

Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Fowler, Commissioner Gilbert,
Commissioner Saviello, and Commissioner Skolfield
Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting
May 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 9:00 a.m.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Nathan Hiltz, Sue Black, Sue Pratt, David Rackliff, Lee Ireland, Steve Francek, Corey Welch, Joe Terranova, Barbara Cook, Tamra Benson, Hart Daley, Shawn O'Leary, Robert Lightbody, and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: None

Executive Session: 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Cultural Evaluation Review

Motion to enter Executive Session: 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Cultural Evaluation Review at 9:01 a.m.: Tom Skolfield/Bob Carlton (4/1) Commissioner Saviello opposed.

Motion to exit Executive Session: 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter – Cultural Evaluation Review at 9:43 a.m.: Tom Skolfield/Jeff Gilbert (5/0).

Motion for the draft that was looked at be clarified, once clarifications and additions to the report are made there will be a meeting with the Commissioners and the Department Heads to talk about the report: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

RECOGNITION: Spirit of America – The Spirit of America Awards were given out to several organizations and community members of Franklin County. Municipal Awardees included: Robert Gramlich and Linda Gramlich of Chesterville, Junior Turner of Farmington, The Holland Strong Community Foundation of Jay, Winona Davenport of Phillips, Richard Brown of Rangeley, Pierpole Days of Strong and Kevin and Holly Cochran of Weld. The Franklin County Commissioners Spirit of America Awardees: 15th Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Maine, Farmington American Legion Roderick-Crosby Post 28, Franklin Savings Bank, John Moore and Jennifer Bjorn, Lexi Daggett, Susan French, Town of Jay Comprehensive Planning Company and United Methodist Economic Ministry.

Communications – Dawn Tolman and Ashley Palmer – Major Daley recognized Dawn Tolman and Ashley Palmer for their role they played in the massive emergency response that took place in Franklin County that ultimately ended loss of Game Warden Tibbetts in the airplane crash. Dawn was in command and was assisted by Ashley. They demonstrated professionalism, courtesy, and remained calm, composed and in command during this highly stressful and difficult situation. Dawn Tolman was awarded the Meritorious Award for demonstrating exceptional

professionalism, resilience and composure, she exhibited precise communication to ensure the rescue teams and responders located a difficult rural wreckage site. Thank you Dawn! Ashley Palmer received the outstanding service award for providing excellent service beyond the normal call of duty as a communications specialist. She exhibited professionalism and dedication while handling multiple calls during this highly stressful situation was exemplary. Thank you Ashley!

APPOINTMENTS: None

Motion to Amend Agenda to enter into an Emergency Executive Session at the end of the meeting under personnel matters: Bob Carlton/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Administrator's Report – Motion to accept the Administrator's Report: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0).**
2. **Minutes – Motion to approve the April 30, 2026, and May 5, 2026, Minutes as presented: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0).**
3. **Treasurer's Report – None**
4. **Timothy D. Hardy, Farmington Fire and EMA – Chief Hardy, Farmington Fire Department discussed GIS Based mapping layers for Franklin County Fire, Police and EMS. He reached out to the company Androscoggin County uses to provide a quote for the project. Viewshed provided a quote of \$3,200. He explained the project from his perspective on the fire department. Motion to use EMA's Capital Reserve Account in order to sign the contract with Viewshed for the amount of \$3,200: Fen Fowler/Bob Carlton. Fen Fowler rescinded his motion Bob rescinded is second. Motion to take the \$3,200 out of ARPA interest: Jeff Gilbert/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
5. **Tamra Benson – Center for Ecology-Based Economy – Tamra Benson provided an update for enrolling Madrid, Salem and Freeman Township in the Community Resilience Partnership. She discussed the Sandy River Geomorphic Study being planned, Madrid, Salem and Freeman Township can apply for up to \$175,000 to fund that project. Farmington and Norridgewock are also funding that project. In order to be eligible for funding, the Resolution and Letter of Support must be signed and submitted. Motion to sign Resolution: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0)**
6. **Buzzell Road Rehabilitation and Culvert Replacement – Madrid Township – Open Bids – The County received 6 bids for the Buzzell Road Rehabilitation and Culvert Replacement – Madrid Township: GCA Logging - \$65,000, Fenwick Construction - \$87,852, Fillerbrown Excavation & Landscaping - \$91,170, Manzer's Fine Grade & Earthwork - \$102,390, Sargent Corporation - \$127,950 and Pike Industries - \$133,704. Tamra will be writing the grant for Madrid, Salem and Freeman Township, the enrollment materials need to be finalized for the June 5, 2026 application deadline for the Commissioners to submit. Motion to give bids to Road Supervisor to review and make a recommendation: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
7. **LUPC Application for Zone Change – Reeds Mill Road – Gravel Pit, Madrid Township – Open Bids – No bids were received for this project. A discussion was held regarding this project. The gravel pit is situated in a significant sand and gravel aquifer. Bob Lightbody, the Road Supervisor, suggested that we pause and look into what this**

means moving forward. Commissioner Carlton suggested getting a legal opinion. He believes that we are grandfathered. Bob Lightbody suggested reaching out to the Maine Forrest Service as it is their jurisdiction due to the size of the gravel pit being under five acres, he also indicated that we would need to have a legally non-conforming use of the lot. **Motion for Commissioner Carlton consult with Commissioner Saviello to draft a letter to obtain a legal opinion: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**

- 8. April Reconciliation Report – Sign Off – Motion to sign April Reconciliation Report: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

OLD BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Chief Lowell indicated that the Sheriff's Office assisted another local agency in drug related case. That case resulted in the seizure of \$7,779.00 in U.S. currency. The Sheriff's Office will receive 25% (\$1,944.75) of that seizure from the Attorney General's Office. Chief Lowell is requesting approval to receive the \$1,944.75 from the Attorney General's Office. **Motion to approve receiving \$1,944.75 from the Attorney General's Office: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**

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

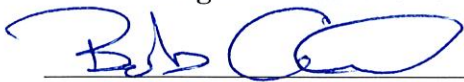
Emergency Executive Session 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter

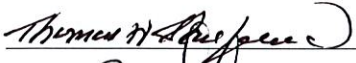
Motion to enter into Emergency Executive Session 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter at 11:45 a.m.: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0). Commissioner Fowler had left the room.


Motion to exit Emergency Executive Session 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel Matter at 1:00: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).


ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 1:00 p.m.: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).

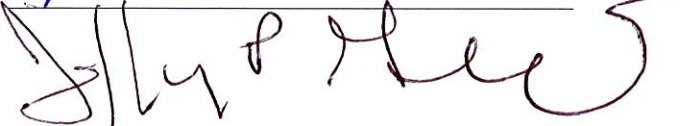
A recording is available for this meeting.











FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: *Shirley A. Peary*, CLERK