

Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Saviello, Commissioner Gilbert, and Commissioner Fowler (absent)

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners' Meeting

August 4, 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, Charlie Woodworth, Billy Gilmore, Kyle Susan Black, Jacob Hastings, Hunter Lowell, Steve Lowell, Ryan Close, John Welch, Eric Geisman, Sr., Eric Geisman, Kat Whitney, Earl Martin, John Donald, Hart Daley, Nathan Bean, Victoria Parker, Karen Rea, Shawn O'Leary, Sue Pratt and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: Adam C., Rebecca Gage, Noelle Coyne, Lt. John Desjardin, Tabitha Emery, Mitch, LeeAnna Lavioe, Ed Close, Doug Ellington, Franklin EMA, Robert Brown, Tony Pinette, and Spinosa.

RECOGNITION: Commissioner Carlton recognized everyone who has been involved with the COSSUP Grant and its accomplishments.

Major Hart Daley presented John Welch, Head of Maintenance at the Franklin County Detention Center with the Sheriff's Medal in recognition of his dedication, outstanding service and commitment. He maintains the facility along with ensuring the daily operations by himself. Not only does he fulfill his daily maintenance obligations, but he has also successfully overseen and been the point of contact for several major projects at the facility. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the detention center. His professionalism, work ethic, dependability, and willingness to go above and beyond his normal scope of work have made a lasting impact on the operation and success of the facility. Thank you for all you do!

Sheriff Nichols promoted Sergeant Ryan Close to Major of Patrol – Congratulations Major Close!

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Administrator's Report – Motion to Accept the Administrator's Report:** Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (4/0).

Motion to approve the hiring of Maya Franklin for the Dispatch position at the Communications Center: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).

Motion to approve the hiring of Jonathan Curran for the Patrol Deputy position at the Sheriff's Office: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).

2. **Minutes – Motion to accept the minutes as provided: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
3. **Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
4. **Department Presentation – Jail** – Major Daley updated the Commissioners on the successes and challenges at the Franklin County Detention Center. He provided the Board with the ongoing and upcoming projects including: main lobby renovation, completion of the grease trap project, completion of the COSSUP administration offices, new office spaces created, kitchen revisions completed, and the integration of the Vine System. He also read the facility's Mission and Vision Statement. Major Daley expressed how proud he was of his staff.
5. **Sue Ann Cochran – Emergency Watershed Protection Program** – Ms. Cochran was unavailable. This matter will be placed as a future agenda item.
6. **Charlie Woodworth – The Bingham Area Multi-Use Trail Connector Proposal Presentation** – Chris Martin, from the Moose Valley Riders ATV and Snowmobile Club in Bingham, presented the Commissioners with an opportunity to identify a permanent connector trail that would link Somerset and Franklin County and Somerset and Piscataquis Counties which will also benefit Kennebec County. Franklin County's share of the project cost would be \$20,000. The Commissioners supported this project but requested clarification regarding the use of TIF funds.
7. **UT Roads Infrastructure Projects – Discussion** – Robert Lightbody updated the Commissioners on ongoing projects and discussed the potential use of TIF funds to support infrastructure repairs. He noted that, if TIF funds are available, projects identified in the five-year plan could potentially be moved forward and completed sooner. He also indicated that ditch stabilization is needed throughout the County. Additional discussion included the installation of paved aprons on all roads and the process for obtaining snowplow turnaround easements. **No action required.**
8. **Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development – Discussion** – Commissioner Saviello requested that Charlie provide an accounting of how and where the TIF funds received by Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development would be spent.
9. **EMA – Enterprise Rental Agreement** – Based on the age of the County EMA vehicle and the fact that it did not include a maintenance package, EMA Director Amanda Simoneau requested approval to lease a vehicle through Enterprise Fleet Management. She indicated that the program would initially be funded through her reserve account. Once the current vehicle is sold, the proceeds would be used to replenish the reserve account and fund the lease payments for the next five years. **Motion to approve to proceed and upon comparison that it is equal to or less than what has been done with other similar vehicles: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).** Amanda received clarification during the break regarding questions raised by the Commissioners. She explained that the capitalized price of the vehicle is based on the manufacturer's invoiced price. The Sheriff's Office currently has a Tahoe in its fleet; however, it is a police-model vehicle specifically outfitted for law enforcement use. The primary difference between the two vehicles is their resale value. The civilian model typically has a higher resale value, while the police-model

vehicle has a capped resale price. **Motion to reconsider actions taken prior relating to this matter: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0). Motion to allow the lease of the vehicle as proposed: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**

10. **Jail – Outside Recreation Area** – Major Daley has the opportunity to purchase a brand-new piece of outdoor recreational equipment for the Detention Center from Aroostook County for \$6,800. He requested authorization to use funds from the Inmate Benefit Fund for this purchase. **Motion to purchase outside recreational equipment from the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$6,800 using the Inmate Activity Fund and authorize Major Daley to sign the Bill of Sale: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**

5 Minute Break

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Commissioner's Goals** – Sue prepared an updated version of the Commissioner's goals to the board for acceptance and approval. **Motion to accept the Commissioner's Goals as written: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
2. **Mission and Vision Statement – Flyer Review** – Sue provided the Commissioners with two options for the Mission and Vision Statements flyer for their review, revision, and/or approval. The Commissioners reviewed the options and suggested revisions, to be incorporated into the flyer. **Motion to make the changes as outlined by Commissioner Saviello and the County Administrator to reflect on the new Mission Statement and get it out there: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (4/0).**

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Reminder: the next Commissioner Meeting will be held at the Rangeley School at 6:00 p.m. on August 18, 2026.
2. Kyle Ellis, Communications Director, discovered that a mandatory software license and maintenance support for the communications recorder that backs-up 911 phones, business phones and radio traffic was not budgeted for. The cost of the software license is \$15,577.41. The Communications Reserve account has a balance of \$43,520. It was suggested to use those funds to pay for the software license. **Motion to take the amount stated from the reserve account for dispatch: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**
3. Kyle Ellis, Communications Director, reported that the Communications Center Advisory Board has not met since last fall and expressed his desire to reconvene the board. The Advisory Board provides guidance to the Director on various procedural and operational needs of the department. Membership of the Advisory Board is established by the Bylaws. **Motion to accept the proposed names to be on the Communications Advisory Board and anyone that is suggested to represent a community such as the Town of Farmington or the Town of Wilton that they need to get the approvals needed to serve on the board. It is not the Commissioners responsibility. If they cannot serve or they do not get permission to serve, the Commissioners will find someone else: Tom Saviello/Bob Carlton (4/0).**

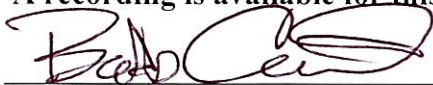
4. Major Close provided various updates:

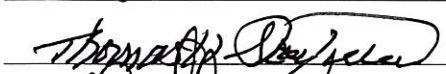
- The Sheriff's Office successfully applied for the COPS Grant to support the School Resource Officer position. The application has been accepted, and they are currently awaiting notification on whether the grant has been awarded.
 - The CAD Administrator Committee met to discuss expanding committee membership and incorporating additional data points.
 - The Radio Infrastructure Committee met and agreed that Amanda Simoneau, EMA Director, and Kyle Ellis, Communications Director, would serve as co-chairs and take the lead on the project.
5. Commissioner Saviello discussed a letter received from the Town of Farmington expressing concern regarding the Commissioners' approval of individuals to serve on a committee without the Town's permission or approval. With the assistance of Interim County Administrator Sue Pratt, Commissioner Saviello drafted a proposed response clarifying that the Commissioners did not appoint individuals to the committee, but rather approved names that had been presented to them as potential members. He referenced the meeting minutes and video in support of this clarification. Commissioner Saviello requested permission to send the letter to the Town of Farmington. Suggested revisions were made to include the list of accepted names of the committee in the letter. **Motion to accept the letter with revisions: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).**

WARRANTS: County AP, UT & Payroll: Motion to sign the Warrants: Tom Saviello/Tom Skolfield (4/0).

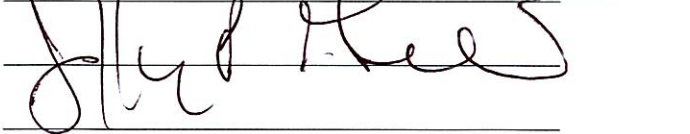
ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 1:00 p.m.: Tom Skolfield/Tom Saviello (4/0).

A recording is available for this meeting.









FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:  CLERK