

OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2025

Meeting Convened

At the Court of Oxford County Commissioners begun and held at Paris, Maine within and for the County of Oxford at 9:00am on Monday, September 15, being a special session, there were present:

Timothy Turner	Chair
Lisa Keim	Commissioner
Sawin Millett	Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda Adopted

The agenda was adopted with the addition of an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Review Opioid Settlement Fund Applications

The Commissioners met with members of the Oxford County Opioid Response Committee (OCORC) to review applications and hear their recommendation for awarded funding. Committee Chair Kari Taylor explained how scoring was conducted and provided reasoning for the recommendations which total \$457,820 out of the \$500,000 initially planned to be released during this round of project funding. Committee member Dr. Janet Proulx explained that funding was carefully considered to be sure that not all funds were expensed up front so that additional funds would be available to fill gaps or compliment projects already awarded. It was also noted that the Commissioners and Administration are interested in exploring utilizing funds to help benefit the jail's opioid treatment program and offset taxes.

MacKenzie David from the Maine Opioid Settlement Support (MOSS) Center explained that 2024 was the big year for settlement payments, and that funds will trickle in much slower now through 2038 when the final payments are expected.

Commissioner Keim questioned whether redundancy was considered in the Committee's recommendations to be sure that not one type of project was being funded more than the others. Committee Chair Kari Taylor assured her that it was considered and that the only redundancy is in the recovery centers, but they are located in two different regions of the county.

Commissioner Keim asked Jail Administrator Dana Dillingham for his unput of how this funding could help benefit opioid treatment efforts in the jail. He explained that one of the biggest struggles is when people in recovery leave the jail - transportation is a major hurdle for people to get to and from treatment facilities, stressing that everything has a cost.

Commissioner Keim proposed setting aside \$200k from the \$500k planned awarded funds for the jail, specifically to explore Sublocade injections. She also noted her disappointment in the Larry Labonte Recovery Center's application because it appeared to be a lot of proposed work for

\$50k/yr and was worried it may be difficult to measure but expressed her confidence in the good work and service they provide.

Committee member Dr. Janet Proulx, who also provides clinical support to the jail, agreed that Sublocade injections are worth looking into, but advised that it isn't something that can just start due to funding being available as there are several strict restrictions around the implementation of the program. She also reminded the Commissioner that there is over \$240k already set aside from the proposed awarded funding that could be utilized for this purpose.

Commissioner Millett was in favor of approving awards as recommended by OCORC with regular feedback throughout project lengths to monitor progress.

Commissioner Turner was in favor of approving awards as recommended by OCORC and holding the additional \$240k while exploring grant opportunities for the jail.

Announce Funding Awards

The Commissioners voted in favor of accepting OCORC's recommendations and announced the following awards from the opioid settlement funds:

- WMARI/The Hills – \$149,571.43
- Maine Health dba Healthy Oxford Hills – \$82,820
- River Valley Recovers Strong – \$5,000
- Larry Labonte Recovery Center – \$150,000 (\$50k per year, over 3 years)
- River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition – \$70,000

Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter

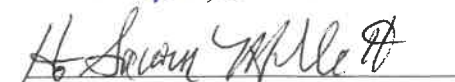
The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) to discuss a personnel matter. No action was needed upon returning to open session.

Adjournment

The Commissioners adjourned at 10:56am.


Timothy G. Turner, Chair


Lisa M. Keim, Commissioner


H. Sawin Millett, 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.*