

Kennebec County Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
5:01PM to 7:13PM in Augusta at Hill House 125 State Street

Members present: Eric Austin, Ray Bates, Jon Beekman, Charlie Hippler, Lloyd Irland, Michael Perkins, Kathryn Mills Woodsum.

Members absent: Shawn Dixon.

Commissioners Present: Patsy Crockett, Joseph Pietroski.

1. Meeting was called to order by Lloyd Irland at 5:01PM.
2. Presentation of Cooperative Extension and 4-H: Victor Esposito, Waterville member, and Alisha Targonski, 4-H Youth Development Kennebec County, introduced Meredith Eccher-Mullally, student member and President of her 4-H chapter. Meredith presented her paper on 4-H which explained the work and commitment involved in 4-H and how it has impacted her life. Alisha stated that 100 youth belong to 4-H and over 450 students participate in school programs.
 - a. The budget has no increase. This is a cash contribution the County provides to the State 4-H organization to foster programming. The County also provides office space on the third floor of Hill House to 4-H, including janitorial services, at no cost.
3. Minutes: Motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 28, 2026 by Ray, second by Jon. Vote in favor 5/0 with 2 abstentions due to absence from Charlie and Mike. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 25, 2026 by Ray, second by Charlie. Vote in favor 5/0 with 2 abstentions due to absence from Jon and Mike.
4. Meetings: Meeting dates were set as follows:
 - a. March 10 Capital Planning Workshop 4PM to 5:30PM
 - b. March 11 Discussion and action on presentations
 - c. March 18 Discussion and action on presentations, vote on budget
 - d. March 25 Public Hearing Waterville 6PM
 - e. April 1 Public Hearing Augusta 6PM, followed by final vote on budget.
5. Presentation of the Treasurer's & Finance Budgets. Finance Director Scott Adkins presented both budgets, thanking Audrey Fredericks, Finance Manager, for her assistance and knowledge.
 - a. Finance: Fairly static, only changes are minimal.
 - b. Finance: Not many changes except due to wages, which includes benefits. The non-Union positions are negotiated through the Commissioners. The COLA used is 3.5%.
 - c. Proposed Capital Planning. We have \$300,000 on hand from the budget remaining this year and the new year (FY27). There are 2 critical projects that must be addressed; Elevators and Roof-top A/C units. The elevators are old and there are very few new parts available to repair them with, so replacement is needed to for safety and to maintain legal responsibilities with ADA requirements. There is one in

the County Court House, one in Hill House and one in the old Jail building used by Administration. The building housing the County Courthouse has three rooftop A/C units that are failing and needing yearly repairs, and must be replaced to keep the air quality acceptable in the building.

- d. It was suggested that we hold a workshop to go over the capital needs and determine a reasonable schedule to address the needs of the County. We agreed to meet on Tuesday March 10th from 4PM to 5:30PM at Hill House in the large conference room as noted in item 4. Those who will attend: Scott A., Audrey, Scott F., Dan, Lloyd, Jon, Kathryn, Charlie, and possibly Ray.
6. Presentation of the Probate Department Budget. Register of Probate Ronda Snyder presented information about the department and then the budget request.
 - a. The office handles more than 1000 cases annually, 65% to 70% are informal estates. Other cases are name changes, adoptions, out-of-state folks, guardianship to care for adults and children, and conservatorships to handle the financial affairs of adults and children. They also handle about 500 walk-in customers annually.
 - b. The department produces revenue and typically stays on budget. Notices have to be posted physically in print, which is really only the Kennebec Journal, and they have eliminated the subscriptions cost. They have cut back on the food budget for meetings held with judges. There is a request to further increase the Deputy Register wage to \$65,000; the Commissioners approved \$61,000; was \$55,000. This year's budget is a decrease of 1.2%.
 - c. The staff is very knowledgeable and relates well with the public who are often dealing with very difficult personal situations. Feedback is positive from the public and all folks are treated in a welcoming manner.
 7. Presentation of the IT Department Budget: Director Devon Parsons heads a team of 3, including himself.
 - a. They run an on-site server room that services all county record keeping needs including the DA, the Sheriff, and the EMA 911 dispatching system for processing calls, which also serves Gardiner PD.
 - b. The only sizeable increase in the budget is due to subscription costs increases. In the future there will need to be an increase in servers needed for the new Sheriff's Office Records Management System upgrade, costing at least \$200,000. There was discussion from the Budget Committee about having several different dispatch systems and having something more manageable.
 8. Presentation of the Registry of Deeds Budget: Matt Boucher, Registrar of Deeds presented a slim budget with most increases due to wages and benefits: 3.5 COLA for non-union staff, and 8.5% for the union negotiated staff. AI tech is coming into most things now with records and management. AI can transcribe old script hand-written documents, and can index and verify documents. These are things a clerk currently performs. The Maine Legislature tried to pass many bills relating to Deeds and most failed, and thus the County is keeping most of the revenue it earns. Revenue is produced by this department and it

largely funds its budget. This year a new flat fee went into effect which has simplified transactions: \$40 for individuals and \$25 for municipalities.

9. Presentation of the EMA Budget: Angela Molino, EMA Director, presented a slim budget with most increases due to wages and benefits. Several handouts were given to provide background about the department: an Inventory sheet of equipment owned by towns throughout the County, an All-Hazards Risk Assessment summary, and the Activities over the 2025/2026 year. The department receives an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) that is approximately \$60,000 annually.
 - a. This year all towns and cities must work on completing a Risk Assessment survey, including four in-person meetings, which will build town/city plans, and a County plan. This is for Hazard Mitigation: EMA is collecting the data, compiling, and sharing it with all towns.
10. Next Meeting: The plan is to review the presentations, discuss issues and make changes if desired. Kathryn reminded folks that changes must be made by Chart of Account designations with budgeted amount and revised amount stated.
11. Motion to adjourn at 7:13 by Ray, second by Jon. Vote in favor 7/0.

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Mills Woodsum.

Approved March 11, 2026