

OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2025

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, May 20, being a regular session, there were present:

Timothy Turner	Chair
Lisa Keim	Commissioner
Sawin Millett	Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes Approval

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

May 8 approved

Agenda Adopted

The agenda was adopted with the addition of discussing a repaired cruiser and an executive session for a personnel matter.

Public Comment

South Paris resident Troy Ripley spoke to the Commissioners regarding a recent meeting with Sheriff Wainwright. He explained that he and other South Paris residents were concerned about rising costs of the municipal police department and approached the Sheriff for information on a possible contract for enhanced patrol services. He said that he was disappointed with a recent letter to the Sheriff from the Town of South Paris' attorney which implied that the Sheriff was the one who instigated the meeting. He also stated that he was disappointed with the proposed cost for enhanced services. Commissioner Keim explained to Mr. Ripley that the proposed cost is a true calculation which was done very carefully and involved multiple people.

South Paris resident Janet Jamison also explained that she and other residents solicited the Sheriff for information. She also expressed her disappointment with the letter and is worried someone outside of the town office was behind it. She questioned Commissioner Keim if she had anything to do with the letter. Commissioner Keim expressed that she knew nothing of the letter or its contents except for notice it was being sent, to which she advised it be sent to the Sheriff, not the Commissioners, noting that the Commissioner do not control the Sheriff. Commissioners Turner and Millett also stated they did not know about the letter until it was sent.

South Paris resident Skip Herrick said he found the letter from the Town's attorney appalling, stating that the residents have a right to hear from the Sheriff.

Commissioner Turner thanked the members of the public for their clarification over the meeting. Commissioner Keim noted that the South Paris town manager had asked the Administration Office

for information regarding a possible enhanced patrol contract with the Town which the office is in the process of supplying.

Mr. Ripley asked if the Maine Legislature was working on any bills that would allow towns who provide their own police services to receive a discount on their county tax bill, but none of the Commissioners were aware of any such discussions or proposed bills.

Sheriff Christopher Wainwright also spoke on the matter, calling the letter appalling and untrue. He noted that he feels a criminal act may have been committed during the process and will be speaking to the District Attorney and Attorney General about a legal response.

Commissioner Keim encouraged the use of the FOAA system to help people make sense of everything if they are seeking further details or information from either the Town or the County.

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.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Christopher Wainwright updated the Commissioners on departmental matters.

The Commissioners authorized the hiring of Christopher Delvecchio as a part-time Corrections Officer with the following confirmed:

- Effective Date: May 20, 2025
- Wage Rate: \$24.00/hr (certified more than 5 years rate)
- Special Conditions: none

There was continued discussion from the last meeting regarding the number of authorized and budgeted full-time deputies. It was noted that Administrator Zane Loper would follow up with Marc Roy to confirm who the "DARE Officer" is within the budget breakdown.

It was also noted that Administrator Zane Loper would work with Mexico town officials to establish a temporary arrangement for police coverage until a decision has been made regarding an enhanced patrol contract.

The Commissioners authorized the sale of a cruiser to Region 9 School District in the amount of \$1,500 as requested by Sheriff Wainwright. The school's automotive program was using the vehicle to teach students about repairs and \$1,500 was the value of the vehicle before work being done. It was noted that the school district would be able to keep any profit if there is any.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss a personnel matter. They returned to open session and authorized a wage change for Deputy Justin Onofrio to \$32.91/hr (3rd year step) retro to January 1, 2025 due to receiving information documenting prior work experience. It was clarified that he now currently has 4 years' worth of experience but that there is no 4th year step in the wage scale.

Treasurer's Report

Finance Director Lindsay Kay updated the Commissioners on financial matters and provided written reports.

Introduction of Opioid Response Committee (OCORC)

Chair Kari Taylor, Glenn Gordon, and Dr. Janet Proulx of OCORC spoke with the Commissioners and presented their proposed funding request application. The Commissioners authorized the application and noted that the application process would begin June 1.

Review Application for Vacant Board of Assessment Review (OXBAR) Position

The Commissioners reviewed the resume and cover letter of Licensed Appraiser Tammy Harthorne and voted to appoint her to the vacant OXBAR position.

Personnel Updates and Actions

The Commissioners authorized the hiring of Jessica Thompson as a full-time Victim Witness Advocate with the following confirmed:

- Effective Date: June 2, 2025
- Wage Rate: \$25.25/hr (4th year rate)
- Special Conditions: none

The Commissioners adopted an acceptable use policy.

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

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


The Commissioners discussed the following and acted only as underlined.

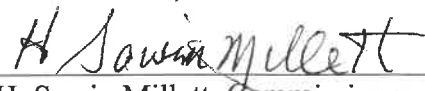
1. Adopted Administrator's report.
2. Tabled liquor license application renewal submission for Cupsuptic Campground as the application had not yet been received.
3. Denied a request to extend road maintenance on Day Rd in Albany Twp.
4. Discussed upcoming paid FMLA program.
5. Authorized purchasing microphones to help with the choppy audio recording of meetings.

Adjournment

The Commissioners adjourned at 2:13pm.


Timothy G. Turner, Chair


Lisa M. Keim, Commissioner


H. Sawin Millett, Commissioner

Notes:

general sense only, an account of what was discussed.

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