

Kennebec County Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
6PM to 8:23PM in Augusta at Hill House 125 State Street

Members present: Eric Austin, Garry Hinkley, Theresa Haskell, Kathryn Mills Woodsum, Lloyd Irland, Kathleen Cutler, Michael Perkins

Members excused absent: Lee Trahan, Ashley Sennett.

Commissioners Present: Patsy Crockett, Joseph Pietroski.

1. Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Crockett at 6PM.
2. The purpose of tonight's meeting was to discuss the budgets presented and make any needed motions concerning line-item amounts in the budget. A final budget is expected to be considered and voted on.
3. Motions were made asking the Commissioners to take specific actions.
 - a. **Motion:** Request the Kennebec County Commissioners for a Capital Investment Plan for the county which lists all known capital needs by department, with their last known replacement year, expected life, estimated replacement year and cost, beginning with the fiscal year 2025 and projecting out 5 years, with estimated amounts for the next budget year to be raised from taxes and to be appropriated from reserve funds, to be revised annually, and to be discussed with the Kennebec County Budget Committee annually prior to forming the next years projected budget. An example is provided. Made by Eric Austin, seconded by Kathryn Woodsum. Vote 7-0.
 - b. **Motion:** Request the Kennebec County Commissioners for a Ten-Year Summary Budget Plan by Department Total for the county, based on the current summary plan, showing the previous five years, the current year and the next four years, which lists each department total, the variance for the current year, and also showing the year when contracts and negotiations fall due, to be revised annually, and to be discussed with the Kennebec County Budget Committee annually prior to forming the next years projected budget. An example is provided. The package should include workload indicators and projected indicators where feasible. An example would be case numbers and such for the D. A. Made by Eric Austin, seconded by Lloyd Irland. Vote 6-1, Theresa Haskell opposed.
 - c. **Motion:** Request the Kennebec County Commissioners for a staffing study for the Kennebec County Government to be used for optimization of services and personnel needed, to be used for hiring and budgeting purposes. This also should use the workload indicators. It may be best to consider two studies one each for the Jail and the Sheriff. Made by Eric Austin, seconded by Kathleen Cutler. Vote on the motion with the amendment: 7-0.

Amendment to the Motion: Amend for only the Jail and Sheriff departments. Made by Garry Hinkley, seconded by Lloyd Irland. Vote: 7-0.
 - d. **Motion:** Request that from this day forward in all public and formal communications, the "Jail" be referred to as "The Kennebec County Correctional Facility" or "KCCF". Made by: Eric Austin, seconded by Michael Perkins. Motion withdrawn by Eric Austin and second withdrawn by Michael Perkins.

4. **Motion** to accept the Budget Committee Minutes of March 12, 2025 and March 19, 2025 made by Theresa Haskell, second by Kathleen Cutler. Vote: 6-0-1 Garry Hinkley abstained due to absence.
5. **Motion** to accept the Budget Committee Hearing Minutes of March 18, 2025 made by Eric Austin, second by Kathryn Woodsum. Vote: 2-0-5 Garry Hinkley, Theresa Haskell, Lloyd Irland, Kathleen Cutler, Michael Perkins abstained due to absence.
6. Discussion was held and no motions were made in the following departments:
 - a. Deeds
 - b. Executive
 - c. DA
 - d. EMA
 - e. Executive/Administration
 - f. Facilities
 - g. Finance
 - h. Treasurer
 - i. IT
 - j. Probate
7. Discussion was held and motions made in the following departments:
 - a. **Professional: Motion** to: Reduce line A001-2050-4720 Insurance Risk Management, from \$105,950 to \$89,000, due to lower cost from the MCCA Risk Pool, made by Kathryn Woodsum, seconded by Kathleen Cutler. Vote 7-0.
 - b. **Sheriff: Motion** to: Reduce line A001-1075-4455 Body Cameras and Software, from \$19,300 to \$15,000, due to a revised estimate, made by Kathryn Woodsum, seconded by Theresa Haskell. Vote 7-0.
 - c. **Jail: Motion** to: Fully fund all six positions requested in the Jail budget line A002-1050-3110 Corrections Officers and reduce Line A002-1050-3606 Overtime from \$865,700 to \$665,700, made by Kathryn Woodsum, seconded by Garry Hinkley. Motion withdrawn by Kathryn Woodsum and second withdrawn by Garry Hinkley.
8. **Motion** to: Approve the Kennebec County Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in the total amount of \$25,545,082, which represents a 9.6% increase, and to approve the Total Amount to Be Raised from Taxes as \$20,730,082, which represents a 13.5% increase, and to submit this to the Kennebec County Commissioners. Vote: 6-1 Kathleen Cutler opposed.
9. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 9th at 5PM. The commissioners will have discussed and voted on the Budget submitted to them from this meeting on Tuesday April 1st. Agenda:
 - a. Discuss and vote on any changes made by the Commissioners.
 - b. Sign the final budget.
10. Motion to adjourn at 8:23PM made by Garry Hinkley, second by Michael Perkins. Approved by unanimous vote.

Attachments: Sample Capital Plan Readfield Maine 2025
FY26 2025-03-12 KCBC Meeting 4-Binder Version Summary Budget

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Mills Woodsum, March 27, 2025. Approved April 9, 2025.