

OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 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 Thursday, July 9, being a workshop, 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:

June 16 approved as amended

Agenda Adopted

The agenda was adopted with the clarification that the executive session is only needed to discuss personnel details if needed, however the main point of the discussion will be budget related which is public.

Public Comment

None.

Matters Pertaining to the Sheriff's Office

The Commissioners acknowledged the promotion of Ashley Rich from Deputy to Detective effective retro to June 30 and authorized a wage rate of \$38.48/hr (7th year rate).

The Commissioners acknowledged the promotion of Joey Billings Jr. from Corrections Officer to Corrections Corporal effective July 19 and authorized a wage rate of \$27.10 (4th year rate).

The Commissioners authorized the payout of a week's worth of excess vacation time for Deputy Justin Brown in accordance with the deputies' labor contract.

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

The Commissioners accepted the resignation of EMA Grant Writer Cassandra Susemihl effective July 6. It was noted that EMA Director Allyson Hill wants to review the job description before asking the Commissioners to post the open position.

The Commissioners accepted a bid from Animal Control Officer Brandon Holmes and awarded him a three-year contract for animal control services in the Unorganized Territory.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved RFP for demolition of the apartment building at 14 Western Avenue which is owned by the County.

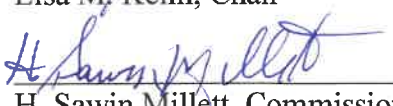
The Commissioners reviewed budgetary information from Finance Director Lindsay Kay regarding the loss of revenue due to termination of Bethel's enhanced patrol contract which accounted and paid for four full-time deputies. Commissioner Keim expressed concern that the discussion seems to have started with the assumption that deputy position count will be expanded, and that increasing deputy count negates the "but for" premise of the Bethel contract. She also expressed concern that County property tax payers are now forced to cover excess costs. Sheriff Wainwright said that his department is expecting several upcoming long-term leaves and that safety is a big concern, noting he could use the additional deputies to help offset those absences. Treasurer Calhoun suggested that it may be worth attempting to absorb funding for at least two of the positions. Commissioner Keim stated that although the County does not want to lay anyone off, since the Town of Bethel has made the decision to no longer fund the contract, maintaining an additional four positions without funding is a steep and unplanned increase in ongoing expenses. The Sheriff suggested that there are other services he feels the taxpayers would prefer to go without before decreasing deputies. He also suggested utilizing the casino funds to help fund the positions until a new budget can be passed. The Sheriff stated that he can find ways to keep all four deputies and stay within his budget. It was agreed that the budget impact, potential layoffs, and alternative options require more consideration and to return to this topic at the next meeting.

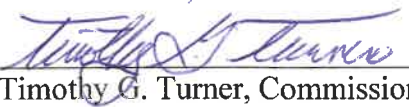
It was determined that the executive session was not needed.

Adjournment

The Commissioners adjourned at 10:09am


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.*