

## Kennebec County Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

6PM to 7:33PM 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, George Jabar, Joseph Pietroski.

1. Meeting was called to order by Patsy Crockett at 6PM.
2. Public Hearing: Lloyd opened the Public Hearing at 6:01PM.
  - a. No one offered any input. Lloyd spoke of issues raised by various folks through email and prior meetings
  - b. Public Hearing closed at 6:05PM.
3. Meeting Minutes:
  - a. **Motion** by Jon to approve the meeting minutes of 3/25/26 as presented, second by Ray. Vote to approve 4/0/3, with 3 abstentions due to absence by Eric, Lloyd & Mike.
  - b. **Motion** by Eric to approve the meeting minutes of 3/18/26 as presented, second by Ray. Vote to approve 6/0/1, with abstention due to absence by Lloyd.
4. **Motion** to increase revenue by \$150,000 for Deeds from \$850,000 to \$1,000,000. Vote in favor: 7/0. Register of Deed Matt Bouchard stated the increase is appropriate.
5. **Motion** to increase revenue by \$50,000 for Probate from \$225,000 to \$275,000. Vote in favor: 7/0. Register of Deed Ronda Snyder stated via phone call the increase is appropriate.
6. The Budget Committee asked for Revenue Detail for the FY28 budget including a 3-year lookback as is practice for Expenses. Intention to hold a one meeting Revenue discussion next year.
7. Discussion on using Undesignated funds from the Fund Balances. No action was taken. The Budget Committee asks for an appropriate percentage of funds to be held as working funds to be determined and discussed for FY28 meetings.
8. **Motion** by Ray to increase the Probate Paralegal line to 4% from 3.5%, second by Lloyd. **Motion withdrawn** by both. **Motion** by Ray to increase the salary of one Paralegal from \$49,212 to \$51,180 on line A001-1070-3101. Vote to approve 7/0.
9. **Motion** by Jon to increase the County Administrator line by 3.5% for a Commissioner approved merit increase, on line A001-1022-3100. Vote to approve: 5/2 with Ray & Mike opposed.
10. Permission granted to Jon to amend a motion from 3/25/26 meeting. **Motion** by Jon to request that the Commissioners approve and direct the County to issue a single invoice to Kennebec County cities and towns for two equal tax bills with the 1st installment due 1 September and the second installment due 1 February, second by Ray. Vote to approve: 7/0.
11. **Motion** by Ray to forward the Unity Plantation budget to the Kennebec County Commissioners for approval, second by Lloyd. Vote to approve: 7/0.
12. **Motion** by Jon to forward tonight's final budget to the Kennebec County Commissioners for approval, second by Lloyd. Vote to approve: 5/2 with Ray & Mike opposed.

13. Budget meeting sat silent while the Kennebec County Commissioners met and approved the budget we sent them. The Budget Committee signed the budget for FY27.
14. Considerations for FY28: These will assist in planning schedules and presentations.
  - a. Meetings: Wednesdays 5PM to 7PM beginning 1/27/27.
  - b. Agendas: Follow same basic plan FY27.
    - i. 1/27/27: Introductions, review Budget Committee charge, elect Chair and Recording Secretary, set priorities. Review Department summaries containing metrics. Discuss percentage of County funds to be held as working funds. Discuss members meeting with Departments throughout the budget season. No budget is expected for this meeting.
    - ii. 2/3/27: Facilities Tour.
    - iii. 2/10/27: Jail Tour. Required for new members, optional for returning members.
    - iv. 2/17/27: Ride with a Deputy Sherriff week. All members need to complete a ride if they have not already done one. Contact Chief Chris Read to schedule.
    - v. 2/24/27: Budget binders will be available prior to this meeting. Department presentations of revenue & expenses followed by discussions. Possibly: Corrections & Sheriff.
    - vi. 3/3/27: Department presentations of revenue & expenses followed by discussions. Possibly: DA, Superior Court, Executive, Administration, Probate, IT.
    - vii. 3/10/27: Department presentations of revenue & expenses followed by discussions. Possibly: Deeds, Finance, Treasurer, EMA, Programs, Other, Unity Plantation.
    - viii. 3/17/27: Department presentations of revenue & expenses followed by discussions. Possibly: Facilities, Capital Plan. Discussion concerning overall revenues & expenses, and tax impacts to cities & towns. Consider entire budget to present to the public.
    - ix. 3/24/27: Tentative Public Hearing North.
    - x. 3/31/27: Tentative Public Hearing South. Possible: Discuss and & adopt final budget, send to Commissioners for approval, Commissioners hold meeting, sign final budget.
  - c. Membership: Mike and Lloyd stated that they will not be returning next year. Charlie and Shawn are running for State Offices and may not return. Eric plans to return if re-elected, Ray & Kathryn plan to return.
15. Requests of County Administrator:
  - a. Send notices to Budget Committee members of Commissioners Meeting Agendas posted.
  - b. Send Admin Financial Review monthly report to Budget Committee members.
  - c. Ask Chief Read to send Vehicle Listing to Budget Committee members.
  - d. Have each department provide Revenue Detail for the FY28 budget including a 3-year lookback as is practice for Expenses.
  - e. Have each department prepare a summary, with key metrics including a 3-year lookback.
16. Sheriff dispatch issues: Discussed having one Budget Committee member be involved in the ongoing discussions concerning dispatch for the Sheriff's Office. No one volunteered.
17. **Motion** to adjourn by Lloyd at 7:33, second by Ray. Vote in favor: 7/0

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Mills Woodsum.