

**OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 21, 2026**

**Meeting Convened**

At the Court of Oxford County Commissioners begun and held at Paris, Maine within and for the County of Oxford at 9:00 am on Tuesday, April 21, being a regular session, there were present:

Lisa Keim	Chair
Sawin Millett	Commissioner
Timothy Turner	Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Minutes for Approval**

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

April 2                      approved

**Agenda Adopted**

The agenda was adopted with the amendment of swapping the order of the Sheriff's Report and Treasurer's Report.

**Public Comment**

Nathan Hiltz and Doug Hiltz of Wilton were present to observe. Administrator Loper provided them with a printed statute in reference to a concern Nate had brought up at a previous meeting regarding credit reserves. He clarified that this was not the statute he was referring to. It was noted that Administrator Loper will follow up with him at a later date for more clarification.

**Discussion with Bethel Town Manager and Selectboard Members**

Town Manager Sharon Jackson and other representatives of the Town of Bethel were present to discuss the calculation method for the enhanced patrol contract. The Town feels that they are paying too much for the service as they already pay a portion of the cost through their County tax bill.

Administrator Loper explained a breakdown of the calculation is already available on the second page of the Excel document and offered to help her locate it.

Commissioner Keim assured them that the costs were very carefully worked on that county must fairly pass on the cost.

Treasurer Beth Calhoun doesn't think contract is good deal because of how much liability the County takes on.

Commissioner Keim also clarified that nobody should be under the impression that the County and Bethel are operating under old contract terms just because the new one was never signed, as the Town has still been receiving service in the meantime.

She also explained that the Commissioners are responsible for entire County and must tax fairly, pointing out other towns that have their own Police Department also pay taxes. The County cannot legally give a discount due to statutes that prevent passing on costs to other towns.

### **Department Heads**

Department heads met with the Commissioners to discuss a variety of topics, some being unique to specific departments and other topics being of concern to several or all departments.

Commissioner Millett provided jail funding updates.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Beth Calhoun and Finance Director Lindsay Kay updated the Commissioners on departmental matters.

The Commissioners reviewed proposals from Norway Savings Bank and Androscoggin Bank for the 2026 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) and accepted the bid from Norway Savings for up to \$5,00,000 at an interest rate of 3.98%

### **Sheriff's Report**

Sheriff Chris Wainwright updated the Commissioners on departmental matters.

The Commissioners tabled review of the RFP at a separate workshop.

### **Meeting with Representatives of Chris' Haven of Hope**

Mark and Mary Ellen of Chris' Haven of Hope are seeking funding for transportation and rental assistance. The Haven is a men's sober home. They noted that transportation is difficult in Oxford County's rural areas but that a stable environment to rebuild families and personal lives is essential to the addiction recovery process.

The Commissioners explained that there is an Opioid Response Committee handling the disbursement of opioid settlement funds and encouraged them to reach out and look out for the next funding opportunity.

### **Personnel Updates and Actions**

The Commissioners authorized the payout of one week's worth of excess vacation time for Deputy Bill Nelson in accordance with the deputies' union contract.

The Commissioners authorized the hiring of Michelle Wakefield as a full-time Deputy Deeds Register with the following confirmed:

- Effective Date: May 11, 2026
- Wage Rate: \$20.77/hr (level 4)
- Special Conditions: none

### **Matters Pertaining to the Unorganized Territory**

UT Supervisor Tony Carter explained that the Wardwell Bridge in Albany Township is at risk of failing DOT inspection within two years. The Commissioners then authorized a \$35,000 engineering study.

bond of \$14,000 per mile.

It was noted that the NBRC grant request for a new Tower was denied.

The Commissioners authorized posting an RFP for fencing and maintenance work at the Hunts Corner, York, Mason, Riley cemeteries.

Tamra Benson of the Center for an Ecology-Based Economy provided an update on enrolling Albay Township into the Community Resilience program which is meant to help direct State funding into rural townships.

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

1. Communications Director Geff Inman updated the Commissioners on the Sweden tower and search for possible tenants to lease to. The Commissioners authorized an RFP to be posted.
2. The Commissioners authorized the transfer of radio equipment to the Town of Sweden.
3. The Commissioners authorized the updated inter-county agreement to supply mutual aid when needed.
4. Administrator Loper detailed costly repairs needed in several buildings (EMA House, IT House, and RCC Building) and suggested the Commissioners revisit the plans for building a new public safety building at the bottom of the hill.
5. Reviewed Administrator's work sheet.

**Executive Sessions**


The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss a termination notification. They immediately returned to open session and tabled this session to May 7 without any discussion.

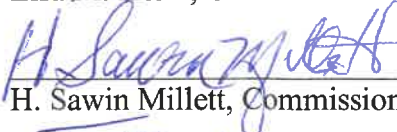
The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss details of a worker's comp claim. They returned to open session and authorized Administration staff to explore changing worker's compensation carriers.


The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss the salary of a certain position. No action was needed at this point upon returning to open session.

**Adjournment**

The Commissioners adjourned at 1:22pm.

  
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Lisa M. Keim, Chair

  
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H. Sawin Millett, Commissioner

  
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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.*