

Minutes

Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

The meeting was held via: Zoom

May 27, 2026

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

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Jake Nichols, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Saviello, Commissioner Gilbert, Nathan Hiltz, Louise Hiltz, Gary McGrane, Craig Zohurst, Amanda Simoneau, Tim Hardy, Earl Martin, Neil McLean, Sue Pratt, Hart Daley, Steve Lowell, Joe Terranova, Renee Whitley, Erica LaCroix, Rebecca Gage, Sarah Caton, Pam Prodan, Sarah Caton, Lauren Robinson, Scott Nichols, Shawn O'Leary, Amy Bernard, Karen Rea, and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: Tara Marble, Noelle Coyne and Laurie Johnson.

The meeting was called to order by Rupert Pratt at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing: **Open Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m.**
Proposed Budget for FY2027

- a. Superior Court – **No Comment**
- b. Emergency Management Agency – Nathan Hitz spoke referring to Title 30-A § 874 and ARPA interest. Commissioner Saviello referred to the legal opinion provided by the County Attorney with respect to the transfer of funds from other approved departmental line items and the contingency fund use. Richard Morton discussed the use of ARPA interest. Amy questioned where in the statute does it indicate that the Budget Committee has authority outside setting the budget or instructing the Commissioners to use different funds to accomplish tasks. She indicated that by cutting the study and advising the Commissioners to use ARPA interest to fund the study. It was suggested to fund the line by \$1.00, which would allow the Commissioners to fund the line by other means (APRA interest). Scott Landry asked what the APRA interest was going to be used for.
- c. District Attorney's Office – **No Comment**
- d. Commissioners' Office – Tom Saviello provided information regarding a way for the Commissioners to receive their stipend, reduce the headcount, due to the Facilities Manager resigning and potentially giving money back to the taxpayers. Richard Morton inquired about the Commissioner's COLA.
- e. Treasurer's Office – **No Comment**

- f. Technical Services – **No Comment**
- g. Facilities – Amy indicated the County restructure the facilities department, not hiring another staff member for facilities is a terrible idea, it is too much for one person. Tom Saviello indicated that he believed two people were not needed to do the job.
- h. Registry of Deeds – **No Comment**
- i. Registry of Probate – **No Comment**
- j. Sheriff's Office – **No Comment**
- k. Communications – **No Comment**
- l. Jail – **No Comment**
- m. County Wide
 - 1. Franklin County Food Pantry - Nathan Hiltz questioned the motion made on May 14, 2026, with respect to the Franklin County Food Pantries, whether it is legal mandate or a suggestion. He suggested working toward clarifying the understanding of the procedure and the understanding of the word “explanation” in Title 30-A § 874. Tom Saviello questioned the committee’s mandate that funds be split equally between all of the food organizations in Franklin County affiliated with the Good Sheppard Food Bank. He indicated that there were other organizations out there that provide services and are deserving of the funds. He suggested that the Commissioners develop the rules for allocating funds. LeeAnn Dalessandro asked for clarification on who would be able to apply because there were no guidelines set. She referred back to the gentleman’s agreement, whereby if a nonprofit were to receive funding from a town, they would not seek funding from the County and vice versa. Richard Morton spoke regarding the authority of the Budget Committee and the authority of the Commissioners. Joe Terranove spoke on behalf of the Care and Share Food Pantry and was thankful for the money that was being set aside in the budget for the local food pantries.
 - 2. Extension Service – **No Comment**
 - 3. Soil and Water Conservation – **No Comment**
 - 4. Children’s Task Force - **No Comment**
 - 5. Adult Basic Education – **No Comment**
 - 6. Western Maine Community Action – **No Comment**
 - 7. Seniors Plus – **No Comment**
 - 8. Andwell Health Partners – **No Comment**
 - 9. Greater Franklin Development Corp. – **No Comment**
 - 10. Franklin County Firemen’s Association – **No Comment**
 - 11. Western Maine Transportation – **No Comment**

12. Safe Voices – **No Comment**
13. Franklin County Healthy Community Coalition – **No Comment**
14. Debt Service Principle – **No Comment**
15. Debt Service Interest - **No Comment**

Close Public Hearing at 5:43 p.m.

Regular Meeting Agenda

1. Acceptance of the meeting Minutes of May 14, 2026 – **Motion to Approve the Minutes: Scott Landry/Jay Reynolds (8/0/1) Tiffany Maiuri abstained.**
2. Adopt Final Vote discussion – A discussion was held regarding the Commissioner’s compensation and benefits. Tiffany Maiuri indicated that the compensation package was in line with their peers, however, she indicated that the overhead and administration was larger than the other comparisons. She suggested not voting and suggested that we look for other savings within the department and bring them to the Budget Committee for consideration. It was questioned whether the numbers in the Commissioners budget are correct due to the Administrator resigning and suggested that we come back with some projected numbers and potential changes moving forward and lowering the overhead. A discussion was also had regarding the budget procedures. Dennis O’Neil discussed his concerns with regard to voting out the budget. He indicated that he would like time to digest the information received and the impact that it will have on the budget. **Motion to schedule another meeting: Dennis O’Neil/LeeAnn Dalessandro (9/0).**

Meeting is set for June 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center.

3. Other Business - **None**
4. Adjournment – **Motion to Adjourn at 6:11 p.m. Scott Landry/LeeAnn Dalessandro (9/0).**

A recording is available for this meeting.