

Minutes

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

The meeting was held via: Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting
May 5, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 8:30 a.m.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Jake Nichols, Lee Ireland, Nathan Hiltz, Susan Pratt, Renee Whitley, Sue Black, Heidi Jordan, Craig Zohurst, Janis Walker, Sara Caton, Jake Ducharme, Amanda Simoneau, Scott Nichols, Hart Daley, Steve Lowell, Shelly Lowell, Hunter Lowell, Tara Marble, Noelle Coyne, Ericka Buote, Rebecca Gage, Caroline Verrill, Jess Boulay, Amy Bernard, Karen Rea, and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: Christine Meyer, Donna Perry, Katrina Gacki, Lauren Rocinson, Dustin Richards, LeeAnna Lavoie, and Marc Roy .

Executive Session: 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Administrator’s Contract

Motion to enter into Executive Session: 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Administrator’s Contract at 8:30 a.m.: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Motion to end Executive Session: 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Administrator’s Contract at 9:07 a.m.: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0).

Motion to send employment agreement out for legal review: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0)

RECOGNITION: Communications – Promotion of Hunter Lowell – Hunter Lowell has been promoted to Supervisor at the Communications Center. Major Daley indicated that Hunter has proven to be highly competent, extremely proficient and proficient. Congratulations Hunter on your new role.

Commissioner Gilbert thanked Governor Mills, the Selectmen of Jay, the Jay Town Manager, the Jay, Livermore, Livermore Falls Chamber of Commerce, Greater Franklin Economic Development for their role with bring the Data Center to Jay.

APPOINTMENTS: Sandy Wilbur – The Phillips Area Microloan Committee for a 3-year term – **Motion to appoint Sandy Wilbur for a 3-year term on the Phillips Area Microloan Committee: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**

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 Harley Farrar for the Dispatcher Position at the Communications Center: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).

Motion to approve the hiring of Julie Reichert for the Parttime Dispatcher Position at the Communications Center: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).

2. Minutes – **Motion to approve the April 7, 2026, April 15, 2026, and April 21, 2026, Minutes Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**

3. Treasurer's Report – **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

4. EMA and Fire Fighters – Infrastructure Discussion – Firefighters from several municipalities attended in follow up to the correspondence that was sent to the Commissioners a few months ago regarding their concerns with the Communications Center. Chief Hardy spoke about some of the concerns including working towards standardizing their run card (automatic mutual aid, a predetermined list of who gets dispatched for calls in certain towns or districts automatically to help provide coverage/mutual aid), protocols and processes are the same throughout the county for dispatchers to follow. Text paging (I Am Responding) is inconsistent. Multiple ways for receiving messages to first responders are necessary. The CAD System (Central Square) set up needs attention to function smoothly and all of the components to flow together. Commissioner Saviello requested Chief Hardy to attend the Commissioner Meeting on May 19, 2026, to discuss the priorities and costs affiliated with those priorities. Amanda Simoneau, EMA Director, spoke about her concerns regarding the Franklin County Communications Infrastructure. Enhancements and improvements are necessary for the safety of our first responders and community members. Concerns include dead spots, low reception, outdated radios, pagers, and antennas. Amanda spoke in support of conducting the Communications Study of the infrastructure in Franklin County and why it is necessary.

5. FY2027 Budget – Vote

Motion to Table: Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (2/3) Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Carlton and Commissioner Gilbert opposed.

Motion to move submit what has been presented to the budget committee to continue their process: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield

A discussion was held regarding any changes that were requested to be made by the department heads to the budget and the current budget process. **Commissioner Saviello withdrew his motion and Commissioner Skolfield withdrew his second.**

- A. 10 – EMA – **Motion to accept the budget as presented: Tom Saviello/Fen Fowler. Amend motion to fund the EMA Budget at \$342,520: Tom Saviello/Fen Fowler (5/0).**

- B. 15 - District Attorney – **Motion to fund the District Attorney budget at \$380,250: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

- C. 16 - Superior Court – **Motion to fund the Superior Court budget at \$3,000: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

- D. 20 - Commissioner's Office – Motion to accept the Commissioner's Office budget with the addition of \$600 stipend per annum for the Chair: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello.**

Amend motion to reduce line 20-7123, Website by \$8,000: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0). Amy recommended \$1,500 cut from line 20-7680, Equipment and Furniture, and \$500 cut from line 20-7115, meals.

Amend motion to reduce line 20-7680, Equipment and Furniture by \$1,500 and reduce line 20-7115, Meals by \$500: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Amend motion to increase line 20-7000 by \$600 per annum for the stipend for the Chair: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Friendly amendment to include the change in line 20-7050, Payroll Taxes.

Motion to fund the Commissioner's Office at \$461,823: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

- E. 25 - Treasurer's Office – Motion to fund the Treasurer's Office at \$320,674: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

- F. 30 - Technical Services - Motion to fund Technical Services at \$689,218: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

- G. 40 – Facilities – Amy suggested that line 40-7253, Building Repair and Maintenance be reduced by \$10,000 and line 42-7640 be reduced and ARPA interest be used to fund the camera and badge access project.**

Motion to reduce line 42-7640 to \$0 and use ARPA interest to fund the camera and badge access project: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Motion to fund Facilities at \$452,937: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

Motion to move to Agenda item 7 before proceeding with voting out the budget: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).

- H. 65 - Registry of Deeds – Motion to amend budget according to what has been suggested for the salary (\$70,050) and benefits: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (3/2) Commissioner Carlton and Commissioner Gilbert opposed.**

Motion to fund the Registry of Deeds at \$273,357: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

- I. 70 - Registry of Probate – Motion to amend budget according to what has been suggested for the salary (\$70,050), benefits: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/1) Commissioner Carlton opposed.**

- J. Motion to fund the Registry of Deeds at \$318,194: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

Note: Commissioner Saviello had to leave the meeting.

- K. 75 - Sheriff's Office – Motion to reduce line 75-7700 Vehicles from \$210,000 to \$140,000: Bob Carlton/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**

Motion to fund the Sheriff's Office at \$3,437,501: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).

- L. 80 – Communications – Motion to approve funding Communication at \$1,507,381: Bob Carlton/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**

- M. 100 – Jail – Motion to reduce line 100-7680, Equipment and Furniture to \$10,000: Bob Carlton/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**

Motion to fund the Jail at \$4,086,418: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/0).

N. 98 - County-Wide

- i. Other Expenditures – Personnel and Services – **Motion to reduce line 98-7224 and line 98-7249 to \$0.00 and use ARPA Interest to fund those projects: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/0).**
- ii. Program Grants
 - a. Care and Share Food Pantry – **Motion to approve funding in the amount of \$5,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (2/2) Commissioner Carlton and Commissioner Gilbert opposed. Motion to set aside \$20,000 all Franklin County food pantries** Commissioner Carlton indicated that this organization served the SAD 9 area. He would like to see the Towns support this organization. A discussion was held regarding food insecurities in Franklin County. Amy recommended that the Commissioners set aside a monetary amount for Franklin County Food Pantries. The organization would then submit an application, providing data as to how many people they are supporting, and Commissioners would decide who gets how much. **Motion to set \$20,000 aside for food pantries and allow them to apply: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
Motion to change the name of line 98-7854 to Franklin County Food Pantries: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/0).
 - b. Franklin County Extension Association – **Motion to approve funding at \$72,476: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - c. Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation - **Motion to approve funding at \$36,000: Fen Fowler/Bob Carlton (4/0).**
 - d. Franklin County Children’s Task Force - **Motion to approve funding at \$15,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - e. Franklin County Adult and Community Education - **Motion to approve funding at \$10,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - f. Western Maine Community Action - **Motion to approve funding at \$56,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - g. Seniors Plus - **Motion to approve funding at \$40,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - h. SAPARS - **Motion to approve funding at \$20,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - i. Andwell Health Partners - **Motion to approve funding at \$30,000: Fen Fowler/Skolfield (4/0).**
 - j. Greater Franklin Development Corp. - **Motion to approve funding at \$1.00: Fen Fowler/Skolfield (4/0).**
 - k. Franklin County Firemen’s Association - **Motion to approve funding at \$3,700: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - l. Western Maine Transportation - **Motion to approve funding at \$45,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
 - m. Safe Voices - **Motion to approve funding at \$25,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**

- n. Franklin County Healthy Community Coalition - **Motion to approve funding at \$25,000: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
- iii. Debt Services Principal – **Motion to approve funding at \$47,694: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
- iv. Debt Services Interest – **Motion to approve funding at \$2,314: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield.**

Motion to approve funding County-Wide in the amount of \$751,935: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).

- 6. Commissioner's Goals for the Board – A workshop is scheduled for June 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- 7. MainePERS – Sheriff's Office – Major Rackliffe has requested from the Commissioners to purchase up to 3.9 years of his service for his time that he worked for the ambulance service. There is no cost for the County, Major Rackliffe will pay out of pocket for this. **Motion to authorize employee B. David Rackliffe, Jr. to purchase up to 3.9903 years of service for employment with Med-Care Ambulance as Regular Plan AC service with Franklin County. The Purchase of this service is entirely the financial responsibility of the employee. The County will not participate in the purchase of this service in any way: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**

Motion to go back to Agenda item 5: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello

- 8. Civil Process – Mileage – The Sheriff's Office have been performing all of the civil process for the county. They are requesting that the mileage collected be transferred to the Sheriff's Office Vehicle Reserve Account. **Motion to authorize the transfer of Civil Service mileage fee revenue, through the cash receipting process, to the Sheriff's Office Vehicle Reserve Account: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
- 9. Abatement Appeal Hearing – Schedule – **Motion to schedule an Abatement Appeal Hearing for June 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
Motion to require all parties to provide supporting documents to the Commissioner's Office 7 working days prior to the hearing: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (4/0).
- 10. Communications – Console Project – **Motion to pay E-911 Fiber consult, Electrician, and Radion Consult not to exceed \$15,0000 from the Communications Equipment Reserve Account: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
- 11. Registry of Deeds – Per Diem Employee – Registry of Deeds is requesting to hire Cheryl Osborne per diem, to cover the department in the event the current per diem employee is unavailable. **Motion to hire a per diem employee for the Registry of Deeds: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton: (4/0).** **Motion to rehire Cheryl Osborne as a per diem employee for the Registry of Deeds: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/0).**
- 12. May 19, 2026, Commissioner's Meeting – Discuss – Due to staff being unavailable the following motion was made. **Motion to conduct the May 19, 2026, Commissioner Meeting as usual with the exception that it will not be held via Zoom and will instead be conducted in person only: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/0).**
- 13. March Reconciliation Report – Sign Off – **Motion to sign the Reconciliation Report: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/0).**

OLD BUSINESS:

Jail – Mobile Kitchen Unit – At the March 3, 2026, meeting the board authorized the use of funds to pay for the unit out of the jail building reserve account in the amount of \$15,045 for the rental of the mobile unit. The County received the invoice for the unit which included the delivery fee of \$7,100, which was higher than what was anticipated. Major Daley is requesting payment of \$4,100, to pay the remaining balance of the bill. **Motion to pay the remaining balance of \$4,100 for the mobile kitchen unit out of the Jail Building Reserve account.**


MISCELLANEOUS:

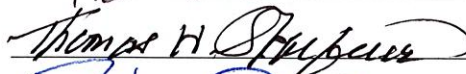
1. The Spirit of America ceremony will be held on March 19, 2026.


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

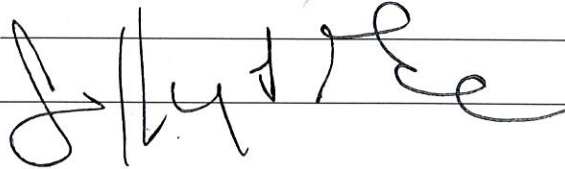
ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn at 12:54 p.m.: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.









FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:  CLERK