, Commissioner Saviello withdrew his motion. Motion to authorize our Road Agent, Bob Lightbody, to make a determination from the bids submitted as to the best vendor possible to proceed, based on money and availability: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Madrid Pit – IEC Invoice** – The Commissioners authorize IEC to perform the electrical work at the Madrid Gravel Pit for an estimated cost of \$6,950 to be paid out of the Unorganized Territory Reserve Fund for Roads and Bridges. The work has been completed, and a final bill was received for \$7,814.53. The overage was due to additional labor. **Motion to pay IEC \$864.53 out of the Unorganized Territory Reserve Fund for Roads and Bridges: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
- 2. February Reconciliation Report – Sign-Off** – **Motion to sign off on the February Reconciliation Report: Fen Fowler/Jeff Gilbert (5/0).**

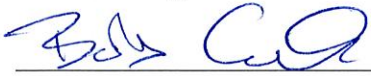
MISCELLANEOUS:

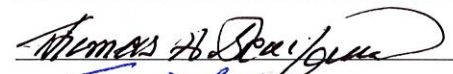
- 1. Nonprofits** – Commissioner Saviello indicated that the Board needs to consider clear criteria for nonprofit request for funds.


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

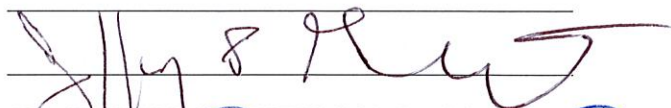
ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 11:42 a.m.: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (5/0).


A recording is available for this meeting.









FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ATTEST: , CLERK