

**OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

April 2, 2026

Meeting Convened

At the Court of Oxford County Commissioners begun and held at Paris, Maine within and for the County of Oxford at 11:00 am on Thursday, April 2, being a workshop, there were present:

Lisa Keim	Chair
Sawin Millett	Commissioner
Timothy Turner	Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda Adopted

The agenda was adopted with the addition of an executive session to discuss the Bethel enhanced patrol contract, a discussion about a request for a Commissioner to attend an upcoming Greenwood Selectboard meeting, and an update on the status of the budget.

Minutes for Approval

The following action occurred regarding sets of minutes of previous meetings:

March 17	approved
March 20	approved

Public Comment

Nate Hiltz of Wilton raised concern over plans discussed at the March 17 meeting to establish certain credit reserves accounts, which he feels the County cannot create under statute 30-A.

Commissioner Keim thanked him for his comment and assured him that the county will look into the matter and follow up on his claims.

Personnel Updates and Actions

The Commissioners tabled discussion regarding consideration for the advancement of benefit payments to the executive session portion of the meeting as more details will need to be discussed.

The Commissioners adopted a proclamation recognizing April 12 – 18, 2026 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

The Commissioners tabled hiring of the Deputy Finance Director due to needing an executive session first.

Matters Pertaining to the Unorganized Territory

Administrator Loper updated the Commissioners about a recent meeting with Albany Township residents and UT resources such as members of the LUPC and the UT Fiscal Administrator with the State.

UT Supervisor Tony Carter updated the Commissioners on applications submitted to the LUPC regarding substantial upgrades planned to the Bosebuck area, noting it will likely lead to further expansion and development.

Matters Pertaining to the Sheriff's Office

The Commissioners reviewed a rough draft of a job description for a Chaplain. It was noted that a more formal version would be available on April 21.

The Commissioners authorized the renewal of a the lease with Norway Savings Bank to rent space for the Bethel Substation.

The Sheriff requested hiring an additional deputy due to having an employee on an extended military leave (seven months) followed by two deputies attending the academy and argued it would be cheaper to fill the vacant shifts with a new hire rather than overtime shifts.

Executive Sessions

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 D) to discuss union contract negotiations. Approved contract negotiated with FOP (Deputies & CID) which includes 5.5% wage increase the first year, 6.5% the second year, and 6% the third and final year. It also adds \$1.00 to the hourly rate for steps 10 and 15.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss details of a request to advance payments in lieu of insurance benefits. They returned to open session and denied the request.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss personnel details of a contract. They returned to open session and authorized the transfer of Deputy Deeds Register Darren Goyette to Deputy Finance Director effective May 4, with a wage rate of \$36.05 which is the 2nd level.

They then authorized the posting of the open Deeds Register position both internally and externally.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss personnel details of a contract. No action was needed upon returning to open session.

Items for Discussion and Action – Considered as Time Permits Throughout Meeting

1. Commissioner Millett shared that Greenwood has requested his presence at an upcoming Selectboard meeting to discuss tax payments, specifically whether the County would be open to creating a quarterly payment schedule. It was noted that this item was also recently discussed with another municipality. Treasurer Beth Calhoun and Finance Director Lindsay Kay explained that although they cannot make the deadline earlier payment earlier than September 1 due to State statute, there is nothing preventing the towns from making partial payments earlier than that and that they are willing to work with any towns who may be experiencing hardships.

Adjournment

The Commissioners adjourned at 2:24pm.



Lisa M. Keim, Chair



H. Sawin Millett, Commissioner



Timothy G. Turner, Commissioner

Notes:

- 1) *These minutes are intended to be a brief description of meeting actions to provide, in a general sense only, an account of what was discussed.*

- 2) *Unless otherwise noted, all votes taken by the Commissioners were unanimous.*