COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025
3:00pm
SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Present: Commissioners: Robert Sezak, John Alsop, Cyp Johnson, Joel Stetkis and Scott Seekins were present.
Staff: Tim Curtis, Sheriff Lancaster, Patrick Dolan and David Spencer were present.
Public: Chris Roy with Somerset Disposal and Jake Freudberg with the Morning Sentinel.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge was observed.

B. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

C. MINUTES:

Resolution 25-126: To Accept the Minutes of July 2, 2025.
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to Accept the Minutes of July 2, 2025.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: Motion Carries 4-0-1 (Stetkis abstained)

D. PUBLIC COMMENT: (To allow members of the public to comment or reserve time to speak on an upcoming agenda item.): None

E. WORKSHOP:

1. Open bids for a Three-Year Waste Disposal Contract (County Buildings): The Commissioners reviewed the following bids:

Somerset Disposal (Madison): $960 dumpster fee for year one at Courthouse and Comm Center ($1,020 for years two and three). $300 Transportation Fee per use and $110 Tipping Fee per ton.

Gregory's Disposal (Fairfield): $839.40 dumpster fee for year one at Courthouse and Comm Center ($899.40 for year two and $959.40 for year three). $250 Transportation Fee per use and $99.95 Tipping Fee per ton for year one ($265/$104.95 year two and $280/$109.95 year three). Also a rental fee for the 40 yard container at the SCJ of $49.95 year one, $59.95 year two and $69.95 year three.

Bolsters (Burnham): $1,188 dumpster fee for year one at Courthouse and Comm Center ($1,253 for year two and $1,322 for year three). $200 Transportation Fee

per use and $135 Tipping Fee per ton for year one ($220/$135 year two and $240/$135 year three).

Due to the complexity of the bids, the County Administrator recommended that he review the documents and costs with the respective Department Heads and bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

Commissioner Sezak asked for a workshop at the next meeting to discuss improvements to County procedures regarding public openings of bids.

Chris Roy with Somerset Disposal recommended that the County look to negotiate a tipping fee directly with Waste Management. That may save the County money.

2. Open bids for a Three-Year Waste Contract to Operate the Rockwood Transfer Station: The Commissioners reviewed the following bid:

Somerset Disposal (Madison): $85,000 per year for Operation and a Recycling Fee of $10,000 for year one, $13,000 for year two and $16,000 for year three).

U/T Coordinator David Spencer said this bid was in line with what is budgeted with the exception of the small increase to recycling. He recommends accepting the bid.

3. Policy Review: Credit Card/Disbursement of Funds: The County Administrator and Finance Director provided updates to the Credit Card Policy. Finance Director Dolan has worked with Department Heads to remove various store cards (Walmart, Staples, etc) and streamline all purchases to be made via County issued cards. The WEX cards that are used for fuel purposes will continue to be managed by the Sheriff's Department. Furthermore, Patrick recommends that employees sign a copy of the updated policy when receiving a card for accountability purposes.

Administrator Curtis shared some other recommendations for policy language. Regarding the disbursement of funds policy, Patrick said this language is no longer relevant nor necessary. The consensus of the Commissioners was to accept the proposed changes and bring the updated policy to the next meeting for approval.

4. Continued discussion on a Commissioner Resolution regarding LD1971: The Commissioners further discussed whether to urge the Governor to veto the bill as passed. Commissioner Sezak recommended tabling this discussion until the Legislature convenes for the short session in January. Commissioner Stetkis said he wants to make a statement in support of the Sheriff and did not recommend waiting. Commissioner Alsop said he would not sign the resolution because he believes it is outside the scope of the Commissioners to weigh in on various opinions of legislation.

Sheriff Lancaster said he would continue to work with the Federal Government regardless of the status of the legislation. Commissioners Seekins and Johnson are in support of

signing a document opposed to the bill and supporting the Sheriff and local law enforcement. Commissioner Sezak said the language of the drafted resolution is flawed. Commissioner Alsop asserts that whatever resolution the Commissioners put forth will have no issue on the matter at hand.

F. PUBLIC HEARING: None

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

H. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Administrator Curtis said he has been out of the office quite a bit with family vacation around the July 4th holiday and travel to MCCA meetings in Farmington and National County meetings in Philadelphia with Commissioner Sezak. The meetings have proved beneficial for his own professional development.

A follow up report on Matching Grants awarded in the Fall of 2023 was presented to the Commissioners.

The County Administrator made mention of an email he had recently received from the State Office of Elections informing Counties that there is room on the State Referendum Ballot if there were County questions to be added. The Office would need to know by August 1 to hold space and language would need to be submitted by August 22nd. The consensus of the Board was to propose the question of changing the Register of Deeds position from elected to appointed. Administrator Curtis will talk with Register of Deeds Tanya Belanger to get her thoughts and send out the language from the November 2024 ballot question for the Commissioners to consider.

I. FINANCE REPORTING: Patrick reported that the close of the FY25 budget is nearly complete. General Fund is nearly $1M favorable.

Sheriff Lancaster showed the Commissioners the new uniforms that the Patrol Deputies are using. There is a cost savings and the uniforms have ergonomic and safety improvements for the deputies.

U/T Coordinator Spencer said things are quiet in the Unorganized Territory with the exception of a few road projects.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (Resolutions tabled from the previous meeting (7/2/2025)

Resolution 25-120: To authorize a Commissioner Resolution pursuant to LD1971.
Motion: Commissioner Stetkis motioned to table the resolution until further work on the language is continued at the next meeting.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

Resolution 25-121: To establish payment options for County taxes for FY2026.

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to establish payment options for County taxes for FY2026 as presented.
Second: Commissioner Johnson
Discussion: The proposed program allows municipalities to make two payments if they choose. There is a fee imposed that keeps the County whole in regards to any loss of interest revenue. Administrator Curtis said he has heard from several towns speaking in favor of this option.
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

K. NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-127: To award the bid for a three-year contract to operate the Rockwood Transfer Station.
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to award the bid for a three-year contract to operate the Rockwood Transfer Station to Somerset Disposal in Madison for $85,000 and recycling fees of $10,000, $13,000 and $16,000.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

Resolution 25-128: To approve paying the following Matching Grant Awards based on completion of the project:

Canaan Fire Department SCBA Purchase Project: Award $15,000
Oosoola Park Gazebo Renovation Norridgewock: Award $15,000

Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to pay from Community Benefit Funds the Matching Grant Awards as presented.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

Resolution 25-129: To authorize the recommission of Stacey Slate as Deputy for the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to authorize the recommission of Stacey Slate as Deputy for the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

Resolution 25-130: To authorize the hiring of Andrew McFarland and Jason Pessolano as Corrections Officers for the Somerset County Jail.
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to authorize the hiring of Andrew McFarland and Jason Pessolano as Corrections Officers for the Somerset County Jail.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0

L. CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENDITURES: None

M. UNORGANIZED TERRITORY: None

N. WARRANTS:

Resolution 25-131: To approve the Treasurer's Warrant for General Fund, SCJ, Unorganized Territories, TIF Tax Revenue and TIF Comm. Benefit:

General Fund:	**FY25:**	**$127,525.74**
	FY26:	**$ 47,593.51**
Jail:	**FY25:**	**$ 20,848.36**
	FY26:	**$169,788.26**
U/T:	**FY25:**	**$117,847.79**
	FY26:	**$217,291.63**
TIF Tax Revenue:	**FY26:**	**$ 24,490.00**
TIF Comm. Benefit:	**FY26:**	**$ 15,000.00**
Total:	**FY25:**	**$266,221.89**
	FY26:	**$474,163.40**
Total	**FY25 & FY26:**	**$740,385.29**

Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant for the General Fund, SCJ, Unorganized Territories, TIF Tax Revenue and TIF Community Benefit in the amounts shown in the resolution.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

O. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION ITEMS: (Commissioners Only): Commissioner Sezak shared a Maine placard and commemorative plate from the National Association of Counties Convention.

P. EXECUTIVE SESSION: To discuss a personnel matter pursuant to M.R.S. Section 405(6)(A).

Motion: Commissioner Johnson motioned to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to M.R.S. Section 405(6)(A).
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion carries 5-0
The Commissioners entered into executive session at 4:03pm.
The Commissioners came out of executive session at 4:07pm. Motion by Commissioner Seekins to accept the Sheriff's recommendation to terminate an employee at the Somerset County Jail. Seconded by Commissioner Stetkis. The Commissioners agreed that the employee was afforded the opportunity to be present for the executive session, and that the employee's constitutional due process and other legal rights were honored in this process. Motion carries 5-0.

Q. RECESS TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS: Warrant documents and other items were signed.

R. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.