Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Saviello, Commissioner Fowler, and Commissioner Fowler
The meeting was held via: Zoom
Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting
July 21, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 10:00 a.m.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Jake Nichols, Nathan Hiltz, Scott Nichols, Robert Lightbody, Pam Prodan, Jack Ducharme, Charlie Woodworth, Billy Gilmore, Heidi Jordan, Susan Black, Karen Rea, Shawn O'Leary, Sue Pratt and Jamie Sullivan.
ZOOM: Lee Ireland and Ryan Close.

RECOGNITION: Commissioner Skolfield thanked Sue Pratt for her efforts in keeping the Board up to date. Commissioner Fowler thanked the staff for preparing their monthly reports updating the Board of the ongoings in their department.

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Administrator's Report – Motion to Accept the Administrator's Report: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
2. **Minutes – Motion to accept the minutes as provided: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
3. **Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0).**
4. **UT Roads – Update –** Robert Lightbody updated the Board regarding the following:
    - Road Maintenance - The continuance of ditching and road stabilization projects on priority roads to improve drainage, reduce erosion, and extend the life of the roadway.
    - Brush Control – Fenwick Construction will be doing the Reeds Mills Roads in Madrid, but there is a need for all the of the roads in the UT to be done to improve visibility, enhance roadway safety, and maintain access for residents, emergency services, and maintenance crews.
    - A discussion regarding calcium chloride being applied to designated gravel roads during the spring to reduce dust and improve surface stability was had.
    - Alder Brook Road in Washington Township was inventoried, and a 5-year plan is being developed.
    - #6 Road in Township 6 was discussed as well as a plan moving forward.
    - Work done on the Buzzell Road that went out to bid has been completed.

- Bob and Fenwick Construction have had discussions regarding the culvert replacement on Beech Hill Road.
- Five-Year Road Plan - Continued development of the five-year road improvement plan to establish maintenance priorities, schedule future projects, and guide long-term capital investments in the road system.
- The sale of any unused steel stored at the Madrid Pit was discussed.
  No Action Required.

5. **TIF Projects** – Charlie Woodworth presented the Board with two TIF projects that the TIF Committee recommended for funding.
    - TDR Enterprises LLC, dba Reed's Portables, requested funding in the amount of $50,000 to purchase Orr Septic and its septic service and portable toilets. The TIF Committee recommended funding pending receiving its business loan from Skowhegan Savings Bank. **Motion to accept the TIF Committee's recommendation to fund Reed's Portable as requested, contingent upon them receiving the loan from the bank: Fen Fowler/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
    - Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development, requested funding in the amount of $141,000 to assist with creating the ecosystem that allows for economic and community vitality throughout Franklin County. Greater Franklin attracts public and private investments to the towns and county. **Motion to accept the TIF Committee's recommendation to fund Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development: Tom Skolfield/Fen Fowler (5/0).**
6. **Deeds Office Space – Probate Courtroom** – Susan Black and Heidi Jordan provided Commissioner's with an update regarding the reconfiguration of office space within the Registry of Deeds to accommodate the creation of a dedicated courtroom for the Probate Court. This project provides a more appropriate space for court proceedings. The need for tables, chairs, flag with stand, a t.v. with wall mount, new carpet, and the room to be painted was discussed. The use of ARPA Interest was discussed as well as the Probate Reserve Account and the Building Reserve Account to purchase the requested items. Commissioner Saviello indicated that he would personally donate money to purchase the flag. **Motion to accept Commissioner Saviello's donation: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (5/0).**
7. **Department Presentation – Jail** – Major Daley was on vacation and was not available to present. He will be rescheduled for another meeting.
8. **Security System – Communications** – Jake Nichols discussed with the Commissioner's the need to replace the existing security system at the Communications Center. This was discussed with prior administration to be included in the FY2027 budget, but was denied having it included therefore, he is requesting the use of ARPA interest to fund this project. **Motion to allocate $49,076 in ARPA Interest to fund this project: Fen Fowler/Tom Saviello (3/2) Bob Carlton and Jeff Gilbert opposed.**
9. **Blue Star Accounting and Advising – Service Agreement** – A new services agreement has been provided by Blue Star Accounting and Advising for consideration. Marc is very responsive and an asset to the county. **Motion to authorize Susan Pratt to sign the Contract with Blue Star Accounting: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).**
10. **Policy Review Committee – Update** – The HR Director provided the Commissioners with an update of the Committee's review of the Personnel Policy handbook. He indicated that they would use Kennebec County's Personnel Policy handbook as a guide in revising the County's handbook. **No Action Required.**

11. **Carry Forward –** The following departments requested capital funds to carry forward:
    EMA – 10-7680, Equipment & Furniture - $1,500 to the EMA Capital Reserve Account.
    DA – 15-7680, Equipment & Furniture - $509,87 to the DA Equipment Reserve Account.
    DA – 15-7690, Computers - $913.64 to the IT Capital Reserve Account.
    Facilities – 40-7640, Buildings & Improvements - $5,450.43 to the Facilities Capital Reserve Account.
    Facilities – 41-7640, Buildings & Improvements - $3,594.52 to the Facilities Capital Reserve Account.
    Facilities – 42-7640, Buildings & Improvements - $9,726.95 to the Facilities Capital Reserve Account.
    Facilities – 43-7640, Buildings & Improvements - $6,354.94 to the Facilities Capital Reserve Account.
    Probate – 70-7690, Computers - $1,820.01 to the Probate Equipment Reserve Account.
    Probate – 70-7680, Equipment & Furniture - $620.03 to the Probate Equipment Reserve Account.
    Communications – 80-7680, Equipment & Furniture - $7,718.54 to the Communications Equipment Reserve Account.
    Communications – 80-7690, Computers - $3,893.76 to the IT Capital Reserve Account.

    Motion to approve the carry forward the FY2026 capital expense carry-forward requests, in the amount of up to $42,102.69, with the understanding that the final carry-forward amount will be reduced by any outstanding FY2026 invoices applicable to each department: Tom Skolfield/Jeff Gilbert (4/1) Tom Saviello opposed.
12. **Monthly Financial Review – Motion to accept the Report: Jeff Gilbert/Fen Fowler (5/0).**

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OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Treasurer Position – Elected vs Appointed –** Commissioner Saviello requested that the Board consider changing the Treasurer's position from an elected office to an appointed position. He recommended that the Board submit a letter to the Secretary of State expressing its intent to pursue this change. A copy of Title 30-A, § 156 was provided to outline the statutory process required to make this change. Nathan Hiltz discussed the fact that elections have become eroded over time and if we are not getting good candidates to run to fill these positions then that's the conversation that should be had. Richard Morton urged the Commissioners not to support this move. Treasurer, Pamela Prodan provided feedback in opposition to moving forward with the proposal. She noted that, during the November 2021 referendum, voters overwhelmingly rejected a similar measure. A total of 2,410 voters supported abolishing the elected Treasurer position and replacing it with a Treasurer appointed by the Commissioners, while 7,507 voters opposed the change. **Motion to send the Secretary of State a letter that we are going to run in the election**

to let the people decide whether they want an appointed or elected Treasurer: Tom Saveillo/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

2. **Commissioner's Goals** – Sue was looking for feedback from the Commissioners regarding the list of goals that she developed from the workshop they attended. It was requested that this matter be placed on the next agenda.
3. **Radio Infrastructure Improvement Committee – Member Approval –** The Board was provided with names of the recommended committee members to approve.
4. **CAD System Administrator Committee – Member Approval –** The Board was provided with names of the recommended committee members to approve.
   Motion to accept the names provided by Sergeant Close for the Radio Infrastructure Improvement Committee and the CAD System Administrator Committee: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Sheriff Nichols provided an update on the Enterprise Rental Agreement to manage the fleet. He provided the Board with a breakdown of the cost per vehicle, the total monthly cost of $5,077.71, for a total of $60,932.52 per year, plus 50% of the upfront total cost to outfit the vehicles of $33,046.50. This year's total cost will be $93,979.02 for four vehicles. The Sheriff stated that this is a favorable agreement for the County and noted that the company has been very easy to work with. He also explained that the agreement will simplify the budgeting process by allowing the County to forecast expenses three years in advance. Additionally, Enterprise will monitor maintenance costs and recommend the optimal time to trade in each vehicle to maximize its trade-in value.
2. A special meeting to be held in executive session was scheduled for July 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. for the Commissioners to review the applications for the County Administrator.
3. The Commissioner's Vision and Mission Statement flyer was discussed, and the Commissioners were asked to provide Sue with their requested changes to bring back to the next meeting for approval.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 12:38 p.m.: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (5/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: ______________________, CLERK