



# Cumberland County

## Board of Commissioners

### Meeting Minutes - Draft

27 Northport Dr  
Portland, ME 04103

The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 5:30pm in the Sebago Lake Room unless otherwise noted.

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Tuesday, April 21, 2026

5:30 PM

Sebago Meeting Room  
27 Northport Dr  
Portland, ME 04103

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In person with the option to view online: [www.cumberlandcountyme.gov/live](http://www.cumberlandcountyme.gov/live)

Meeting will be streamed online: [www.cumberlandcountyme.gov/live](http://www.cumberlandcountyme.gov/live)

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 27 Northport Drive, Portland, in the Sebago Lake Conference Room, the meeting was called to Order by Chair Patti Smith at 5:30 p.m.

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present:** 4 - Chair Patricia Smith, Commissioner Jean-Marie Caterina, Commissioner Stephen Gorden, and Commissioner James Cloutier  
**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tom Tyler

#### County Staff:

James Gailey, County Manager  
Theresa Grover, Director of Finance  
Amy Jennings, Director of Human Resources  
Katharine Cahoon, Admin and Special Projects

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[CD 26-010](#) Approval of the minutes, March 16, 2026, Executive Session of the Board of Commissioners

Chair Smith explained that the minutes were undergoing some revisions and asked the board to postpone them to the next meeting.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that this Minutes Report be POSTPONED to the Board of Commissioners, due back by 5/18/2026. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

[CD 26-011](#) Approval of the minutes, March 16, 2026, meeting of the Board of Commissioners

*A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that this Minutes Report be POSTPONED to the Board of*

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*Commissioners, due back by 5/18/2026. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

## INFORMATIONAL REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

[CD 26-012](#) Presentation of the Jail Board of Visitors, 2025 Annual Report.

Sheriff Joyce outlined the role of the Jail Board of Visitor under Title 30-A and listed its members and noted that a response and report were submitted to the state. He presented Acting Chair Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien who summarized the report. She reviewed the jail's compliance certifications and 2025 ACA reaccreditation score of 99%. She praised the new medical wing addition that was funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds which supports ongoing medical needs of inmates. She summarized the report's recommendations for improvements at the jail.

Chair Smith asked how often the board meets, Board Member Wilkens-O'Brien explained that meetings are at the jail, four times a year, appointments are done by the Sheriff, minutes are taken, and the board is able to tour and speak to individuals at the jail. Chair Smith thanked Board Member Wilkens-O'Brien for her service. Commissioner Gorden asked about the number of pretrial inmates, Sheriff Joyce explained that one third of inmates are sentenced and two thirds are pretrial. He confirmed that the Board meets four times a year and the minutes are available on the website. Chair Smith asked if the Board of Commissioners could receive a copy of the report submitted to the Legislature, Sheriff Joyce confirmed he would forward a copy.

*This Report was PRESENTED.*

[CD 26-013](#) Regional Communications 2026 1st Quarter Newsletter

*This Report was RECEIVED AND FILED.*

[CD 26-014](#) Informational Report FY26 Budget vs Actual Expenses Q3.

Finance Director Theresa Grover explained that the county is three quarters through the year. She reviewed some items of note and reviewed expenses and revenues. She stated that there was no unusual activity. Commission Gorden asked if the insurance through the Risk Pool, what year are they on? Finance Director Theresa Grover explained that the Risk Pool is on a calendar year and she prorates the insurance to align with the fiscal year. Chair Smith asked about the availability of the parking lot to summer visitors due to garage repairs, County Manager Gailey explained that the repairs were continuing but would have a minimal impact on the parking capacity compared to the previous years reduction of parking revenue due to the air handler system installation project that was now complete.

*This Report was RECEIVED AND FILED.*

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board Chair will limit comments on unrelated agenda items to three (3) minutes per speaker. The public comment period is limited to one (1) hour.

At 5:50 p.m., Chair Smith opened the public comment period. There were no comments from the public. Chair Smith closed the public comment period at 5:52 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA****Approval of the Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 4 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Cloutier

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

[26-033](#) Authorize the County Manager to enter into a 1-year extension with OakView Group for the venue management of the Cross Insurance Arena.

*This Order was APPROVED.*

[26-034](#) Authorization of the Law Enforcement Services Contract between Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Board of County Commissioners and the Town of Harpswell from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

*This Order was APPROVED.*

[26-035](#) Authorization of the Marine Patrol Law Enforcement Services Contract between Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Board of County Commissioners and the Town of Harpswell from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

*This Order was APPROVED.*

[26-036](#) Authorize the County Manager to execute the attached Dispatch Contract between Frye Island and Cumberland County.

*This Order was APPROVED.*

[26-037](#) Proclaiming May 3 - 9, 2026 as National Correctional Officer Week.

*This Proclamation was APPROVED.*

[26-038](#) Proclaim May 3 - 9, 2026 as National Public Service Recognition Week

*This Proclamation was APPROVED.*

[26-039](#) Proclaim May 10 - 16, 2026 as National Law Enforcement Week

*This Proclamation was APPROVED.*

[26-040](#) Authorize the County Manager to submit a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in response to the FY 2025 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), with a total request of \$1,300,000 over 36 months (June 1, 2026-May 31, 2029).

*This Order was APPROVED.*

[26-041](#) Adopt the proposed Policies to meet State Statute and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees requirements for the operation of a Law Enforcement Agency by the District Attorney's Office.

*This Order was APPROVED.*

## NEW BUSINESS

### 26-023

Approval of the Community Development 2026 Annual Action Plan including the allocation of CDBG and HOME partnership funds and contingency plans. Two public hearings required, final hearing on April 21, 2026.

Community Development Manager Courtney Kemp presented the final action plan allocation amounts. She shared that the final allocation from HUD was \$1,471,982 and additional funds were allocated to the Town of Gorham. She highlighted the scoring process and explained that the final estimates would be submitted to HUD by the May 15th due date.

At 5:58 p.m. Chair Smith opened the public comment period. Executive Director Victoria Morales from Project Home, formerly Quality Housing Coalition, spoke about her organization and explained that their application scored high but was not recommended for funding. She highlighted the objective of the student homelessness prevention pilot program and the previous funding sources and partnerships. Chair Smith asked Community Development Manager Kemp to clarify when Project Home last received funding, she explained that funding was awarded in 2021, 2022 and in 2024.

Commissioner Gorden asked about the makeup of the Municipal Outreach Committee (MOC), Manager Kemp explained the MOC consists of one community member from each municipality. Members are typically town managers or directors of economic or community development. Chair Smith asked what happens when project application scores result in a tie, Manager Kemp explained that when there is tie, the project is assessed for need and alternative sources of funding. Chair Smith thanked Manager Kemp for her presentation.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that the Order Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Yes:** 4 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Cloutier

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

### 26-042

Award a bid to Euna Solutions Inc. for the County's budget software.

County Manager Gailey explained that the budget software streamlines the budget creation process that currently relies on multiple spreadsheets with built in formulas. He explained that staff interviewed four of the five bidders and that Euna was the lowest bidder and addressed all of the RFP requests. There is a 12 to 15 week implementation window and the software will be used to create the 2028 budget. Commissioner Gorden asked if the software was a subscription, County Manager Gailey confirmed that it is and the subscription increases annually. Chair Smith asked if the software contains budget scenario building, Finance Director Grover confirmed that it does.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner*

*Gorden, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Yes:** 4 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Cloutier

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

[26-043](#)

Authorize the Cumberland County EMA Director and the Board of Commissioners to enter into the 2026 Intercounty Maine Mutual Aid Agreement between Cumberland County EMA and other Maine Counties.

Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director Michael Durkin explained that the agreement was for December 2026 through December 2028 for Cumberland County EMA to provide personnel support to other counties. He explained that the county already supports other counties. He noted that the agreement was modified from the 2019 version, and removes the Commissioners as approvers of resources and appoints the EMA Director as the approver. Commissioner Cloutier asked if there were any operational problems as a result of FEMA not being funded due to the congressional budget, EMA Director Durkin stated that he had not observed any at the county or state level. He noted that they are waiting to hear from FEMA's review council with the proposed changes to FEMA and outlined roles and responsibilities of states and counties. Commissioner Gorden asked about sharing of assets, is there a limit of the assets or interfacing for county departments services requested. EMA Director Durkin explained that the agreement was specifically for assets shared between county EMA departments. He clarified that EMA could potentially interface with other departments for other county needs. Chair Smith thanked Director Durkin for his work given the uncertain circumstances and remarked that she trusts his judgment regarding EMA resources.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Caterina, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Yes:** 4 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Cloutier

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

[26-044](#)

Acceptance of an additional \$2,057,720.15 in grant funds from the Howard Buffet Foundation for the Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Initiative.

County Manager Gailey requested that the motion be amended to reflect the correct amount of \$2,057,720.15 instead of \$2,025,665.99.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, that the Order be AMENDED. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Yes:** 4 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Cloutier

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

26-044

Acceptance of an additional \$2,057,720.15 in grant funds from the Howard Buffet Foundation for the Sheriff’s Office Human Trafficking Initiative.

Captain Dean Fredericks, who oversees the Criminal Investigations Division, explained that their office partners with other organizations to combat human trafficking in Maine. The Sheriff’s Department has partnered with Preble Street and was awarded a grant from the Buffett Foundation will help funding, equipment and positions to become a regional resource to address human trafficking not only in the county but in Maine. Captain Fredericks explained that the initial award was for funding the position of a detective and additional funds were awarded to expand the initiative. He introduced Director of Anti-Trafficking Services Hailey Virusso. She explained that their work was funded by the Howard Buffett foundation for the past three and half years. She explained they work with survivors of human trafficking and partner with law enforcement agencies to better understand pathways to support folks in securing justice in the ways that they’ve defined for themselves. They have partnered with eight other organizations and Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office will serve as the point of contact throughout Maine.

Commissioner Caterina shared that she had been a social worker and emphasized that human trafficking is terrible. She thanked Director Virusso for her work and for obtaining funding. Commissioner Cloutier commented that the prevalence of trafficking among populations at an economic disadvantage is staggering, he encouraged that there should be more training for awareness. Director Virusso explained that they have provided over 70 trainings to over 2,500 individuals and public awareness is one of the strategies used for prevention. She noted that their group also focuses on prevention strategies as well because human trafficking is a public health issue that exists when communities are not able to meet basic needs because of existing systems. Chair Smith shared that her friend is a volunteer at Preble Street and attended a lunch and learn about human trafficking and learned a lot about prevention and community awareness. Chair Smith asked if the group could submit a progress report to the Board in six months or a year? Director Virusso stated that they would be happy to return six months from the start date of July 1st. Commissioner Gorden asked if the program was offered in other counties? Director Virusso explained that it will be offered in Cumberland county and serve as the contact for all 16 Maine counties.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Cloutier, that the Order be APPROVED AS AMENDED. The motion carried by the following vote:*

- Yes:** 4 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Cloutier
- No:** 0
- Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

26-045

Whereas the County Commissioners voted on May 10, 2010 to establish a 7-member Board of Appeals to hear all appeals to the County Commissioners except for poverty appeals; The Cumberland County Commissions hereby vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 841(1-A), to authorize the Cumberland County Board of Assessment Review (BAR) to hear all appeals to the County Commissioners,

including appeals of poverty abatement decisions.

Commissioner Gorden clarified that the agenda item motion should read: Whereas the County Commissioners voted on May 10, 2010 to establish a 7-member Board of Appeals to hear all appeals to the County Commissioners except for poverty appeals; The Cumberland County Commissions hereby vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 841(1-A), to authorize the Cumberland County Board of Assessment Review (BAR) to hear all appeals to the County Commissioners, including appeals of poverty abatement decisions.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Caterina, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Yes:** 4 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, Commissioner Gorden, and Commissioner Cloutier

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

[26-046](#)

Authorize the County Manager to modify the United States Marshals Service Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) No. 36-99-0088 to reflect the exclusion of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention at the Cumberland County Jail.

Chair Smith opened the public comment at 6:38 p.m. The following individuals spoke about the agenda item: Olivia Pennington, Portland; Max Semba, Portland; Jennifer Jortborg, Scarborough; Christian, Yarmouth; Al Cleveland, Portland; Erin Brennan, Portland; Nori Hilton, Portland; and Todd Chretien, Portland. At 6:55 p.m. Chair Smith closed the public comment period.

Commissioner Cloutier stated that it's been a long process, it's important to recognize what they can and cannot accomplish. He stated that it's not a surprise given the irresponsibility of the approach to public safety by ICE operations and the customs and border patrol operations and the important development reference in public comment. Commissioner Cloutier explained that Sheriff Joyce has been trying for three years to try to hire enough people to adequately and safely operate that jail. And due to a fairly minor paperwork mishandling at some level, two county officers were detained and one of them had a hearing. Commissioner Cloutier explained that while the officer was detained, he missed his hearing in Las Vegas as a result of being detained. As a result of comments by the Sheriff, ICE decided to leave, which broke nobody's heart. He observed a lot of people over the last nine months have decided that this must be about money. There is a change in the public's understanding and perception of what evil is being perpetrated on the American citizens and the American citizenry. He said that it was not wise to not have cancelled the contract six or eight months ago when the public perception and the public understanding of the situation would not have been what it is today. They cannot defund ICE. ICE exists and has the greatest financial budgets for any law enforcement agency in the history of the world. They have jurisdiction in Maine and in every other state. Commissioner Cloutier said that one of the aggravating evils of the whole process is ICE used a special pod, under the contract with the Department of Justice, and incarcerated high security out of state prisoners. They did this while Maine people were transferred out of state. Originally, the

Board thought that keeping people in southern Maine would allow access to the law school and legal aid operations. After an investigation, it was learned that Maine people who have not committed violent crimes, who were detained because their paperwork was not in order, or some other reason that would not be considered a threat to society under any circumstances, were getting shipped to Berlin, New Hampshire, southern New Hampshire, or Rhode Island. The recognizable public safety problems were being sent to the Cumberland County Jail. It was more expensive for ICE to use Cumberland County because the security levels at the jail were greater than what they actually needed for people that were not a threat.

Commissioner Cloutier stated that tonight, the Board is seeking an amendment to the contract with the Department of Justice that will allow them to continue to serve the Department of Justice and not accept ICE detainees. That's a civil action. It's not a criminal matter for the most part and the Jail has never agreed to accept Customs and Border Patrol detainees. He noted that for the last three years in Maine, Customs and Border Patrol activity has accounted for 75% and 90% of all detentions. When they talked about ICE a year ago, they were referring to the very aggressive activities by the Customs and Border Patrol and Maine has a perimeter of those officers that continue to function today. He explained that CBP's jurisdiction over the years used to be 10 miles, and now it's 100 miles. He addressed a comment from the public about the DOJ contract consultant, he explained that the consultant was involved in the original negotiation of a very detailed contract that included departments permitted to use the jail. Commissioner Cloutier explained that the consultant is very experienced and would negotiate on behalf of the county with the Department of Justice concerning whether to continue the contract with the Department of Justice and exclude ICE. He noted that CBP is already excluded. He recognized that they cannot stop ICE and CPB and only the people who sit in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate are the ones that can. And that can be done by reforming the budget and reforming the archaic immigration laws that are based on race. He noted that anyone who could see the impact of that at any time in the last 50 years knows that that's true. He explained that the history of immigration law was usually prompted by discrimination. He sympathized with the public while watching people being abused in the United States in ways that would never have been thought possible for at least 50 years at least in the manner that it occurred. He urged the public to pay attention and demand that those in the next election will commit to reform immigration law and eliminate the discriminatory and inhumane practices that have been allowed and address the ridiculous budget that exists. He noted that nothing can be changed with refusing service at the jail because there are many jails to use. In his opinion, it was a symbolic act to have said that six months ago, however today they are far advanced from what would basically be an act of defiance but ineffective to accomplish anything. He is delighted that they are at a point where they can proceed in a way that will emphasize and underline the people of Cumberland County, Maine for an improved and more humane immigration situation.

Commissioner Caterina apologized to the public for how long it took. She thanked the public for coming to the meetings and sharing. She observed that they are finally breaking through and part of it has to do with what's happened nationally. She reflected that while personally voting to cancel the contract

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months ago, she is sorry it took so long and encouraged the public to keep pushing and do what they need to do. She shared that last Saturday there were actions against ICE throughout the country and there will be something at the ICE facility in Scarborough. She reiterated that the public should push back until they win. She explained that during the 60's she wore black armbands and had signs against the Vietnam War. It was a pivotal moment in history when they needed to push back but it took a while. She wants to hear from the public and is thrilled that people have discovered county government and are attending the meetings. She encouraged the public to continue to attend and help expand what the board can do for the people of Cumberland County.

Commissioner Gorden stated, "I wish to express my total respect for my fellow commissioners and the public who have deep feelings about this issue and I am in agreement that the actions of ICE are morally wrong and must cease; however, as I understand it, this action being considered will only prevent the County from being reimbursed for any ICE detainees housed in our Jail, not prevent the detention of all ICE prisoners. To date, the Legislative action that has influenced a detention change of an ICE prisoner is the requirement of a judicial versus an administrative warrant; thus, our Sheriff will still be required to house the appropriate ICE prisoners; additionally, our County, not only, won't be reimbursed but will, also, be required to fund those housing costs. We now have placed a record tax imposition upon our communities partially attributed to the removal of this Federal government reimbursement. To not take into account the unintended consequences of imposing these costs in the form of greater property taxes on the economically challenged citizenry is unjust and, in my mind, totally preventable. The reimbursement of ICE funds are totally dependent and a function of the reception of ICE prisoners by the County Jail. No reception, no funding; not the other way around. The only solution? Prevent the detention; thus, we're left with a choice to either accept reimbursements or raise county property taxes; regardless, ICE, because of our State's jail mandates, will continue to detain prisoners in our jail. It is sad when emotions curb facts rather than assist them during decision making."

Chair Smith thanked everyone who had attended the meetings since August of 2025. She observed that many people were unaware of the role of county commissioners, and now there is a better understanding of the Board's responsibilities. She observed that public comment was rare when she was first elected and watching public participation increase since August of 2025 indicates that the Board has some work to do and needs to listen to their constituents. She sympathized with the frustration of people's experiences and emphasized the Board's need to act. Chair Smith recalled that from their meeting on August 25th with allied groups the Board fully understood what was happening in their communities. From there, a vote in November and there wasn't enough commissioner support to exclude ICE from the US Marshals contract. She praised the public for continuing to show up, send emails, and phone calls. She appreciates all of the energy that was put into the past six to eight months. She observed that it's not easy to get up in front of the podium if you're not used to public speaking or easy to share a family history that is sacred. She recognizes those efforts and will respond tonight, hopefully, with a favorable vote. She echoed Commissioner Caterina, and encouraged the public to fight, to make their neighborhood safe. She hopes that they can repair some of the trust that they have lost with law enforcement, whether it's local law

enforcement or jail enforcement and look out for one another. She stated that she's glad tonight is here and feels like they have one small piece of democracy that they can pull back tonight for themselves.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Cloutier, seconded by Commissioner Caterina, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:*

- Yes:** 3 - Chair Smith, Commissioner Caterina, and Commissioner Cloutier
- No:** 1 - Commissioner Gorden
- Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Tyler

## COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

HR Director Amy Jennings shared that she is in the process of negotiations with Dispatch. Maine Paid Family Medical leave is being implemented and goes into effect on May 1st. She stated that there will be an impact on departments that are not fully hired and concerned that there may be a negative impact. There are currently 60 open positions, most openings are in the Jail, the Sheriff's Office and Facilities. They recently implemented a new validated reading comprehension test for the correction officer hiring process. They are looking at how effective it is to reduce turnover. They have been doing it for two months and there is a 60% failure rate, and it has impacted hiring, so there are two or three hires a month instead of eight.

Commissioner Gorden asked Commissioner Cloutier about the workforce programs offered by Coastal County Workforce and their remedial programs. Commissioner Cloutier stated that he was not sure and they are in a transition period, however, it was a possibility.

District Attorney Jaqueline Sartoris commented that her office implemented the Restorative Justice contract as of April 1st. She stated that 7% of the cases will go to restorative justice, or between 400 to 500 a year, an update will be provided in September. She will also compare the recidivism rate of individuals who do not participate in Restorative Justice with those who do. She thanked the Board for their approval of the agenda item and their office is moving forward with hiring a sex assault investigator as it transitions to a certified law enforcement agency. She noted that they are transitioning to a new e-filing system for criminal cases in September.

She has heard from other counties that there is a lot of frustration with the implementation and staff will need to spend additional time uploading files. Commissioner Cloutier commented that he had not heard anything positive about the new e-filing system and its ease of use. IT Technician Bryson Bouffard offered county IT to assist with the transition. Commissioner Gorden asked if the State was able to offer any financial support for additional staffing, DA Sartoris explained that three years ago a data bridge was to be developed for the transition, however it was never completed. Commissioner Cloutier explained that the software was designed for ease of use by the courts but difficult to manage documents. The software was designed by his cousin and made by Tyler Technologies and has not improved since 2019.

Sheriff Joyce shared that the Town of Gray decided to cancel their patrol contract come July. He learned that this decision by the Town was due to increased county taxes. Regarding staffing, he supports the validated reading comprehension test and its role in hiring. He gave an update on the corrections officer who was arrested January 22nd by ICE, he has been rehired and is completing the academy. He echoed HR Director Jennings' concern about the impact of Maine Paid Family Medical Leave on staffing. He stated that he wanted to address the "elephant in the room", he will continue to follow the law and accept ICE inmates until the law states otherwise. He explained that in his January 23rd press conference he gave ICE feedback about their police tactics that was not well received. As a

result, ICE decided not to house any of their inmates at the Cumberland County Jail. He pointed out that if his staff used the same tactics as ICE, they would be fired. He stated that he was elected to do public safety and will continue to lock up criminals. Though the county will not receive revenue for them. He worked with officials to craft LD 2058 to address administrative arrests versus criminal arrests. Sheriff Joyce agreed with Commissioner Cloutier that they cannot change ICE. ICE needs to change and stop terrorizing communities. The fallout on the communities has put strain on his staff.

Commissioner Cloutier commented that he has been reviewing the statute and when he circled through the documents, it's plain that the regulation is very specific, but it's not plain that the regulation is actually authorized by the law that exists. He asked, if there is a point that the Sheriff is being asked to incarcerate particularly civil offender ICE detainees, could the Sheriff notify the Board? This will enable them to consider filing an action in court to clarify whether that is in fact a proper understanding of those legal rules. While he is not a judge, it's clear that the regulation is exactly as the Sheriff understands it. But that the law that was supposed to be the source of authority for the regulation, and doesn't support the regulation in the way that the Department of Corrections has interpreted it. It may well be that they would have the legal right to say no, that they are not going to take any civil detainees regardless if a sworn officer shows up with them or not, unless there is a crime being alleged and enforced where they are not eligible to come into the jail. Commissioner Cloutier asked Sheriff Joyce to inform the Board so that they could address the matter.

Sheriff Joyce explained that he hired a constitutional attorney to make sure that that statute, while old, was on solid ground. The attorney assured him that it was. With LD 2058, which passed and went to the governor, it carves out any administrative civil type and allows for the criminal, the worst of the worst. He noted that arresting the worst of the worst is his job. He explained that if somebody's committing crimes and not here legally, send them home. It was frustrating to see his employee, the county's employee, an individual that hadn't committed any crimes because he took a polygraph. He explained that some staff were going to fire him when he left because he didn't tell them that he was going to Texas for an immigration hearing. Sheriff Joyce told his staff that they were not going to fire him, because he was trying to do the right thing. ICE picked him up and arrested him and treated him like a statistic with their arrest counts. As per policy, the Sheriff's office did an internal investigation because of the arrest. Ultimately, a person that was contributing to society was pulled out of the workforce and locked up for six weeks and probably paid \$90 a day. It's a civil administrative thing, LD 2058 adjusts that. Chair Smith thanked Sheriff Joyce for his comments and asked him to keep the Board in the loop if ICE agents do arrive.

Finance Director Theresa Grover explained that her office has been busy implementing the PFML deductions into the new payroll software and recently hired a new staff member.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Gailey explained that proclamations recognizing the staff at the County's Regional Communication Center and Community Development did not make it onto the agenda as a result of the new timing of the board meetings. He explained that a proclamation should have been on the March agenda and acknowledged the CCRCC staff and the hard work that they do 24 hours, seven days a week. He also recognized Community Development Manager Courtney Kemp and her service to the communities. He noted that the Cross Insurance Arena Board of Trustees will meet the following week to discuss their operations budget and will recommend it to the Board of Commissioners. County Manager Gailey shared that they received some positive news regarding the county website and its ADA accessibility. He recognized Katharine Cahoon for working to help coordinate compliance with the deadline. The federal government has extended the deadline to 2027. County Manager Gailey shared that the state legislature had appropriated \$4 million to county governments across the state. They are asking counties to spend their appropriation in the FY27 budget. The exact amount allocated to

Cumberland County will depend on the jail data. He has discussed the allocation with Finance Director Grover about using it for the Jail's Medication Assisted Treatment program as the county did not receive funding this year. He stated that the county's budget will need to be amended and new warrants will be sent to the municipalities. The meeting for the budget amendment will most likely take place on Zoom.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Caterina thanked everyone for their help with the legislative policy committee to obtain \$4 million. There were many organizations involved including the Maine State Sheriffs and Maine Municipal and Maine County Commissioners. She praised the Cumberland County informational flyer designed by Assistant County Manager Breana Gersen. She has distributed the flyer and it has been well received by municipalities and other counties across the state.

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2026**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.*