**COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

**MEETING STARTS AT 3:00 PM**

**SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

**Present: Commissioners:** Chair Robert Sezak, Vice Chair Scott Seekins, Don Skillings, John Alsop and Joel Stetkis were present (Commissioner Stetkis arrived at 3:15pm).

**Staff**: Tim Curtis, Leanne Dickey, Patrick Dolan, Sheriff Lancaster and David Spencer

**Public**: Jake Freudberg with the Morning Sentinel. Canaan Fire Chief Charles Worcester, Rebecca Anderson Bright from Smithfield, Drew Foran and Julie Richard from Bingham, Jennifer Brockway with Somerset Woods Trustees and Amber Albe with Skowhegan Main Street. Joining via Zoom were Ashley with Holland Drug in Skowhegan, Susanne Levasseur with the St. Albans Housing Corporation, Jeff Veilleux with the Mercer Historical Society, Clarance Begin from Moose River, Teresa Lovejoy from MSAD12, Dick Davis from Pittsfield and Edith Cornwall with the East Pond Association.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was observed.

**B. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

**C. MINUTES:**

**Resolution 26-76: To accept the minutes from the meeting of May 20, 2026.**
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to accept the minutes from the meeting of May 20, 2026.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 4-0

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT:** (To allow members of the public to comment or reserve time to speak on an upcoming agenda item.) None other than those supporting grant applications.

**E. WORKSHOP:** None

**F. PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**G. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:** (Commissioners Only): None

**H. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Administrator Curtis updated the Commissioners on edits to the draft agreement with Waldo County for administrative services at the Somerset County Jail. Waldo Commissioners have agreed to the terms of payment and the agreement has been made specifically to the services of Jail Administrator Matt Magnusson. A resolution is on the agenda for approval.

Administrator Curtis has been in contact with Maine Huts & Trails Director Wolfe Tone about providing the Commissioners with an update on developments at the next meeting on June 17th. Director Tone has applied for TIF funding. That application is currently under review by the County TIF committee. The County received a letter of thanks from the Winslow Food Cupboard for the donation to support their services in the Unorganized Territory.

Commissioner Sezak asked about the Administrator's work reviewing Title 30-A. Administrator Curtis said he is helping other administrators review the very lengthy portion of statute to identify portions that may need to be updated by the legislature. He will create a summary for the Commissioners at the next meeting.

**I. FINANCE & OTHER REPORTS: Finance Director Patrick Dolan** reported that the close of fiscal year 2026 is underway. He will provide a preliminary report on actual expenses versus budget for the next meeting.

**Sheriff Lancaster** said there were 478 calls for service last week and calls are on the rise as summer comes. This week is Corrections Officer appreciation week, and certain CO's have received recognition for outstanding work. The Sheriff recommended that the Commission authorize approximately $57,000 to enter a three-year service contract with Guardian for inmate tracking. This system is expected to reduce liability by providing electronic records of regular inmate counts and cell checks.

**U/T Coordinator David Spencer** explained that the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) is considering rezoning the property currently owned and operated by Maynards of Maine, a popular camping destination in Rockwood. The property has traditionally been zoned as residential despite the operation of businesses and restaurants. Maynards is proposing an expansion, with the rezoning being the first step. Dave said he has attended public hearings and reviewed the plans. The LUPC is requesting a form from the Commissioners with comments, if any. The form is due back to LUPC by Monday June 8th. The consensus was in favor of rezoning and Commissioner Skillings motioned to authorize Administrator Curtis to sign the comment form and submit to the LUPC, seconded by Commissioner Alsop. Motion carries 5-0.

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution 26-74 was tabled at the previous meeting.**

**Resolution 26-74: To accept the resignation of Detective Sergeant Ronnie Blodgett.**
Motion: Commissioner Stetkis motioned to accept the resignation of Detective Sergeant Ronnie Blodgett.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**K. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution 26-77: To approve the re-commission of Patrol Sergeant Matt Cunningham with the Somerset Sheriff's Office.**
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve the re-commission of Patrol Sergeant Matt Cunningham with the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-78: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Canaan Fire Department to help fund the purchase of three new SCBA Units (Air Tanks). $15,000.00**
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Canaan Fire Department to help fund the purchase of three new SCBA Units (Air Tanks). $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-79: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Mercer Historical Society to help fund repairs to History House. $10,000.00**
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Mercer Historical Society to help fund repairs to History House. $10,000.00

Second: Commissioner Skillings
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-80: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Moose River to help fund a portion of the Rural Paramedic Program. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Stetkis motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Moose River to help fund a portion of the Rural Paramedic Program. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-81: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Bijou Theater and Enrichment Center in Pittsfield to help fund theater renovations. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Bijou Theater and Enrichment Center in Pittsfield to help fund theater renovations. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-82: To approve a Matching Grant Application for Dennistown FD/EMS to help fund a portion of the Rural Paramedic Program. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for Dennistown FD/EMS to help fund a portion of the Rural Paramedic Program. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-83: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Starks to help fund the installation of heat pumps at the Community Center. $8,100.00**

Motion: Commissioner Skillings motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Starks to help fund the installation of heat pumps at the Community Center. $8,100.00
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Discussion: Commissioner Alsop expressed his opposition to using these funds for what he considered routine maintenance at town facilities; Commissioner Seekins agreed.
Vote: Motion Carries 3-2 (Alsop, Seekins opposed).

**Resolution 26-84: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry to help fund replacement of a dumbwaiter system at their facility. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry to help fund replacement of a dumbwaiter system at their facility. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-85: To approve a Matching Grant Application for St. Albans Housing Corp to help fund the installation of generators at Fairhaven Terrace. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for St. Albans Housing Corp to help fund the installation of generators at Fairhaven Terrace. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Skillings
Discussion: Commissioner Seekins was under the impression that the Town was writing this grant and that it doesn't align with the use of the funds. Susanne Levasseur with the St. Albans Housing Corp explained

that the Town is not involved with this application and that they are providing the matching funds from money they have saved for this project.
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-86: To approve a Matching Grant Application for Forest Hills High School in Jackman to fund security upgrades. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Stetkis motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for Forest Hills High School in Jackman to fund security upgrades. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Discussion: Commissioner Alsop asked if the school had spent money previously awarded. Administrator Curtis said they did award $5,000 previously for a bleacher project that was never completed and the funds stayed with the County. Forest Hills Principal Teresa Lovejoy explained that the matching funds are coming from Ministerial Funds at the Town's disposal. Commissioner Stetkis said he is very much in favor of funding security improvements.
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-87: To approve a Matching Grant Application for Somerset Woods Trustees to help fund the purchase of Gilman Stream Forest in New Portland. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for Somerset Woods Trustees to help fund the purchase of Gilman Stream Forest in New Portland. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Discussion: Commissioner Skillings said he struggles with this request because SWT does not commit to allowing motorized (ATV) use of the trails on the property. Commissioner Stetkis asked if property taxes would be paid. Jennifer Brockway with SWT said taxes would be paid.
Vote: Motion Carries 4-1 (Skillings opposed)

**Resolution 26-88: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the East Pond Association to help fund the purchase of a scientific data buoy. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Skillings motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the East Pond Association to help fund the purchase of a scientific data buoy. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Discussion: Administrator Curtis provided updated information on the total project cost which is $22,000, which by rule would allow for a maximum grant of $11,000. Commissioner Stetkis asked if tests of soil samples were routine maintenance. It was explained that this is all part of the testing project. Commissioners Skillings and Alsop amended their motion and second to award up to $11,000. The Commissioners voted in favor of the amended amount.
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-89: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the West Forks Fire Department to help with the purchase of new radios and a used Forestry Truck. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the West Forks Fire Department to help with the purchase of new radios and a used Forestry Truck. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-90: To approve a Matching Grant Application for Merrill, Hyde, Fortier & Youney to help fund building repairs. $6,500.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for Merrill, Hyde, Fortier & Youney to help fund building repairs. $6,500.00

Second: Commissioner Skillings

Discussion: Commissioner Alsop is not in favor of awarding funds for private businesses that could find the means elsewhere. Commissioner Skillings said his background gives him the sense that these repairs should have been done over time through routine building maintenance. Commissioner Sezak would consider awarding a smaller amount such as $1,000 but was not willing to make a motion to that.

Vote: Motion Fails 0-5

**Resolution 26-91: To approve a Matching Grant Application for Watching Point to help fund repairs to the Skowhegan Indian sculpture: $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for Watching Point to help fund repairs to the Skowhegan Indian sculpture: $15,000.00

Second: Commissioner Seekins

Vote: Motion Fails 2-3 (Seekins, Stetkis, Skillings opposed)

**Resolution 26-92: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Smithfield to help fund tablets to be used for firefighter training. $1,696.00**

Motion: Commissioner Skillings motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Smithfield to help fund tablets to be used for firefighter training. $1,696.00

Second: Commissioner Stetkis

Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-93: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Palmyra Park Boosters Club to help fund the purchase of new playground equipment. $5,500.00**

Motion: Commissioner Skillings motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Palmyra Park Boosters Club to help fund the purchase of new playground equipment. $5,500.00

Second: Commissioner Alsop

Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-94: To approve a Matching Grant Application for Holland Drug INC to help establish free delivery to customers in Solon, Bingham and Jackman areas. $10,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Skillings motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for Holland Drug INC to help establish free delivery to customers in Solon, Bingham and Jackman areas. $10,000.00

Second: Commissioner Alsop

Discussion: Commissioner Alsop is not in favor of giving money to a private business that could raise funds on their own. Commissioner Skillings said he is in favor of serving vulnerable populations but would rather see other options such as the business creating a non-profit arm to focus on delivery. Ashley with Holland Drug thanked the Commissioners for their consideration and ideas for the future.

Vote: Motion Fails 0-5

**Resolution 26-95: To approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Bingham to help with the cost of installing Scenic Byway Interpretive Panels. $15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for the Town of Bingham to help with the cost of installing Scenic Byway Interpretive Panels. $15,000.00
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Bingham Select Board member Julie Richard spoke to the project
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-96: To approve a Matching Grant Application for Skowhegan Outdoors to help fund improvements to Skowhegan Gorge Area. $12,500.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve a Matching Grant Application for Skowhegan Outdoors to help fund improvements to Skowhegan Gorge Area. $12,500.00
Second: Commissioner Skillings
Discussion: Commissioner Skillings said he has re-educated himself about this project and is encouraged that something will be done in the river that is visible to the public.
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-97: To approve paying out $4,038.00 in Community Benefit funds to the East Madison Historical Society for completion of their matching grant project.**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve paying out $4,038.00 in Community Benefit funds to the East Madison Historical Society for completion of their matching grant project.
Second: Commissioner Skillings
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-98: To authorize the posting of a Detective position with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.**

Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to authorize the posting of a Detective position with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-99: To authorize the posting of a Detective <u>Sergeant</u> position with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.**

Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to authorize the posting of a Detective <u>Sergeant</u> position with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-100: To authorize the posting of a Patrol Deputy position with the Somerset Sheriff's Office.**

Motion: Commissioner Stetkis motioned to authorize the posting of a Patrol Deputy position with the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Discussion: Commissioner Skillings said this opening assumes that a patrol deputy will fill the detective opening. Administrator Curtis clarified that this opening is based on the new position created in the budget that begins in July. If a patrol deputy is selected to fill the open detective position, then there will be a resolution to fill that position at a future meeting.
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-101: To approve an agreement with the County of Waldo to provide Administrative Services to the Somerset County Jail.**
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve an agreement with the County of Waldo to provide Administrative Services to the Somerset County Jail.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-102**: **To authorize payment of a three-year service contract for inmate management through Guardian Radio Frequency Identification for a total cost of $57,012.67.**
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to authorize payment of a three-year service contract for inmate management through Guardian Radio Frequency Identification for a total cost of $57,012.67.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Discussion: Commissioner Alsop confirmed this was within the budget. Administrator Curtis explained that the County is getting a discount by paying all three years up front.
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**Resolution 26-103: To approve the hiring of Ethan Martin, Taran Richard and Grace Bedore as Corrections Officers at the Somerset County Jail.**
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve the hiring of Ethan Martin, Taran Richard and Grace Bedore as Corrections Officers at the Somerset County Jail.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

**L. CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENDITURES:** None

**M. UNORGANIZED TERRITORY:** None

**N. WARRANTS:**

**Resolution 26-104: To approve the Treasurer's Warrant for General Fund, SCJ, Unorganized Territories and TIF Community Benefit:**

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|---|---|
| **General Fund:** | **$123,555.73** |
| **Jail:** | **$325,454.86** |
| **U/T:** | **$ 13,903.86** |
| **TIF Community Benefit:** | **$ 4,038.00** |
| **Total:** | **$466,952.45** |

Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant for General Fund, SCJ, Unorganized Territories and TIF Community Benefit as presented.
Second: Commissioner Skillings
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

**O. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION ITEMS** (Commissioners Only): Commissioner Seekins said he has heard from residents in his area that they are appreciative of the work the Commissioners have done on the budget and other items.

**P. RECESS TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS:** The warrant and other documents were signed.

**Q. ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.