

Kennebec County Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
5:02PM to 7:30PM in Augusta at Hill House 125 State Street

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

Members absent: Michael Perkins.

Commissioners Present: Patsy Crockett, Joseph Pietroski.

1. Meeting was called to order by Lloyd Irland at 5:02PM.
2. Minutes: Motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 4, 2026 by Ray, second by Jon. Kathryn noted an error naming the Deeds building that should be the County Courthouse. Motion to amend approval with the stated change by Ray, second by Jon. Vote in favor on the amendment and the original motion 6/0 with 1 abstention due to absence from Shawn.
3. Explanation of the Budget Process presented by Commissioner Crockett. In general terms, the Department Heads give their figures to the County Administrator, who then compiles the total budget and gives it to the Commissioners. They review the budget with most Department Heads, often line-by-line, and then hold discussion. When needed, Human Resources will compile a salary study for the Commissioners who will then make recommendations for specific requests. The budget is then approved to be distributed to the Budget Committee for review.
4. Meeting on March 18, 2026. Lloyd stated he can not be in attendance and asked that Kathryn chair the meeting. There were no objections.
5. Review of Department Budgets for the purpose of discussion, clarification and making changes.
  - a. Corrections: Captain Slaney explained that the level amount for overtime can actually be seen as a decrease due to the fact that wages have increased and thus overtime is more costly per employee, so by keeping the same amount it is actually for using less time in this budget line. No changes were made.
  - b. Sheriff: Discussion about the Overtime amount. The request is up \$225,000 from \$300,000 to \$525,000. There are two new positions included in the Patrol Deputy line which would seem to cover a lot of the overtime cost that has occurred in the current year which will approach \$525,000. Sheriff Ken Mason said that he would consider reducing this line and would like to discuss with the County Administrator and come back to us next week. The Sheriff asked to purchase a new copier rather than a refurbished one.

- i. **Motion:** To increase line A001-1075-7350 Office Equipment, from \$7,500 to \$13,000, for purchase of a new copier, made by Jon Beekman, seconded by Ray Bates. Vote in favor 7/0.
- c. District Attorney: DA Maeghan Maloney asked for consideration of a cost-sharing proposal with Probate and for two wage increases.
  - i. **Motion:** To decrease line A001-1015-4081 Professional Service-Security, from \$136,249 to \$124,735, for a change in cost sharing of service with the Probate Department from 70-30 to 65-35, made by Lloyd Irland, seconded by Ray Bates. Vote in favor 7/0.
  - ii. **Motion:** To increase line A001-1015-3000 Office Manager, from \$81,551 to \$88,793, to increase wage commensurate with job duties, made by Kathryn Woodsum, seconded by Lloyd Irland. Vote in favor 7/0.
  - iii. **Motion:** To increase line A001-1015-3105 Domestic Violence Investigator, from \$148,782 to \$157,102, to increase wage on same scale as Patrol Deputies, made by Eric Austin, seconded by Ray Bates. Vote in favor 7/0.
- d. Executive & Administrative: The Commissioners have approved a contracted wage increase with the County Administrator at 3.5%. The amount will be considered at our next meeting.
- e. Facilities: No changes.
- f. Probate: Register of Probate Ronda Snyder asked for consideration of cost-sharing proposal with the DA and for an employee wage increase.
  - i. **Motion:** To increase line A001-1070-4081 Professional Service-Security, from \$55,651 to \$67,165, for a change in cost sharing of service with the District Attorney Department from 70-30 to 65-35, made by Lloyd Irland, seconded by Ray Bates. Vote in favor 7/0.
  - ii. **Motion:** To increase line A001-1070-3100 Deputy Register, from \$60,995 to \$65,000, to increase wage commensurate with job duties, made by Ray Bates, seconded by Jon Beekman. Vote in favor 7/0.
- g. Information Technology: No changes.
- h. Deeds: Register of Deeds Matt Boucher requests a decrease in the line for office equipment due to cost decrease.
  - i. **Motion:** To decrease line A001-1065-7350 Office Equipment, from \$5,500 to \$3,500, at the request of the department head due to decreased cost, made by Jon Beekman, seconded by Ray Bates. Vote in favor 7/0.
- i. Finance & Treasurer: No changes.

- j. Emergency Management: Director Angela Molina requests to move funding for a position from 50% County and 50% Federal Grant to 100% County. There will still be revenue from the current grant to help cover this cost, but protects the position from grant approval actions.
    - i. **Motion:** To increase line A001-1010-3103 EMA GIS Planner, from \$31,613 to \$63,838, to fully fund this position by the County which was previously funded 50% by federal grants, made by Eric Austin, seconded by Jon Beekman. Vote in favor 7/0.
  - k. Programs: **Motion:** To decrease line A001-2045-4713 MD3, from \$25,000 to \$0, for a donation request to a previously defunded program, made by Jon Beekman, seconded by Ray Bates. Vote in favor 7/0
6. Audit: Jon asked about the fund balances contained in the Audit that Scott announced has been received and will be discussed at the Commissioner's meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The General Fund balance is \$177,000 and the Jail General Fund balance is \$1,700,000.
7. Dispatch update: Presentation by Chief Chris Read. In response to discussion at our previous meeting the following information was shared.
- a. The current records management system, named IMC, was purchased in 1998. It is old and becoming extremely difficult to use effectively with virtually no support available. A new system is needed.
  - b. The new system being considered is Pro Suite. This has not been purchased.
  - c. The State Police is the current dispatch service for the Sheriff's Office. They use the Spillman system and will not agree to training for and using Pro Suite.
  - d. A proposal has been sought and received from the Augusta Police Department to dispatch for the Sheriff's Office; they already use Pro Suite. The proposal is for multiple area law enforcement agencies to join together. Augusta PD would need 5 new dispatchers, with training, for this service, and the cost would be significantly more for many towns in the County (up to 50%). Kennebec County would need more server space with a cost of \$200,000 or more.
8. Utilities Request: Kathryn asked for the utilities costs to be apportioned to all departments in the interest of fairness. Scott Ferguson stated he will do that this coming week based on square footage used in each building.
9. Lloyd asked if we could consider having metrics available in very general terms for each department that show workload. Requests to discuss at a future meeting.
10. Next Meeting: The plan is to review Capital Investment Planning, consider revenues and fund balance, tax impacts, and to discuss two items remaining from tonight: County Administrator wage, and Sheriff Overtime, and any other items Budget Committee members wish to address.

- a. Sheriff A001-1075-3606 Overtime From Amount: \$525,000 To Amount: ??
- b. Administration A001-1022-3100 County Administrator From \$143,016 To Amount \$148,022

11. Motion to adjourn at 7:30 by Ray, second by Eric. Vote in favor 7/0.

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Mills Woodsum.

Approved March 18, 2026.