OXFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 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, October 1, being a workshop 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:

September 15	approved with amendments

Agenda Adopted
The agenda was adopted with the addition of considering a request for administrative support in Upton and a discussion regarding personnel count in the proposed budget.

Public Comment
Paris resident Troy Ripley suggested that the County collaborate with the Town of Paris regarding law enforcement services following the upcoming retirement of the Paris Police Chief. Commissioners Keim explained that in order for any sort of agreement like that, the decision makers in Paris would need to approach the decision makers at the County and request a formal discussion over the matter.

Byron resident David Duguay referred to public comment made at the previous meeting regarding allegations of damage to Sheriff Wainwright's county issued vehicle as the result of a crash. He noted that when he left the Commission Board at the end of 2024 the matter had not been resolved. He explained that although the Board could not find a cooperating autobody shop, there were witnesses and photos, and his understanding was that the Commissioners would continue the investigation.

Sheriff Wainwright responded by calling Mr. Duguay's comment a political hit job and that he was trying to create something that wasn't there. Commissioner Keim warned him that those remarks should be discussed with Mr. Duguay directly and wasn't a substantial comment regarding county business.

Matters Pertaining to the Unorganized Territory
The Commissioners authorized Administrator Loper to submit an NBRC grant application as the project manager.

The Commissioners authorized UT Supervisor Tony Carter to assist the Town of Upton by becoming Project Manager of road project on East B Hill Road as part of the Federal Land Access Program

Matters Pertaining to the Airport

The Commissioners approved a lease agreement for land leases at the county airport in Oxford.

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

- The Commissioners authorized Administrator Loper to execute a contract for lower propane costs upon receipt of all bids.
- The Commissioners asked that the administration staff send out invitations to Police Chiefs within the county to attend the November 17 meeting for a general discussion and meet and greet, noting that this sort of meeting hasn't happened in several years.
- Administrator Loper, Finance Director Lindsay Kay, and Treasurer Beth Calhoun asked the Commissioners to clarify the number of budgeted positions in the first draft.
- The Commissioners authorized the purchase of a Chevy Suburban transport vehicle for the jail up to $70,000.

Executive Sessions

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 A) with Deeds Register Cherri Crockett to discuss a personnel matter. They returned to open session and took the following actions:

Authorized the reclassification of Deeds Clerk Alicia Taylor to Deputy Register effective October 1 with a wage rate of $27.70/hr (4th level) and a 90-day probationary period per county policy.

Authorized the reclassification of Deputy Register Michele Wakefield to Deeds Clerk effective October 1 with a wage rate of $25.27/hr (5th level) and a 90-day probationary period per county policy.

The Commissioners entered an executive session (1 M.R.S.A. § 405-6 D) with Sheriff Wainwright, Chief Urquhart, Major Thompson, Major Dillingham, and Lindsay Kay to discuss updates on labor contract negotiations with the Correctional Union. No action was needed upon returning to open session.

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

Adjournment

The Commissioners adjourned at 1:52pm.

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.*