COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

MEETING STARTS AT 3:00 PM

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Present Commissioners: Chair Robert Sezak, Vice Chair Scott Seekins, Commissioners John Alsop, Don Skillings and Joel Stetkis were present.
Staff: Leanne Dickey, Patrick Dolan, David Spencer, Tammy Barker, Sheriff Dale Lancaster and Tim Curtis
Public: Gabe Gauvin and Kelsey Shepherd with Maine Redevelopment

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge was observed.

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

C. MINUTES:

Resolution 26-155: To accept the minutes from the meeting of September 2, 2026.
Motion: Commissioner Stetkis motioned to accept the minutes from the meeting of September 2, 2026.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

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

E. PUBLIC HEARING:

F. WORKSHOP:

1. Update on the Hartland Tannery Project from Maine Redevelopment. Gabe Gauvin and Kelsey Shepherd with Maine Redevelopment (MR) outlined the plans to redevelop the site which was purchased by MR earlier this year. Gabe provided a brief overview of the MR Land Bank and the process by which they can purchase property for development. Specific to the Hartland property, MR has held a series of public meetings to determine best uses. The current priorities have been identified as commercial, job creation, housing and green space. MR is in process of applying for grant funds to begin the process of removing most, if not all the buildings on the property. Commissioner Seekins said he has heard from several constituents regarding commercial use on the property, including a manufacturer who may be interested. Gabe encouraged the Commissioners to send people his way for further discussion.

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

H. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Curtis has been working with EMA Director Bickford and RCC Director Barker to create a stakeholders list for a Somerset EMS needs assessment. A first meeting has been scheduled for October 15th. Commissioner Stetkis wanted to know if the stakeholders included Fire Chiefs.

Tammy Barker said the initial group included fire chiefs, ambulance services and paramedicine experts. After the initial meeting, future meetings will include one Commissioner.
The Fall Matching Grant application period is open until Friday November 6th. A Department Head meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss a new format for Department Heads to report to the Commissioners.

I. FINANCE & OTHER REPORTING: Finance Director Patrick Dolan said heating oil prices continue to rise due to uncertainty in the market. He spoke with a counterpart at Redington Fairview Hospital about installing a system that would allow the Jail to switch from fuel oil to propane to control costs.

Sheriff Lancaster said it would be wise to investigate multiple fuel options at the Jail. He further reported that patrol received 436 calls for service last week, and that Field Operations Training has begun at the Jail.

RCC Director Tammy Baker said the RCC received 7,000 calls on the business line in addition to 1,766 911 calls in August. She has been meeting with Fire Chiefs to discuss moving to a simulcast radio channel to improve communications and reduce workload for dispatchers. She and Administrator Curtis updated the Commissioners on efforts to realign staffing to cover recent resignations and shifts.

Unorganized Territory Coordinator David Spencer said the last of the five plowing contracts is on the agenda for Commissioner approval. Much of his time has been spent on addressing properties in the four northernmost townships in the County.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

K. NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 26-156: To approve payment of Community Benefit awards to the following applicants for completion of their matching grant projects:

Town of Madison (ADA Ramp for Library)	**$15,000.00**
Fairfield Food Pantry (New Dumb Waiter)	**$15,000.00**
Little Wonder's Day Care (Addition)	**$15,000.00**

Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to approve payment of Community Benefit awards to the applicants for completion of their matching grant projects as presented.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

Resolution 26-157: To accept the resignation of Jacob Greco from the Somerset Regional Communications Center.
Motion: Commissioner Stetkis motioned to accept the resignation of Jacob Greco from the Somerset Regional Communications Center.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

Resolution 26-158: To authorize the posting of a dispatcher position at the Somerset Regional Communications Center.
Motion: Commissioner Skillings motioned to authorize the posting of a dispatcher position at the Somerset Regional Communications Center.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

Resolution 26-159: To authorize the promotion of Michael Lyman to Detective Sergeant in the Somerset Sheriff's Office.

Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to authorize the promotion of Michael Lyman to Detective Sergeant in the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Alsop
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

Resolution 26-160: To authorize the posting of a detective position for the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to authorize the posting of a detective position for the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Discussion: Commissioner Sezak asked if the potential hiring of a detective from the current pool of patrol deputies would put further strain on patrol coverage. The Sheriff said he would not fill this position until the three deputies that are currently in the Academy have finished their training.
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

Resolution 26-161: To accept the resignation of Kelly Tremblay from her position with the Somerset District Attorney's Office.
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to accept the resignation of Kelly Tremblay from her position with the Somerset District Attorney's Office.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

Resolution 26-162: To authorize the posting of a legal secretary position for the Somerset District Attorney's Office.
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to authorize the posting of a legal secretary position for the Somerset District Attorney's Office.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

Resolution 26-163: To approve the hiring of Nicholas Fontaine as a Patrol Deputy for the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to approve the hiring of Nicholas Fontaine as a Patrol Deputy for the Somerset Sheriff's Office.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

L. CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENDITURES: None

M. UNORGANIZED TERRITORY:

Resolution 26-164: To award the bid for Winter Maintenance in Mayfield Township.
Motion: Commissioner Alsop motioned to award the bid for Winter Maintenance in Mayfield Township to North Hill Gravel of Athens, Maine for a total price of $352,927.96.
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Discussion: Commissioners Alsop and Skillings said alternative options should be considered when the County does not receive any bids for plowing in the UT, including operating County owned equipment and seeking to collaborate with the State.
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

N. WARRANTS:

Resolution 26-165: To approve the Treasurer's Warrant for General Fund, SCJ, Unorganized Territories and TIF Community Benefit:

GENERAL:	**$ 76,885.54**
JAIL:	**$ 76,993.36**
UT:	**$105,698.55**
TIF COMM BENEFIT:	**$ 60,000.00**
TOTAL:	**$319,577.45**

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

O. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION ITEMS (Commissioners Only)**:** None

P. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Title 1, Section 405 (6) (A) Personnel SCJ

Motion: Commissioner Seekins motioned to enter executive session.
Second: Commissioner Stetkis
Vote: Motion Carries 5-0
The Commissioners entered executive session at 4:00pm.
The Commissioners exited executive session at 4:47pm.
Motion: Commissioner Skillings motioned to authorize the terms of a settlement with the Maine Human Rights Commission
Second: Commissioner Seekins
Vote: Motion carries 5-0

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

R. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.