

Sandy River Plantation Annual Report

FY 2023-2024

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025
TOWN HALL
33 TOWN HALL ROAD
PLEASE BRING THIS
REPORT WITH YOU

SANDY RIVER PLANTATION

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication	1
Dates to Remember	2
Plantation Officials	3
Municipal Boundaries	4
 <u>PLANTATION DEPARTMENT REPORTS</u>	
Board of Assessors	5
Town Clerk	6
Animal Control	7
Fire Warden	7
Local Health Officer	8
Plumbing Inspector	9
Transfer Station	10
 <u>FINANCE & TAXES</u>	
Assessor’s Agent Report	11-12
Treasurer’s Report	13-17
Tax Collector Report	18
Financial Audit Excerpt - July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024	19-24
FY 25.26 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Different Color Pages)	25-30
 <u>SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS</u>	
Franklin County Sheriff’s Office	31-33
Land Use Planning (LUPC)	34-38
NorthStar Ambulance Service	39-42
Rangeley Fire Department	43
 <u>GOVERNMENT LEADERS</u>	
State and Federal Officials	44
Correspondence	
U.S. Senator Susan Collins	45
U.S. Senator Angus King	46
U.S. Representative Jared Golden (ME-2)	47-48
Governor Janet T. Mills	49
State Senator Joseph Martin (District 19)	50
State Representative Michael Soboleski (District 73)	51



dedication
EVELYN
BEAULIEU

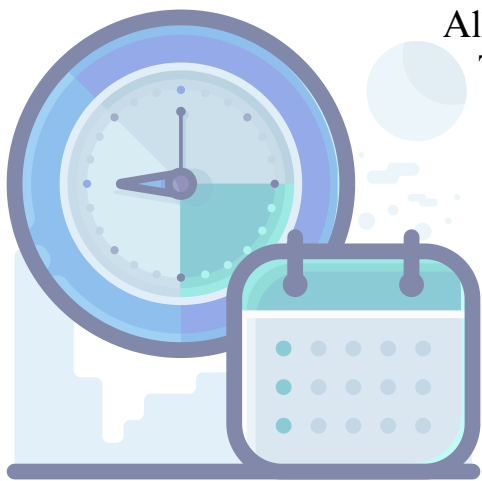
This year's Annual Report is dedicated to Evelyn Beaulieu.

For close to 30 years, Evelyn has been the welcoming voice of Sandy River Plantation, always ready to assist, answer questions, and ensure everything ran smoothly. Her dedication to the town and its residents has been unwavering, and her contributions have left a lasting impact on the community.

Throughout her tenure, Evelyn has not only been a reliable resource, but also a trusted friend to many. Whether solving problems, answering inquiries, or simply offering a listening ear, she has been a constant presence at Town Hall, always going above and beyond for the people of Sandy River.

As Evelyn steps into retirement, we reflect on the countless ways she has shaped this community over the years. We are deeply grateful for her commitment, her tireless work, and her warm spirit. While we will miss seeing her smile at Town Hall, we are excited for her and Dave as they embark on this next chapter together.

Evelyn, thank you for your incredible service. We wish you a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures. Your legacy will remain an important part of Sandy River for years to come.



January

Hunting & Fishing Licenses Available
Annual Dog Licenses Due

February

Unregistered Dogs Assessed \$25.00 Late Fee

April

All Property (Real & Personal) Assessed to Owner of record April 1st
To qualify for property tax exemptions applications due April 1st

June

Annual Town Meeting, third Saturday in June
Fiscal Year Ends June 30th

July

New Fiscal Year begins July 1st

October

Taxes Committed October 31st

November

Tax Bills Mailed

December

Taxes paid in full by the 31st qualify for 2% discount

Holiday Schedule
Plantation Office Closed

HOLIDAY	DATE OBSERVED
New Year's Day	<i>January 1st</i>
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	<i>Third Monday in January</i>
Washington's Birthday/President's Day	<i>Third Monday in February</i>
Patriot's Day	<i>Third Monday in April</i>
Memorial Day	<i>Last Monday in May</i>
Juneteenth	<i>June 19th</i>
Independence Day	<i>July 4th</i>
Labor Day	<i>First Monday in September</i>
Indigenous Peoples Day	<i>Second Monday in October</i>
Veterans Day	<i>November 11th</i>
Thanksgiving Day	<i>Fourth Thursday in November</i>
Thanksgiving Friday	<i>Fourth Friday in November</i>
Christmas Day	<i>December 25th</i>

Elected Officials

Board of Assessors/Overseer of the Poor/Road Commissioners

Steven Carr, First Assessor Joanne Taylor, Second Assessor
Roger Lowell, Third Assessor

Clerk / Tax Collector

Evelyn Beaulieu

Treasurer

Mercedes Freeman

Moderator

Christopher Farmer

Budget Committee

Sharon Dingfelder, Carol Hoffman, Rodney Varney

Animal Control Officer & Constable

Lisa Symes

RSU #78 Board of Directors

(School Board)

Bob Greene - (2026), Mary Richards, Chair - (2026)

Appointed Officials

Ballot Clerks

Sharon Dingfelder, Kathy Ferguson

Civil Defense Director

Evelyn Beaulieu

E-911 Coordinator

Mercedes Freeman

Fire Warden

Evelyn Beaulieu

Local Health Officer

Evelyn Beaulieu

Plumbing Inspector

Paul Ferguson-Packard

Registrar of Voters

Evelyn Beaulieu

Welfare Director

Evelyn Beaulieu

Other Officials

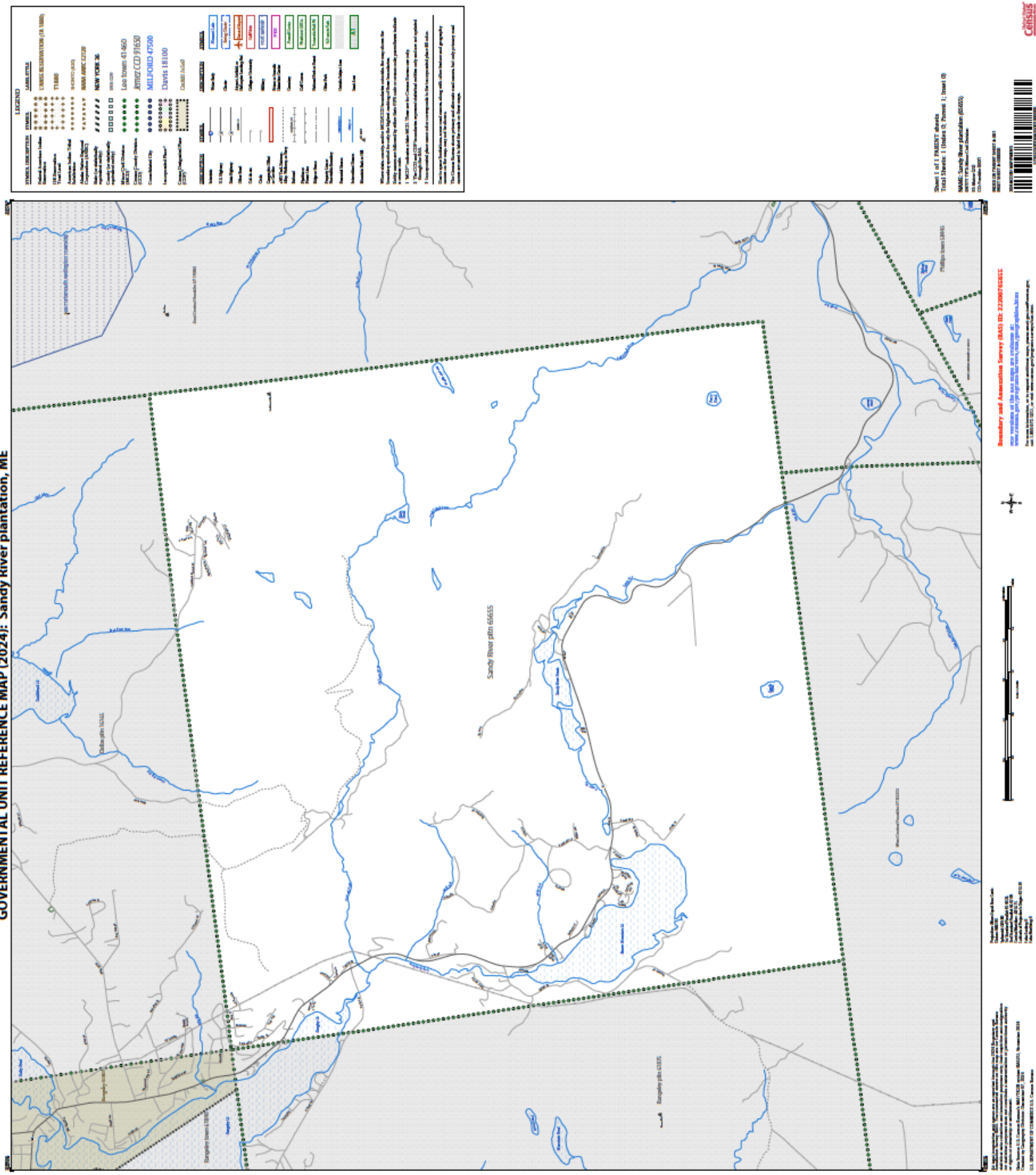
Transfer Station Attendant

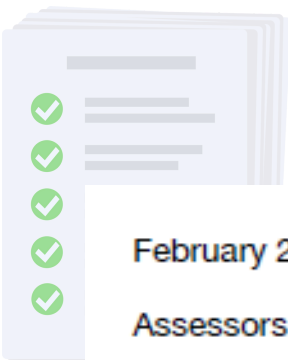
Michael Lowell

RSU #78 Superintendent

Georgia Campbell

GOVERNMENTAL UNIT REFERENCE MAP (2024): Sandy River plantation, ME





February 22, 2025
Assessors Letter to the Taxpayers

Dear Constituents,

During the past fiscal year your Assessors have been working on a variety of new projects.

The town Hall bridge which was damaged in the December and January storms has been repaired. The bridge was the sole access to Rangeley during the flooding.

The Sandy River Town Hall has been repainted and the stoop and back door which had some rot has been replaced.

To strengthen our emergency preparedness we installed a generator and scanner.

We retired the old copy machine with a new networking copier, printer, scanner and updated the office computer system.

Road repairs were done on Edelheid, Bypass, Raymond and Gray Roads.

The Assessors participated in quarterly region meetings with Rangeley, Dallas, and Rangeley Plantation, in an effort to increase communication among the municipalities.

The biggest change we affected was hiring a new Town Clerk to replace our clerk of 29 years who retired.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Sandy River Plantation Assessors

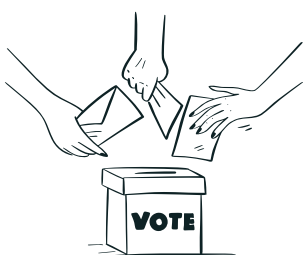


THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS HELD A TOTAL OF 12 MEETINGS
(REGULAR, SPECIAL & WORKSHOPS) FROM JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024

Elections

November 7, 2023	Statewide Referendum	78
March, 5, 2024	Presidential Primary	52
June 11, 2024	State Primary	24
June 22, 2024	Annual Town Meeting	24

Ballots Cast



Voter Statistics

159 Active Registered Voters



Democrats	50
Republicans	52
Green	3
Unenrolled	54

*Licenses and Permits
Issued*



ATV Registrations	18
Boat Registrations	50
Business Registrations	0
Dog Licenses	16
Hunting & Fishing Licenses	9
Liquor Licenses	1
Snowmobile Registrations	9

Ballot/Election Clerks

Sharon Dingfelder
Kathleen Ferguson

Vital Statistics



		Name	Age	Date of Death
Births	0	Deborah Spanks Ryder	70	October 13, 2023
Marriages	3	Holman Day Ferguson	88	February 27, 2024
Deaths	2			

Animal Control Report

The role of animal control continues to support public safety, animal welfare, and peaceful coexistence between residents and pets. Continued education and support for licensing and vaccination will remain a focus in the coming year.

General Duties Performed by Your Local Animal Control Officer

- Enforced state and local animal control laws
- Responded to reports of stray, injured, or aggressive domestic animals
- Locate owners and return lost pets when possible
- Transport unclaimed or dangerous animals to appropriate shelters or holding facilities
- Investigate complaints related to animal cruelty, neglect, or nuisance behavior
- Issue verbal warnings or citations as necessary for violations of animal control laws
- Maintain records of calls, incidents, and resolutions



Animal Control Officer Contact: Ryan H. Thompson 207-670-8201



Fire Warden Report



General Duties and Responsibilities of the Fire Warden

- Enforce regulations regarding open burning and fire permits as required by the Maine Forest Service
- Issued burn permits for residents, ensuring compliance with state guidelines and seasonal restrictions
- Responded to wildfire incidents, coordinating with local fire departments when necessary
- Monitor fire risk levels and communicate with residents about fire safety and conditions
- Maintained up-to-date records of burn permits issued and fire incidents
- Educated the community on fire prevention, especially during high-risk fire seasons
- Work closely with local firefighters to ensure proper fire safety procedures and training

26 Burn Permits Issued - July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

**This report highlights general public health challenges
the State of Maine faced during the Fiscal Year
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**



1. Substance Use and Mental Health

Overview: Maine experienced continued impacts from the opioid epidemic and a growing demand for mental health services, particularly in rural areas.

Statewide Response:

- Expanded access to naloxone and overdose prevention efforts.
- Increased mental health awareness and promoted community-based support services.
- Highlighted the need for workforce support in behavioral health services.

2. Mosquito-Borne Illnesses

Overview: Reports of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus in animals led to statewide alerts and public education efforts.

Statewide Response:

- The Maine CDC issued prevention guidance, emphasizing mosquito control and personal protection.
- Local officials were encouraged to monitor and report potential cases.

3. Housing and Environmental Health

Overview: Poor housing conditions, including issues like mold, sanitation, and overcrowding, continued to impact health outcomes across Maine.

Statewide Response:

- Emphasis on the connection between affordable housing and public health.
- Municipalities were encouraged to inspect housing complaints and support residents in accessing safer living conditions.

4. Tobacco Use and Regulation

Overview: Tobacco use, especially among youth and through flavored products, remained a concern.

Statewide Response:

- Ongoing promotion of smoke-free policies and tobacco cessation programs.
- Advocacy for the regulation of flavored tobacco products to reduce youth access and usage.

Conclusion

While this report does not reflect plantation-specific cases or actions, it outlines significant public health trends in Maine that inform the work and priorities of local health officers. The plantation remains committed to supporting public health through education, compliance with state guidance, and community awareness.



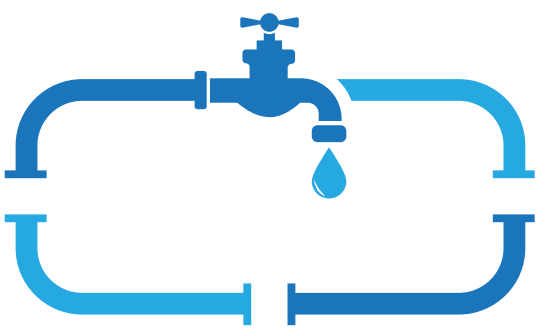
Paul Ferguson-Packard, LPI
6 Packard Way
Sandy River Plt, ME 04970
Home: (207) 864-2971
Cell: (207) 670-5093

Dated: April 1, 2025

Greetings Sandy River Plt. Assessors,

This is a report on all the plumbing permits that have been issued for Sandy River Plantation for FY 2023/2024. I have not issued any violations or stop work orders in this period.

External - HHE-200:	4
Internal – HHE-211:	7
Total Permits Issued:	11



Sincerely,

Paul Ferguson-Packard

Paul Ferguson-Packard

Transfer Station Hours of Operations

Summer Hours:

Wednesdays May 1st to October 1st 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

October 2nd to April 30th 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Sundays 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Transfer Station continues to serve the community efficiently by offering convenient disposal options and maintaining compliance with state waste management regulations. In the coming years, the Board & Attendant will be working toward further community engagement and exploring options for composting or other waste diversion programs that could benefit the plantation, including a “Second Chance Shed”.

General Duties Performed

- Supervised operations of the Transfer Station, ensuring the proper disposal and recycling of household waste
- Ensured compliance with all state and local waste management regulations
- Managed the collection of recyclables, yard waste, and bulky items such as furniture, appliances, etc.
- Provided guidance to residents on proper waste sorting and recycling practices
- Conducted regular inspections to ensure that the Transfer Station was in good condition, safe, and properly maintained
- Coordinated with local waste haulers to arrange for timely pickup and disposal of materials
- Monitored and ensured that hazardous waste was properly segregated and disposed of according to state guidelines

Waste Disposal & Recycling

Household/Mixed Solid Waste collected: 6.55 Tons

Recyclable materials collected: 12.62 Tons

Construction & Demo debris disposed: 1.06 Tons

Mixed Scrap Metal: 7.23 Tons



WE DO NOT ACCEPT BRUSH

WE DO NOT ACCEPT TIRES

WE ENCOURAGE RECYCLING



It has been my pleasure to serve Sandy River Plantation as its Assessors' Agent over the last year. The Assessor is responsible for property valuations, tax abatements, supplemental tax bills, and matters regarding property tax cards/maps and the assessing program. Please call the office to schedule an appointment. Annually, the Assessor's Office reviews valuations and makes adjustments to the valuations that include any additions and deletions. We are also responsible for maintaining accurate records of property ownership. Part of the assessment process includes conducting an annual "ratio study", which compares the actual selling price of property to assessments. The most recent study conducted for the state valuation purposes indicated the assessed values, on average, to be at approximately 100% of market value.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Most homeowners whose principal residence is in Maine are entitled up to a \$25,000 reduction in valuation. To qualify, homeowners must fill out a simple form declaring property as their principal residence by April 1 in the tax year claimed. Once the application is filed, the exemption remains until the owner sells or changes their place of residence. Forms are available in the Town Office.

VETERANS EXEMPTION

Any person who was in active service in the armed forces of the United States during a federally recognized war campaign period and, if discharged or retired under honorable conditions, may be eligible for a partial exemption from taxes on their primary residence.

The Veteran must have reached age 62 or must be receiving a pension or compensation from the United States Government for 100% disability, either service or non-service connected.

Application forms can be obtained in the Town Office and must be filed with military discharge documentation on or before April 1st of the year it will go into effect.

BLIND EXEMPTION

Residents of Sandy River Plantation who are certified to be legally blind by their eye care professional are eligible for a partial exemption from taxes on their primary residence in the town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger W. Peppard CMA
RJD Appraisal Inc.



Real Estate- Building Value (Homestead + BETE + Veterans + Blind)	\$94,215,200.00
Real Estate-Land Value	\$57,419,900.00
Exempt (Veterens/Blind/Homestead/BETE)	(\$16,854,500.00)
Real Estate Valuation Total	\$134,780,600.00
Personal Property	\$1,112,200.00
Total Billable	\$135,892,800.00
Homestead Exemption Reiumbursement (76%)	\$1,121,000.00
BETE Exemption Reiumbursement (50% Enhanced)	\$8,503,110.00
Total	\$145,516,910.00
Valuation (Less Exemptions)	\$135,892,800.00
2024 Mill Rate	\$0.00625
Net Assessment for Commitment:	\$849,330.00
2024 Tax Commitment	\$930,282.55
Homestead Reiumbursement	(\$7,006.25)
BETE Reiumbursement	(\$53,144.44)
NET Assessment for Commitment	\$870,131.86
2024 Municipal Appropriation	\$376,974.98
RSU #78 Appropriation	\$258,906.98
Franklin County Tax Overlay	\$255,909.00
	\$23,497.31
TOTAL Assessment:	\$915,288.27
State Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$5,807.58
Homestead Exemptions	\$7,006.25
BETE Reiumbursement	\$53,144.44
Other Revenue	\$0.00
TOTAL Deductions:	\$65,958.27
2024 TAX COMMITMENT:	\$849,330.00

Local Funds:

Dog Licenses:	
Agent Fees	24.00
Town Fees	132.00
Hunt/Fish Licenses:	
Agent Fees	17.00
Motor Vehicle Registrations:	
Agent Fees	1,545.00
Town Excise Tax	70,080.69
Recreational Vehicles:	
ATV Agent Fees	38.00
Boat Agent Fees	69.00
Boat Excise Tax (Town Fees)	977.58
Snowmobile Town Fees (Reimb. State)	139.02
Snowmobile Agent Fees	45.00
Vital Statistics - Town Fees	174.00
Permit Office Fees	50.00
Inspection Fees	0.00
Townhall Income	372.37
Transfer Station Disposal Fees	1,597.20
Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalties	0.00
Total Monies Collected	75,260.86

**State/Federal Funds Received:**

BETE Reimbursement	35,276.00
School - Interest <u>On</u> Public Lands	22,047.20
Homestead Reimbursement	7,183.00
State Municipal Revenue Sharing	5,807.58
Tree Growth Reimbursement	15,835.82
Urban Renewal Program	21,878.72
Veterans Exemption	40.00
General Assistance Reimbursement	0.00
Total Monies Received	108,068.32

Other Funds Received:

Workman's Comp Reimbursement	174.17
Total Monies Received	174.17
Total Funds Received <u>By</u> Plantation	183,503.35

**Bank Balances**

Integrity Money Market Account	246,624.20
Business Checking Account	3,001.76
FSB <u>7 month</u> CD #8183810	251,605.25
Total Account Balances	501,231.21

Beginning Balance**Ending Balance****Interest Collected Within Bank Balances**

Integrity Money Market Account	3,673.81
Business Checking	0.00
*FSB 7 Month CD #8183810	2,485.72
Total Interest Collected	6,159.53

The following monies are within the bank balance figures but are considered "special reserve book accounts" (per past Town Meeting votes).

	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Civil Emergency Account	7,809.05	7,809.05
Forest Fire Account	101,345.56	101,345.56
Property Reeval	8155.00	8155.00
Restore Graves	50.00	50.00
Total Special Reserve Monies	117,359.61	117,359.61

The following monies are within the bank balance figures but are considered "surplus book account". Any undesignated monies are put into this account yearly to be used by the voters to reduce taxes.

Surplus (see money to reduce taxes at Town Meeting)	231747.74	242,024.01
Contingency Fund	22065.11	6676.18
	253,812.85	248,700.19



2023 - 2024 Departmental Expenses

001 Governmental

	Expenditures		Receipts
Discounts/Abatements	9,751.77	Carry Forward	8,891.86
		Town Vote	8,540.14
TOTAL EXPENDED	9,751.77		
Carry Over	7,680.23		
TOTAL	17,432.00	TOTAL	17,432.00

010 Administration

First Assessor	2,000.00	Carry Forward	(50.00)
Second Assessor	1,200.00	Town Vote	4,800.00
Third Assessor	1,200.00		
Moderator			
Constable	150.00		
TOTAL EXPENDED	4,550.00		
Carry Over	200.00		
	4,750.00		4,750.00

Assessor's Agent	4,585.00	Carry Forward	5,287.50
		Town Vote	2,520.00
TOTAL EXPENDED	4,585.00		
Carry Over	3,222.50		
TOTAL	7,807.50	TOTAL	7,807.50

General Government Expense

Advertisements	290.59	Carry Forward	2,198.72
Dues & Fees	2,006.00	Town Vote	1,868.00
Legal Counsel	1,980.00		
TOTAL EXPENDED	4,276.59		
Carry Over	(209.87)		
TOTAL	4,066.72	TOTAL	4,066.72

Finance

*Audit of Books	6,700.00	*(Previously Part of Town Hall Account) (Included w/ Townhall Expenditures)	
Deputy Treasurer	16,865.17	Carry Forward	3,570.07
		Town Vote	24,960.00
TOTAL EXPENDED	16,865.17		
Carry Over	11,664.90		
TOTAL	28,530.07	TOTAL	28,530.07

Planning - LUPC	59,740.38	Town Vote 6/2023	26,757.00
Money raised @ Town Meeting after payment.			
Carry Over	(32,983.38)		
TOTAL	26,757.00	TOTAL	26,757.00
Town Office Account			
Building and Grounds	1,850.00	Carry Forward	15,038.99
Computer Software/Repairs	5,201.24	Town Vote	25,000.00
Electricity	1,343.74	From Surplus	153.00
Equipment	38.25	Town hall Income	173.99
Heating Oil	2,942.39	Money MIs designated (Stabilization)	198.38
Maps/Updates	-		
Office Supplies	2,645.61		
Postage	697.81		
Propane	123.83		
Records - Deeds & Transfers	530.26		
Repairs/Maintenance	8,286.93		
Telephone/Internet	2,378.06		
* Moved to other Departments			
Audit of Books (from above)	6,700.00		
Elections	1,585.81		
Travel & Training	211.86		
TOTAL EXPENDED	34,535.79		
Carry Over	6,028.57		
TOTAL	40,564.36	TOTAL	40,564.36
Town Clerk/Tax Collector			
*Elections	1,585.81	* Previously part of Townhall	
*Travel & Training	211.86		
Town Clerk Salary	55,000.00	Pulled from Surplus (not in budget)	55,000.00
TOTAL	55,000.00	TOTAL	55,000.00
Insurances			
Employee Health Insurance	13,418.88	Town Vote	25,500.00
Property & Casualty	2,931.00	From Surplus	241.65
Public Officials (Bond)	450.00	Insurance return	174.17
Worker's Comp	1,507.00	Carry Forward	(1,841.95)
Unemployment	140.48		
TOTAL EXPENDED	18,447.36		
*Part of Payroll Budget Previously			
FICA - Town Share	646.09		
Medicare - Town Share	1,322.32		
Carry Over	5,626.51		
TOTAL	24,073.87	TOTAL	24,073.87

General Assistance			
Expended	-	Carry Forward	1,963.17
Carry Over	1,963.17		
TOTAL	1,963.17	TOTAL	1,963.17
015 Public Safety			
Fire/Rescue Contract	50,901.05	Town Vote	51,555.85
Sludge Site	-	Carry Forward	2,627.45
Animal Control	-		
Animal Control Officer	350.00		
Animal Control Mileage/Training	39.81		
Franklin County Shelter	304.80		
TOTAL EXPENDED	51,595.66		
Carry Over	2,587.64		
TOTAL	54,183.30	TOTAL	54,183.30
020 Public Works			
Highway			
Contract Service Arctaris	12,000.00	Town Vote Contract Srevices	10,000.00
Repair/Maintenance	60,876.06	Town Vote Highway	53,000.00
Winter Roads	27,150.00	Carry Forward (Town Truck)	9,473.48
TOTAL EXPENDED	100,026.06	Carry Forward Contract Service:	75,555.49
		From Surplus Gen. Journal 209	57,315.68
		Carry Forward Highway	1,582.76
Carry Over	106,901.35		
TOTAL	206,927.41	TOTAL	206,927.41
Solid Waste			
Attendants Wages	9,657.00	Town Vote	46,000.00
Buildings & Grounds	150.00	Carry Forward	15,186.75
Contract Services	32,487.95	Waste Disposal Collected	1,597.20
Electricity	449.64		
Licensing & Permits	552.00		
Repairs & Maintenance	-		
Supplies	-		
TOTAL EXPENDED	43,296.59		
Carry Over	19,487.36		
TOTAL	62,783.95	TOTAL	62,783.95
County Tax			
Franklin County Tax	240,142.54	Town Vote	222,867.00
Carry over	0.96	Carry Forward	17,276.50
TOTAL	240,143.50	TOTAL	240,143.50
Education			
RSU# 78	186,303.76	Town Vote	186,303.76
TOTAL	186,303.76	TOTAL	186,303.76

Funding Requests

Rangeley Town Park	400.00	Town Vote	21,887.98
Rangeley Fireworks	400.00	Carry Forward	418.02
Health Ride Van	2,500.00		
Rangeley Friends of Arts	250.00		
American Red Cross	100.00		
Androscogin Home Health	100.00		
Area Elderly Meals	2,000.00		
Maine Forestry Museum	500.00		
Rangeley Chamber of Commerce	500.00		
Rangeley Community Radio	250.00		
Rangeley Cross Country Ski	500.00		
Rangeley Family Medicine	1,500.00		
Rangeley Heritage Trust/Milfoil	500.00		
Rangeley Public Library	7,188.00		
Rangeley Reg. Health & Wellness	1,868.00		
Rangeley Reg. Health Behavior	2,500.00		
Rangeley Snowmobile Club	500.00		
Safe Voices	500.00		
Senoir Plus	-		
Western Mtn Shrine Club	-		
Carry over	250.00		
	22,306.00	TOTAL	22,306.00

**SANDY RIVER PLT. ASSETS****REAL ESTATE**

Land(s)	\$96,500.00
Building(s)	\$73,350.00

OFFICE

Office Furniture	\$5,024.83
Office Equipment	\$18,134.27
Building Machinery & Equipment	\$13,066.67
Outdoor Equipment	\$2,471.02
Software	\$416.88
Reference Material	\$424.50
	\$209,388.17

The annual tax commitment is historically issued on October 31st annually.

A 2% discount is available to taxpayers who pay their full obligation by December 31st.

Interest on unpaid taxes begins accruing on January 31st, at the rate established by a vote of the municipal legislative body. This interest applies only to the unpaid principal balance and is tracked separately from the original levy.

Throughout the fiscal year, the Tax Collector’s Office managed ongoing billing, delinquency notices, and payment processing. Efforts were made to encourage timely payment while maintaining compliance with statutory requirements and municipal policy.

Collections remained consistent, and the office continues to prioritize accurate accounting and responsive service to taxpayers.

OUTSTANDING TAXES

NAME	TAX BILL YEAR	PRINCIPAL
CHAPMAN, PAUL	2023	\$62.48
DOHERTY, RICHARD	2023	\$258.44
DUNN, RONALD & MORTON, CATHY	2023	\$1,028.65
FRANK, CAROLINE	2023	\$255.03
GUSLER, TROY	2023	\$543.58
HEBERT, LORI	2023	\$868.47
JOHNSON, FONDA	2022	\$62.42
JOHNSON, FONDA	2023	\$61.34
KIDDER, DAVID	2023	\$1,251.30
LAUGHLIN, HENRY	2023	\$677.06
MARTIN, MICHAEL & SUSAN	2023	\$144.84
OLSEN, ERIC & SALLY ANN	2023	\$971.28
RICHARD, COREY	2023	\$149.38
RICHARD, CORY	2023	\$146.54
ROBBINS, JEDEDIAH & JACOB	2023	\$38.62
SADDLEBACK RP 26-28	2023	\$1,814.76
SEABOLD, LINDA & DAN HUIH, DAVID & HEATHER	2023	\$242.82
TESSIER, ANTHONY	2023	\$387.94
THAYER, VALERIE & BENJAMIN	2023	\$1,836.34
WHITEHEAD, RICHARD	2023	\$1,033.76



FISCAL YEAR	TAX BILL YEAR	MILL RATE	IMMEDIATE COLLECTION RATE
JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020	2019	\$4.60	97.05%
JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021	2020	\$4.75	96.40%
JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022	2021	\$4.87	97.07%
JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023	2022	\$5.78	97.98%
JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024	2023	\$5.68	96.59%



March 17, 2025

Board of Assessors
Sandy River Plantation
Sandy River Plantation, Maine

We have been engaged by the Sandy River Plantation, Maine and have audited the financial statements of the Sandy River Plantation, Maine as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024. The following statements and schedules are being reviewed with management and have been excerpted from the 2024 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office upon completion of the audit.

Included herein are:

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	Statement C
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	Statement E
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund	Schedule 1
Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund	Schedule A

RHR Smith & Company

RHR Smith & Company
Certified Public Accountants

3 Old Orchard Road, Buxton, Maine 04093
Tel: (800) 300-7708 (207) 929-4606 Fax: (207) 929-4609
www.rhrsmith.com

STATEMENT C	
SANDY RIVER PLANTATION, MAINE	
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	
JUNE 30, 2024	
	General Fund
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 506,586
Accounts receivables (net of allowance for uncollectibles):	
Taxes/liens	13,974
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 520,560</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 485
Accrued expenses	15,383
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>15,868</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred tax revenues	9,884
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>9,884</u>
FUND BALANCES	
Nonspendable	-
Restricted	-
Committed	2,814
Assigned	-
Unassigned	491,994
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>494,808</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 520,560</u>

STATEMENT E

SANDY RIVER PLANTATION, MAINE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund
REVENUES	
Taxes:	
Property taxes	\$ 758,753
Excise taxes	61,067
Intergovernmental revenues	89,690
Charges for services	68,467
Miscellaneous revenues	8,895
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>986,872</u>
EXPENDITURES	
Current:	
General government	269,561
Public safety	72,480
Health and sanitation	43,336
Education	198,304
County tax	240,143
Highways	40,355
Other	142,786
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>1,006,965</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	<u>(20,093)</u>
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED	470,710
FUND BALANCE CORRECTION	<u>44,191</u>
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS RESTATED	<u>514,901</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u><u>\$ 494,808</u></u>

SCHEDULE 1

SANDY RIVER PLANTATION, MAINE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	Amounts	Positive (Negative)
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1, Restated	\$ 514,901	\$ 514,901	\$ 514,901	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	756,183	756,183	758,753	2,570
Excise taxes	-	-	61,067	61,067
Intergovernmental revenues:				
State revenue sharing	6,640	6,640	5,779	(861)
Homestead exemption	6,907	6,907	7,183	276
Tree growth refund	-	-	15,836	15,836
BETE reimbursement	35,261	35,261	35,276	15
Other intergovernmental revenue	-	-	25,616	25,616
Charges for services	-	-	68,467	68,467
Miscellaneous revenue	-	-	8,895	8,895
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>1,319,892</u>	<u>1,319,892</u>	<u>1,501,773</u>	<u>181,881</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	152,127	152,280	269,561	(117,281)
Public safety	30,380	87,696	72,480	15,216
Health and sanitation	46,000	46,000	43,336	2,664
Education	186,304	186,304	198,304	(12,000)
County tax	222,867	222,867	240,143	(17,276)
Highways	63,000	63,000	40,355	22,645
Other	104,313	104,313	142,786	(38,473)
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>804,991</u>	<u>862,460</u>	<u>1,006,965</u>	<u>(144,505)</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 514,901</u>	<u>\$ 457,432</u>	<u>\$ 494,808</u>	<u>\$ 37,376</u>

SCHEDULE A

SANDY RIVER PLANTATION, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
General Government -					
Town elected officials	\$ 16,079	\$ -	\$ 16,079	\$ 76,415	\$ (60,336)
Town hall account	101,960	153	102,113	138,069	(35,956)
MMA dues	1,868	-	1,868	-	1,868
Unemployment taxes	-	-	-	141	(141)
Insurance	25,000	-	25,000	41,396	(16,396)
Employment taxes	4,700	-	4,700	6,975	(2,275)
Reval/update property	2,520	-	2,520	4,585	(2,065)
Legal counsel	-	-	-	1,980	(1,980)
Total	152,127	153	152,280	269,561	(117,281)
Public Safety -					
Fire protection	10,000	57,316	67,316	50,901	16,415
E-911	261	-	261	1,460	(1,199)
Ambulance service	20,119	-	20,119	20,119	-
Total	30,380	57,316	87,696	72,480	15,216
Health and Sanitation -					
Transfer Station	46,000	-	46,000	43,336	2,664
Total	46,000	-	46,000	43,336	2,664
Education -					
RSU No. 78	186,304	-	186,304	198,304	(12,000)
Total	186,304	-	186,304	198,304	(12,000)
County Tax	222,867	-	222,867	240,143	(17,276)

SCHEDULE A (CONTINUED)

SANDY RIVER PLANTATION, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
Highways -					
Winter roads	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000
Summer roads	53,000	-	53,000	40,355	12,645
Total	63,000	-	63,000	40,355	22,645
Other -					
Town special contributions	18,706	-	18,706	18,756	(50)
Rangeley fireworks	-	-	-	400	(400)
LRAP/capital improvements	35,000	-	35,000	14,576	20,424
Rangeley Town park	-	-	-	400	(400)
RRHAT van	-	-	-	2,500	(2,500)
Animal control account	500	-	500	350	150
Franklin County Animal Shelter	-	-	-	305	(305)
Land Use Planning Commission	26,757	-	26,757	59,740	(32,983)
Contingency	20,000	-	20,000	35,387	(15,387)
Overlay/tax discounts	3,350	-	3,350	9,752	(6,402)
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	620	(620)
Total	104,313	-	104,313	142,786	(38,473)
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 804,991	\$ 57,469	\$ 862,460	\$ 1,006,965	\$ (144,505)

**SANDY RIVER PLANTATION
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BOARD OF ASSESSOR'S TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Franklin, ss State of Maine

To: Ryan H. Thompson, a Constable of Sandy River Plantation, in said County of Franklin, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Sandy River Plantation, qualified to vote in Plantation affairs, to assemble at the Plantation Town Hall in Sandy River Plantation on Saturday, the 21st day of June, 2025 A.D. at 10:00 a.m. then and there to act on Article A1 through Articles FR1 of this warrant.

General Note: The Plantation warrant presents the proposed budget for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The proposed municipal budget in this warrant combined with RSU 78 Education and Franklin County tax levies, produces a total budget for Sandy River Plantation, which becomes the basis for the property tax levy. RSU 78 and Franklin County budgets are approved independently from this warrant. Sandy River Plantation's estimated allocation for RSU 78 is \$295,940.69 and for Franklin County is \$339,194.00.

ARTICLE A1: To choose a moderator, by written ballot, to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE A2: To see if the Plantation will allow non-residents, who have information pertaining to any following articles, to speak when recognized by the moderator.

ARTICLE A3: To elect, by written ballot, the Board of Assessors (those elected shall also serve as Overseers of the Poor and Road Commissioner)

One (1) - for a three-year term

One (1) - for a two-year term

One (1) - for a one-year term

ARTICLE A4: To elect, by written ballot, a member to the Regional School Unit No. 78 (RSU #78) Board of Directors.

One (1) – to serve remainder of a three-year term ending June 2026, due to resignation.

ARTICLE A5: To choose all other necessary Plantation Officers and Committees for the ensuing year not elected by written ballot or appointed by the Board of Assessors.

Budget Committee 3 - for a one-year term

BUSINESS ARTICLES

ARTICLE B1: To see if the Plantation will vote to set a date for taxes on real estate and personal property to become due and payable.

RECOMMENDATION: January 1, 2026

ARTICLE B2: To see if the Plantation will vote to authorize a discount of 2% on property taxes paid in full within thirty (30) days from the date of commitment of the tax list to the Tax Collector and to raise and appropriate from taxes the sum of \$10,112.30 for that purpose.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass

ARTICLE B3: To see if the Plantation will set a rate of 7.5 % interest to be assessed by the Plantation on delinquent taxes, and to set a delinquent date.

RECOMMENDATION: Interest Rate 7.5 % per annum, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 505.4 and delinquent date to be 90 days from the date of tax commitment.

ARTICLE B4: To see if the Plantation will vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 506, to authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept any prepayments of taxes not yet due or assessed. Any taxes paid above the amount finally assessed shall be repaid without interest upon request.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B5: To see if the Plantation will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Plantation on abated taxes at 3.5% for the fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B6: To see if the Plantation will vote to appropriate tax abatements and applicable interest out of overlay.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B7: To see if the Plantation will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appropriate all Fiscal Year 2024/2025 overdrafts from undesignated fund balance.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B8: To see if the Plantation will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors and the Treasurer to carry forward specific account balances from the current year to the same accounts for the ensuing year for the specific purpose of each account.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass. (\$339,906.88)

ARTICLE B9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to dispose of town owned property which they determine is no longer needed or usable by the town, on such terms as they deem advisable.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B10: To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to dispose of tax-acquired property via quitclaim deed by either (A) offering the property to the former owner(s) or if deceased, to his/her/their heirs/devisees/personal representative for a price equal to all outstanding taxes, interest, fees and costs; or (B) using the process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, provided that if the board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C(3), the board may sell the property through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice advertising sale of the property shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. For sales other than to the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B11: To see if the Plantation will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors and/or Treasurer, to accept gifts, real estate, donations, and other funds, including trust funds that may be given or left to the Town, and to further authorize the Select Board to expend such sums of money as it deems necessary from these funds for their designated purposes.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B12: To see if the Plantation will authorize the Board of Assessors to enter into leases, contracts and agreements on terms and conditions deemed necessary and appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B13: To see if the Plantation will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors and/or Treasurer acting in concurrence with the Board of Assessors to seek, accept and disburse grant funds from private, state or federal agencies, for the purpose so designated in each specific grant.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass.

ARTICLE B14: Shall the Plantation vote to authorize the Board of Assessors, on behalf of the Plantation, to join with other participating municipal and quasi-municipal employers to group self-insure for the provision of workers' compensation benefits, as authorized by 39-A MRSA Sec 403, said group to be known as the "Maine Municipal Association Workers' Compensation Fund" (Fund); and for that purpose and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements among participating employers, to authorize the Board of Assessors to enter into a Fund Indemnity Agreement on behalf of the Plantation and take whatever other actions may be necessary. The authority granted herein shall continue until revoked.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass. (The vote does not bind coverage or commit Sandy River to obtain coverage through MMA Risk Management Services).

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT &
SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNT ARTICLES**

	2024-2025	2025-2026 Request
A. Civil Emergency	7,809.05	*0.00
B. Forest Fire Account	10,000.00	10,000.00
C. Property Reval	8,155.00	***66,345.00
D. Restore Graves	50.00	*0.00
E. Roads Improvement Reserve	0.00	**30,000.00
F. LRAP Capital Improvement Reserve	20,000.00	0.00
	<u>\$46,014.05</u>	<u>\$106,345.00</u>

Carry Forward **Earned Revenue Transfer *Raise, Carry Forward and Transfer*

ARTICLE C1: To see if the Plantation will vote to raise and appropriate from taxes \$10,000 for the Forest Fire Account Special Reserve, an existing non-lapsing special reserve fund from which the Board of Assessors may expend for the designated purpose of the reserve.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass

Note: Forest Fire Account Carry Forward \$111,345.56, pursuant to 12 M.R.S §9204 Municipalities shall pay the costs for controlling and extinguishing forest fires up to 1/4 of 1% of their state valuation on a calendar year basis.

ARTICLE C2: To see if the Plantation will vote to raise and appropriate from taxes \$42,849.01 for the Property Reval Special Reserve, an existing non-lapsing special reserve fund from which the Board of Assessors may expend for the designated purpose of the reserve.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass

ARTICLE C3: To see if the Plantation will vote to transfer and appropriate \$23,495.99 from surplus (Undesignated Fund Balance) to the Property Reval Special Reserve for the purpose of conducting a revaluation of real estate in the Plantation.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass *(FY 24/25 Overlay)*

ARTICLE C4: To see if the Plantation will vote to transfer and appropriate \$30,000 from the General Fund revenue source motor vehicle excise tax to the Roads Improvements Reserve, a non-lapsing capital reserve fund designated for future road projects, from which the Board of Assessors may expend for the stated purpose of the reserve.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass

OPERATING EXPENSE ARTICLES

ARTICLE EX1: To see if the Plantation will vote to raise and appropriate from taxes \$ 228,800.01 for Administration.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 Request
A. Elected Officials	4,750.00	4,850.00	6,750.00
B. Assessors Agent	7,807.50	9,005.00	8,700.00
C. General Government	46,231.83	35,742.90	20,600.03
D. Finance	35,530.07	25,464.90	22,660.00
E. Planning	26,757.00	32,983.38	50,643.00
F. Town Office	31,838.99	30,580.78	25,550.00
G. Tax Collector/Town Clerk	56,100.00	63,700.00	63,680.00
H. Insurances	23,658.05	30,525.34	22,414.18
I. Payroll Liability	5,248.57	5,555.08	7,802.80
J. General Assistance	1,963.17	1,963.17	0.00
	\$239,885.18	\$240,370.55	\$228,800.01

RECOMMENDATION: Board of Assessors recommend \$228,800.01
Budget Committee recommends \$228,800.01

ARTICLE EX2: To see if the Plantation will vote to raise and appropriate from taxes \$ 101,602.89 for Public Safety.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 Request
A. Fire and Rescue	50,901.05	64,278.46	62,858.03
B. Animal Control	1,782.25	1,742.44	781.00
C. E.M.S.	20,119.00	23,404.00	37,690.00
D. Enhanced E-911	708.96	1981.77	273.86
	\$73,511.26	\$91,406.78	\$101,602.89

RECOMMENDATION: Board of Assessors recommend \$101,602.89
Budget Committee recommends \$101,602.89

ARTICLE EX3: To see if the Plantation will vote to raise and appropriate from taxes \$ 91,460.00 for the Public Works Department.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 Request
A. Highway	198,094.16	212,007.12	*50,000.00
B. Solid Waste	61,186.75	59,637.36	41,460.00
C. Sanitary Sewers	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
	\$259,280.91	\$271,644.48	\$91,460.00

Note Raise \$50,000.00, Carry Forward \$48,000.00 and Transfer \$35,000.00*

RECOMMENDATION: Board of Assessors recommend \$91,460.00
Budget Committee recommends \$91,460.00

ARTICLE EX4: To see if the Plantation will vote to transfer and appropriate \$35,000 from the General Fund revenue source motor vehicle excise tax to the Highway Department Operating Budget, to be used for the fiscal years highway maintenance and operations.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass

ARTICLE EX 5: To see if the Plantation will vote to transfer and appropriate \$1,500.00 from the Sanitary Waste Septic Sludge Account to the Solid Waste Transfer Station account.

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass

FUNDING REQUEST ARTICLES

ARTICLE FR1: To see if the Plantation will vote to raise and appropriate from taxes the sum of \$7,100 to fund contributions to the following agencies.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
			Request
A. Maine Forestry Museum	500.00	500.00	500.00
B. Rangeley Public Library	7188.00	7476.00	5000.00
C. Rangeley Health & Wellness	1868.00	1681.00	*1600.00
	\$9,565.00	\$9,657.00	\$7,100.00

**Note: For youth, seniors' programming, community outreach and operational support*

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass

ARTICLE RV1: Shall the Plantation appropriate funds from non-property tax revenues for the approved articles in EX1 through FR1, which includes \$100,000.00 from undesignated fund balance?

Estimated Revenues \$ 105,996.75

RECOMMENDATION: The article to pass





Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Scott R. Nichols, Sheriff

Steve Lowell, Chief Deputy

Business Office: (207) 778-2680

Toll Free: (800) 773-2680

Fax: (207) 778-9064

123 County Way

Farmington, ME 04938

January 2025

To our friends in Sandy River Plt.

The Sheriff's Office answered **212** calls for service in Sandy River Plt. for 2024 which is about average for you.

Whether or not calls for service increase or remain stable, we have seen an increased demand for patrol to assist towns who may have police departments that find it difficult to fill vital patrol slots. The Sheriff's Office Patrol Division remains a force multiplier to assist those towns. We have either covered calls full-time in some towns or assisted in filling a patrol gap when needed. We will always do our best to support our patrol friends and peers in all towns within the county.

Because of these increased needs, we have had to find innovative ways to add additional staff through grants or the state Unorganized Township funds to fill our own gaps in coverage. We have also added an additional sergeant's position to our supervisory staff to help oversee patrol operations day.

We continue to see an increase in people who are drug addicted or suffer from mental health issues. Whenever a deputy runs into this type of contact it can easily take him off the road for hours if not for the rest of the patrol shift while he guides the person in crisis through the process of seeking the help they need for their addiction or mental health issues.

Where do people go after they have had contact with law enforcement and have been arrested? Well, they go to the county jail. Our dedicated staff of Corrections Officers work hard within the walls of the jail to also help guide people who arrive angry and/or addicted.

In order to help combat these issues within our community, the Sheriff's Office through the leadership of Franklin County S.O. Sergeant Ryan Close and Director LeeAnna Lavoie of the Healthy Community Coalition of Franklin County applied for and received a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant called COSSUP. This stands for "Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program". This grant will enable the Sheriff's Office Jail staff to comprehensively address the impact of illicit opioids, stimulants, and other substances through a vetted model approach which has proven results in other jails within Maine. This model, once fully implemented, will work to prevent and reduce drug overdose incidents and death, as well as reduce jail recidivism rates.

Not only have we been working on behalf of people that encounter law enforcement, but we have also been concerned with the mental health of our local first responders within Franklin County. In March of 2023, several public safety agencies within Franklin County banded together to create the County's first Public Safety Peer Support Team. Working with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF), all members of the team were trained and certified in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) in April of 2023.



Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Scott R. Nichols, Sheriff

Steve Lowell, Chief Deputy

Business Office: (207) 778-2680

Toll Free: (800) 773-2680

Fax: (207) 778-9064

123 County Way

Farmington, ME 04938

January 2025

The Franklin County Peer Support Team provides several services for First Responders in Franklin County. These first responders include fire, EMS, corrections and patrol personnel. Primarily, members are resources for their agencies and those surrounding them. Members organize and facilitate Critical Incident Stress Management Debriefings when requested. In 2024, members organized and facilitated 7 Debriefings with over 90 participants. Members also conduct one on one check ins when a referral for a First Responder was received. Members organized and facilitated dozens of one-on-one check ins.

The Franklin County Peer Support Team has continued to add members to the team and get them CISM trained. The FCPST meets monthly to discuss various topics, trends, and continue on-going training to keep skills fresh. This allows the team to be ready to respond at any time. In September, the area hosted its annual Wellness and Resiliency Seminar at UMF which was widely attended by over 90 First Responders locally and from away.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for the support that you have provided to the Sheriff's Office over the years. We could not be as successful as we have been without you as our partner. Contact me anytime at 207-778-2680 or email me at snichols@franklincountymaine.gov if you wish to discuss an issue.

I pray 2025 will be a blessing to you all.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Nichols".

Sheriff Scott R. Nichols



Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Scott R. Nichols, Sheriff

Steve Lowell, Chief Deputy

Business Office: (207) 778-2680
Toll Free: (800) 773-2680

123 County Way
Farmington, ME 04938

Call Type	Call Total	Call Type	Call Total	Call Type	Call Total
911 Hang up	25	Emergency Mental Health	0	Parking Complaint	0
Abandon MV	0	Escort/Transport	0	Request for phone call	2
Alarm	14	Footbeat	0	Remove Subject	0
Animal Complaint	6	Follow up investigation	0	Road Hazard	6
Arrests	0	Fire Alarm	3	security checks	0
Assist other officer/agency	0	Found Property	0	Sex Offenses	0
Assault	0	Fire, vehicle	0	SORNA violation	0
Assist Citizen	5	Fire, structure	0	School Admin Action	0
Assist other agency	0	Harassment complaint	1	Shots fired/fireworks	0
Attempt to locate	0	Information	20	Special Detail	0
ATV/Snowmobile complaint`	0	Intoxicated Person	0	Suicidal person	0
Bail/Probation check	0	Juvenile Offenses	0	Suspicious Activity	3
Barricaded subject	0	K-9 Assist	1	Theft/Fraud	0
Background check-firearms	0	Late Report	2	Threatening complaint	0
Burglary	1	Lewd behavior	0	Traffic Control	0
Building Checks	7	Lost & Found prop	2	Tree in road	0
Civil Issue	2	Fire/tree/lines down	1	Trespass complaint	2
Complaint other	0	Medical Emergency	47	Vandalism	1
Community policing	0	Missing Person	0	Vio of Bail conditions	0
Death Investigation	0	M/V accident injuries	7	Vio of Protection Order	0
Dispatch Information	0	M/V complaint	8	Warrant Arrest	0
Disturbance	0	M/V accident no injury	22	Warrant Search	0
DHHS Referral	0	M/V traffic violations	17	Welfare Check	5
Disabled MV	0	Noise Complaint	1	Warrant/Probation check	0
Domestic Disturbance	1	Paperwork Service	0	Weapons Violation	0
Drug law violation	0				
Elder Check	0				
	61		132		19
Total calls for Service	212				



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-022

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

February 11, 2025

Via U.S. Mail and E-mail (*letter and report only*)

Board of Assessors
Sandy River Plantation
33 Townhall Rd
Sandy River Plt, ME 04970

RE: 2024 LUPC Annual Permit Summary Report

Dear Board of Assessors:

Please find enclosed a summary of Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) permitting activities in Sandy River Plantation for 2024. Depending on permit activity, data may include:

- Approved or on hold permits for activities that required permit approval when applicants sought it;
- Information about permit applications submitted and later withdrawn by the applicant;
- Notifications received for activities that require notification to the LUPC; and
- Information about enforcement cases that have been resolved.

Please note that some activities do not require LUPC approval, and some may have been completed without a permit, though a permit was required.

Also enclosed are copies of a recently updated LUPC brochure on accessory structures that we hope you will make available at the Plantation office. Recent rule changes require property owners to notify the LUPC if they plan to build an accessory structure. Data on the notifications will be included in next year's annual report

The LUPC regional staff serving Sandy River Plantation include:

Rachel Hauber, Environmental Specialist III
(All Non-Residential Development)
Phone: (207) 670-7493
E-mail: Rachel.Hauber@maine.gov

Jennifer Larson, Environmental Specialist II
(All Residential Development)
Phone: (207) 670-7492
E-mail: Jennifer.Larson@maine.gov

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Stacy Benjamin
Chief Planner
(207)441-3761

Enclosures: 2024 Annual Permitting Summary for Sandy River Plantation; Accessory Structure Brochures

STACIE R. BEYER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HARLOW BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR



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Land Use Planning Commission

2024 ANNUAL PERMITTING SUMMARY FOR:

SANDY RIVER PLANTATION

Explanations for each column's data are provided on the last pages of the report

Type	Number	Amend- ment	Applicant	Activity Description	Status	Status Date	GPL
GN	23-2		Arctaris Saddleback Real Estate, LLC	Reconstruct and expand ski-race gatehouse on the Grey Ghost trail [pursuant to Saddleback D-PD Development Plan Section III(B)(5)].	Approved	1/18/2024	07170031
BP	17392		Drew, Timothy; Drew, Catherine; Flynn, Elizabeth	Construct 42x24x30 and 10x10x16 dwelling with new gravel parking area and driveway. Revegetation of 50-foot roadway vegetative buffer.	Approved	1/19/2024	071701353
DP	4690	A	Winter Fun, Inc.	Change use: laundromat to ATV and snowmobile rental. (See DP 4960-B below)	Application Returned	2/9/2024	071701423
BP	17443		Dunn, Jason; Flynn, Elizabeth	Construct 36x28x30'dwelling with attached deck, detached garage 36x28x30 and new gravel driveway with parking.	Approved	2/27/2024	071701654
DP	4131	FF	Saddleback Community Loan Company LLC; American Forest Management	Revised forest management plan within the Saddleback D-PD.	Application Withdrawn	4/25/2024	07050012A, 07110045, 07819013, 07170031, 07050012B

Type	Number	Amend- ment	Applicant	Activity Description	Status	Status Date	GPL
BP	17472		McCallum, Alexa; Robinson, John	Construct 44x24x18 and 15x5x18 dwelling with new driveway and parking.	Approved	4/30/2024	071701347
BP	17421	A	Albrecht, Ellen; Byrd, Matthew; Johnson, Erin	Construct 24x26; 20x39x36 dwelling with attached garage, two attached porches, new driveway and parking area.	Approved	5/24/2024	07170031
BP	13999	A	Raymond, Cliff	New 16x26 garage attached to the existing two bay garage.	Approved	6/10/2024	071700420
BP	17411	A	Hall, Jarod; Hall, Nichole	Reconstruct 6x21 bathroom and construct 16x34 addition.	Approved	6/18/2024	071701723
BP	9109	E	Bechard, Gregg; Bechard, Sandra	Replace deck with 8x18 addition in same location.	Application Withdrawn	7/24/2024	071701651
EC	24-80		Maul, Linda; Maul, Michael	Pole barn constructed without permit and woodshed placed too close to property line.	Resolved	7/29/2024	07170163, 07170162
BP	17000	A	Maul, Linda; Maul, Michael	Change in proposed dwelling and garage location and size.	Approved	7/31/2024	07170162, 07170163

Type	Number	Amend- ment	Applicant	Activity Description	Status	Status Date	GPL
BP	17539		Albrecht, Ellen; Wasileski, John	Construct 58x39x32 dwelling with two attached porches, new driveway, new parking, and SWDS.	Approved	8/13/2024	07170031
BP	17079	B	Mustacki, Goran; Tzankova, Avlina	Extend/renew permit expiration and change in ownership.	Approved	9/3/2024	071700710
BP	17522		White, Bruce; Stevenson, Joseph	Construct new dwelling, to be 28x42 including two porches, with 8x8 mudroom and 12x20 attached garage.	Approved	9/4/2024	071701649
DP	4131	LL	Arctaris Saddleback Real Estate, LLC	Flex design condominium subdivision (77 units) [Alpine Village] and associated infrastructure.	Application Withdrawn	9/24/2024	07170031
BP	17617		Karter, Allyson; Perry, Kirsten; Kennedy, Damien	New addition 16x24x25 to pre-Commission dwelling with new front porch 8x16 and replaced SWDS.	Approved	10/1/2024	07170042
DP	4690	B	Winter Fun Inc.	Change in use: Laundromat to ATV and Snowmobile rental.	Approved	10/31/2024	071701423
EC	24-56		Winter Fun Inc.	Change in use from laundromat to ATV rental without a permit. Signs that are over the allowed square footage.	Resolved	10/31/2024	071701423

Type	Number	Amend- ment	Applicant	Activity Description	Status	Status Date	GPL
BP	17626		Stein, David	New single family dwelling 28x32 with a 10x20 deck and 10x10 porch. New detached garage 20x22, new driveway and SWDS.	Approved	11/22/2024	07170159
BP	17633		Stevens, Adam	After-the-fact driveway, parking area and retaining wall.	Approved	12/4/2024	071701718, 071701719, 071701721
EC	24-75		Stevens, Adam; Stevens, Susan;	Clearing and retaining wall within road setback and ROW.	Resolved	12/5/2024	071701718, 071701719, 071701721



SUBSIDY FORMULA DISCUSSION

Since its inception as NorthStar in 2005, MaineHealth EMS has operated with a subsidy formula that has several elements and is intended to cover the deficit from operations (income from all insurance, Medicare, MaineCare and other sources *less* expenses of personnel costs, vehicle costs, supply costs, and administrative costs.)

As I'm sure towns and communities have felt in their own budgets, expense have been increasing rapidly over the last couple of years. Unfortunately, this has created a need to increase the subsidies for FY2026. We anticipate call volume will be flat and we will continue to see low reimbursement from Medicare, Maine Care and other insurance companies. This includes private insurance companies that due to a change in law, only have to pay 200% of what Medicare is paying. This has been one of the greatest challenges impacting our income over the last few years.

MaineHealth EMS for the Franklin sector is budgeted to lose approximately \$834,000 in our FY25 year. We worked with our local EMS Advisory board and mutually agreed to raise the subsidy by approximately \$384,000. The remaining \$450,000 will be absorbed by MaineHealth EMS-Franklin.

Thankfully, MaineHealth Franklin Hospital, was able to secure contingency capital funding to do some much-needed renovations on two of our five bases. The two that we own have not had any major work done on them in years. With the support of MaineHealth Franklin Hospital we were able to put over \$300,000 back into those two bases. Those renovations for Livermore included a refurbished in garage with an updated exhaust system, new floors throughout and fresh paint. In Farmington, we replaced flooring, update the kitchen and appliances, and fresh paint throughout.

MaineHealth EMS will continue to keep our operations as efficient as possible, while supporting our community, and providing quality pre-hospital life-saving healthcare. We will continue to strive to make the subsidy formula as fair as possible for our community partners, working with our local Advisory board. We are happy to hear your feedback about the formula.

We really appreciate the support of our towns and communities in the greater Franklin County area. Should you like further information on how the formula was developed, please feel free to call or email Stephen Smith, *MaineHealth EMS'* Director at 779-2770 or stephen.smith@mainehealth.org.

Parts of the Formula

Demographics. When the initial formula was developed, several demographic categories were considered, and the formula was narrowed down by the *MaineHealth EMS* Advisory Board to the three elements that best represented the region's diverse aspects. After reviewing the 2010 Census information, the Board felt that these elements were still valid. These are:

Population (2020 Census data). Since the ambulance business is about people, population is a broad indicator of how often the services will be used.

Residential Valuation (using most current year State Equalized Values). Again, focusing on the "people" by using Residential Valuation instead of the broader Total Valuation, this is an indication of overall development in the area. This factor is weighted less than the other factors but is the only value that changes based on inflation and/or with development in the area. Use of this factor allows a small inflationary increase for *MaineHealth EMS*' operations.

Housing Units (2010 Census data). In most towns that do not have seasonal fluctuation, the housing units correspond to the population but it is a good measure of the potential of seasonal visitors and residents (and taxpayers) and thus, along with population, is an overall measure of projected activity in the town.

County Unorganized Territory (UT) information was estimated based on the latest UT annual reports and state valuation reports. *MaineHealth EMS* does request an updated housing units for 2025 for your town/territory.

How the Formula Works

Mill rate The mill rate has steady at 0.09 for several years. This year we increased it to 0.102 to help increase the subsidy equally.

Fee. A single Flat Fee for each town and a single fee for each UT This had been unchanged for several years. This year it increased from \$7,000 to \$7,500.

A Dollar Value. A dollar amount in each category is applied to each town's demographic value. Residential valuation remained flat in towns and territories serviced by *MaineHealth EMS*. As outlined above this factor normally allows for a small inflationary increase for operations.

This year we increased from \$13.60 per person to \$17 per person based on the population. We also increased the per unit from a rate of \$25 to \$30.

A Distance Factor. The center of population for the region that *MaineHealth EMS* serves is, in fact, in southern Franklin County. However, *MaineHealth EMS* has positioned crews and ambulances at strategic points around the region to assure that we respond quickly throughout the

territory. Four of these five bases are crewed 24/7 to assure timely coverage of the entire area, including those in sparsely settled areas. The farther away from the center of population, there are fewer people per square mile and thus fewer runs per day. With fewer runs, there is less income to offset the expenses of keeping an ambulance ready all the time for that town.

Since the subsidy is based on *MaineHealth EMS*’ overall deficit, a distance factor is appropriate when looking at the financial impact of serving very rural areas with an ambulance always staffed and ready to respond. In this formula, the total sum of the fee and other factors described above is multiplied by this distance factor. (Specifically, the distance factor is the ratio of distance to the town from the population center point divided by the average distance). To limit the effects of both very short and very long distances the factor has been ‘capped’ with a minimum and a maximum ratio value. For FY2026 the distance maximum ratio value has been increased back to 0.89 (was 0.79) and the minimum ratio value will be 0.24.





Northstar Ambulance Financials
FY2024

	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance \$	Variance %
Inpatient Revenue	23,564	1,762	-	-	1,389	536	-	1,552	303	2,961	-	9,571	32,370	-	32,370	0.00%
Outpatient Revenue	986,871	1,037,085	1,162,213	1,288,524	1,318,579	1,085,579	1,048,483	1,058,599	1,289,490	1,240,920	1,377,347	14,007,593	14,007,593	14,767,353	(759,760)	-5.14%
Gross Patient Service Revenue	1,010,434	1,038,847	1,162,213	1,289,913	1,319,115	1,085,782	1,115,254	1,048,786	1,061,559	1,289,490	1,250,491	1,366,079	14,039,963	14,767,353	(727,390)	-4.93%
Less Deductions from Revenue	621,821	639,306	715,226	793,812	811,784	668,190	686,327	645,423	653,284	2,167,968	325,253	1,025,169	9,753,563	9,087,829	(665,733)	-7.33%
Net Patient Service Revenue	388,613	399,541	446,987	496,101	507,332	417,592	428,927	403,363	408,276	(878,478)	925,239	342,910	4,286,401	5,679,524	(1,393,123)	-24.33%
Other Operating Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
50000 - 0000 - Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
50015 - 0000 - Purchase Rebates	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	815,038	650,958	164,079	25.21%
54500 - 0000 - Town Subsidies	67,920	67,920	67,920	68,220	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	815,338	650,958	164,379	25.25%
Total Other Operating Revenue	67,920	67,920	67,920	68,220	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	67,920	815,338	650,958	164,379	25.25%
Total Operating Revenue	456,533	467,460	514,907	564,320	575,252	485,511	496,846	471,283	476,196	(810,558)	993,158	410,830	5,101,739	6,330,483	(1,228,744)	-19.41%
Expenses																
Salaries	325,400	296,364	301,827	330,059	319,762	301,953	281,696	305,183	290,469	314,786	296,947	321,585	3,686,031	3,785,683	99,652	2.63%
Employee Benefits	94,451	89,152	84,912	101,809	100,968	98,715	87,935	86,725	94,281	100,368	87,545	83,107	1,109,968	930,072	(179,896)	-15.34%
Non-Medical Supplies	2,108	1,281	1,184	(324)	11,948	1,795	2,731	3,449	8,793	1,699	189	6,215	41,068	35,112	(5,957)	-16.96%
Medical Supplies	6,579	5,186	13,377	4,977	5,802	6,364	5,641	5,699	6,542	58,156	19,733	21,150	159,206	186,657	27,451	14.71%
Purchased Services	2,981	6,437	7,518	4,451	12,363	5,050	4,315	5,948	5,774	6,108	3,878	5,878	70,699	53,640	(17,059)	-31.80%
Contract Labor	236	-	-	-	-	1,290	636	(810)	662	-	-	-	2,013	-	(2,013)	0.00%
Facility Costs	8,655	12,865	12,466	16,157	13,024	10,505	11,980	10,555	10,161	11,622	10,546	10,875	139,411	141,786	2,375	1.67%
Other Expenses	5,124	25,870	18,505	27,886	63,971	26,405	23,149	25,985	31,597	17,786	28,298	32,162	326,738	281,955	(44,783)	-15.88%
Depreciation and Amortization	13,984	12,984	12,984	13,227	13,227	12,478	13,106	13,106	29,740	29,740	29,576	26,577	219,730	184,351	(35,379)	-13.06%
Intercompany Activity	-	-	-	-	-	132	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(132)	0.00%
Allocations	61,826	56,309	57,347	62,711	60,755	57,371	53,522	57,985	55,169	59,809	56,420	61,101	700,346	719,280	18,934	2.63%
Total Expenses	520,344	506,449	510,120	560,952	601,821	522,058	484,711	513,825	533,208	600,073	533,132	568,650	6,455,342	6,328,535	(126,807)	-2.00%
Operating Margin	(63,811)	(38,989)	4,787	3,368	(26,569)	(36,547)	12,136	(42,542)	(57,013)	(1,410,631)	460,026	(157,819)	(1,353,604)	1,947	(1,355,551)	-69613.37%
Non-Operating Gain Loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Margin	(63,811)	(38,989)	4,787	3,368	(26,569)	(36,547)	12,136	(42,542)	(57,013)	(1,410,631)	460,026	(157,819)	(1,353,604)	1,947	(1,355,551)	-69613.37%
Ambulance Runs	404	403	445	505	507	421	426	414	403	489	461	485	5,363	5,688	(325)	-5.71%
GPSR per run	2,501	2,578	2,612	2,554	2,602	2,579	2,618	2,533	2,634	2,637	2,713	2,821	2,618	2,596	22	0.84%
NPSR per run	962	991	1,004	982	1,001	992	1,007	974	1,013	1,013	2,007	707	799	999	(199)	-19.96%
Cost per Run	1,288	1,257	1,146	1,111	1,187	1,240	1,138	1,241	1,323	1,227	1,156	1,172	1,204	1,113	91	8.19%
FTE's	52.84	50.31	52.12	52.47	54.09	46.55	50.30	51.40	51.49	56.10	51.74	54.23	51.95	53.80	1.85	3.44%



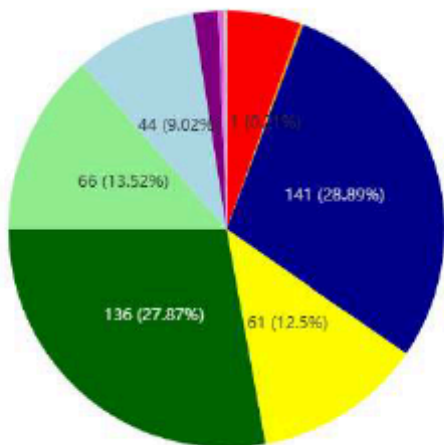
RANGELEY FIRE RESCUE

ESTABLISHED 1894

Chief Michael Bacon

(207) 864-3800
FireChief@rangeleyme.org

Total (488)



- 1 - Fire
- 2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)
- 3 - Rescue
- 4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)
- 5 - Service Call
- 6 - Good Intent Call
- 7 - False Alarm & False Call
- 8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
- 9 - Special Incident Type
- None / In Progress

Dear Sandy River Plantation Resident,

Rangeley Fire Rescue responded to 488 calls for service within our coverage area. Of those calls, 28 were in Sandy River Plantation with the highest generated call being tied with Vehicle Accidents and Fire Alarms.

Being operationally ready to respond means training. To be ready for all emergencies your community may face we train. Rangeley Fire Rescue firefighters in total trained for 1,229 hours across a wide range of topics from fire suppression to incident command to better serve your community.

Rangeley Fire Rescue has also begun rolling out a community CPR training program that is free to residents. Please feel to reach out if you are interested in attending.

Some other programs that Rangeley Fire Rescue offers include; courtesy life safety inspections, help with insurance reviews, and urban wildland interface reviews to name a few. If you ever have a question regarding your property or life safety, please reach out we may have resources to provide assistance.

As always, thank you for allowing us to serve your community.

Yours in Service,

Michael A. Bacon
Chief Rangeley Fire Rescue
Office: 207-864-3800
Email: firechief@rangeleyme.org

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
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Vice Chair
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share several key accomplishments for our state from the previous year.

As Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I have secured nearly \$580 million for 230 projects across all of Maine's 16 counties to promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; support law enforcement; improve public education and infrastructure; and protect our environment. As the new Congress begins, I am honored to be taking the helm of the Committee, the first Mainer to do so in nearly a century, and I remain committed to ensuring that federal spending produces real results for our state and nation.

Maine has the oldest average age in the country, which is why I have long prioritized health-focused legislative efforts. There were more than 1,860 health care bills introduced during the 118th Congress. Only 15 health care bills were signed into law, and I was a lead sponsor of five of them. These bills will enhance care for individuals with Alzheimer's, autism, and substance abuse issues through improved research funding, strengthened public health programs, and increased support for rural first responders.

Another important bill that I coauthored was the *Social Security Fairness Act*. Since 2003, when I led the first-ever Senate hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, I have sought to end these provisions of the *Social Security Act* that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits that public employees or their spouses have earned. I am pleased to say that with the passage of my bill, the *Social Security Fairness Act*, in December, public sector retirees will now receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

When the Maine way of life was under threat, I was certain to defend the interests of our state. I worked to protect Maine's potato farmers when the Department of Agriculture tried to reclassify the potato from a vegetable to a grain. I thwarted efforts to consolidate USPS mail operations at the Hampden postal facility, which would have disrupted mail delivery throughout our state. I sounded the alarm with leaders at the FBI and Departments of State and Treasury on the spate of illicit marijuana growing operations that are destroying properties and providing refuge to foreign criminals in our state. Following damage to our working waterfronts after last winter's storms, I secured \$15 million to help fishing communities recover. I championed funding to support the Maine Air National Guard base, Bath Iron Works, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

As of last December, I have cast more than 9,100 consecutive votes, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997. My ranking as the most bipartisan Senator reflects Maine's tradition of working with a spirit of cooperation and respect.

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that Maine's needs are met. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2025

COMMITTEES:
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CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS
SUBCOMMITTEE
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Dear Friends,

Each year comes with renewed hope – to celebrate each other's successes and care for each other in times of need. I am thankful to each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. We always work together to get things done. This past year was no different.

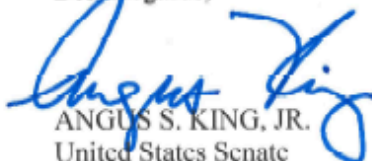
First, it was a true honor to be reelected to the United States Senate for another six-year term. Throughout my travels around the state, I heard many concerns about the cost of living and affordability of housing. Many of you also shared your concerns about access to medical and mental health services. The *Inflation Reduction Act* has been incredible for older people in Maine – Medicare is finally negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs, on top of the \$35 per month cap for insulin that took effect in 2023. We have an opportunity to build on what we have in common and do what Maine people do best; we will continue to help each other and lead through example.

I have also been consistently working to help our veterans. My team has repeatedly been successful in securing long-overdue recognition of military medals for many of Maine's combat veterans and working to resolve issues with claims, travel pay, and access to healthcare and benefits our veterans earned through their selfless service to our country. I have also worked with my Veterans Affairs and Defense partners in Washington to successfully pass a national defense bill that strengthens our national security, takes care of our service members, and supports Maine businesses from Aroostook to York County.

I am also thankful to have such an incredible team across Maine available to you for hurdles you may face with the federal government. Whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, IRS and more, please never hesitate to reach out to my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow us the chance to be part of your solutions.

Together, over the next six years, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2025.

Best Regards,


ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senate

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www.golden.house.gov



Committee on Armed Services
Committee on Small Business

Jared Golden
 Congress of the United States
 2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. Thank you for the opportunity to share an update on the work I've been doing for the people of the Second Congressional District.

Fisheries: This spring, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) announced a gauge increase for lobsters caught in the Gulf of Maine beginning in January 2025. Maine fishermen warned that this decision is founded on incomplete and inaccurate data. Additionally, this gauge increase could put Mainers at a competitive disadvantage to Canadian fishermen with looser regulations. That's why I sent a [letter](#) to the ASMFC urging them to delay their decision until they can evaluate data with fishermen, whose proactive stewardship provides invaluable insight. I have also submitted an amendment to this year's funding bill that would block federal funding from being used to implement and enforce a gauge increase. Because of these efforts, the ASFMC made the decision to delay the implementation of this new requirement. I'll always stand with Maine lobstermen against unfair, unnecessary regulations that threaten their livelihoods and industry.

Veterans: The first meeting I attended as an elected official was with a large group of veterans and the former Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services. We discussed a lot, but one issue rose above the rest: how little was being done for Maine veterans who needed treatment for mental health issues or substance use. At the time, there were no in-patient treatment beds in Maine, so veterans had to wait for a bed to open up at an out-of-state facility. Fast forward 10 years, through unending red tape, and I'm delighted to report we just broke ground on a treatment facility at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta. This was the direct result of the tireless advocacy of veterans from across our state — this win is theirs.

Postal Service: This spring, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced plans to consolidate and move some processing operations from the Eastern Maine Processing & Distribution Center in Hampden to Scarborough. This would have caused significant mail delivery delays that disproportionately harm rural communities. That's why I introduced the *Timely Mail Delivery*

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and Postal Services Protection Act, which would have halted this planned consolidation across the country. Following these efforts, the USPS announced they have scrapped their plan entirely. While this is a win for Maine, it is also evidence that we cannot become complacent. That's why I recently introduced the bipartisan *Postmaster General Reform Act*, which would establish term limits for the United States Postal Service's (USPS) postmaster general and require nominations to be confirmed by the Senate.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,



Jared Golden
Member of Congress

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Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Dear Maine Resident:

I have always been guided by the belief that to strengthen our state, we have to invest in our greatest asset: the people of Maine. With the support of the Legislature, my Administration has been investing in what people need to succeed, like job training, child care, health care, education, broadband, and housing.

We are seeing results — small businesses are expanding their operations; people are moving here to work and raise their families; and graduates are staying in Maine to pursue rewarding, life-long careers. These are all encouraging signs that are reflected in the strength of our economy. In fact, Maine has one of the best rates of economic growth in the nation.

That's good news, but I know that not everyone is feeling the benefits of our strong economy. The cost of living in Maine, as in much of America, is too high. The price of fuel, the cost of supplies, utilities and labor have driven up expenses for families across the country and impacted the budgets of towns, counties and nearly every state, including Maine.

I want everyone to benefit from the availability of good jobs, a good public education, and good health care in our state. That is why I have put forward a balanced budget proposal that proposes some savings and certain targeted revenue increases to maintain things we all support, like the state paying 55 percent of the cost of education and 5 percent municipal revenue sharing, to keep all these costs from being passed along to property taxpayers.

We have made good progress over the past six years to ensure that every person in Maine can find a good-paying job in a rewarding and stable career; go to the doctor when they feel sick because they have health insurance; and have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school.

I look forward to working with communities and citizens across the state to solve problems, manage our finances, and keep our people healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

TTY USERS CALL 711
www.maine.gov

FAX: (207) 287-1034



Senator Joseph Martin
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

Joseph.Martin@legislature.maine.gov

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Let me begin by thanking you for the honor of serving you in the Maine Senate. It is truly an honor to represent the communities of western Maine; and I can assure you I will work diligently on your behalf.

The First Regular Session of the 132nd Maine State Legislature began on Dec. 4, 2024, when we were sworn in by Gov. Janet Mills. It was a ceremonial day steeped in tradition and attended by the families and friends of incoming members.

Throughout my campaign, I heard from many of you regarding the biggest issues you are facing. Such issues include the increasingly high costs of energy, child care, housing, and concerns about education, mental health and substance abuse, workforce development and community safety, among others.

As your State Senator, I promise to advocate for commonsense solutions to these problems. Additionally, the 132nd Maine Legislature has much work ahead of us regarding our anticipated budget gap and setting our spending priorities for the next biennium. However, I believe there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we work collaboratively.

Throughout my term, I encourage you to reach out to me with your thoughts, concerns and ideas about state government. Your input will greatly help me to represent your interests and those of the community in the best possible way.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. Please feel free to contact me by calling (207) 287-1505 or emailing me at Joseph.Martin@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph E. Martin".

Joseph Martin
State Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Michael Soboleski

11 Snowy Ridge Road
Phillips, ME 04966
Residence: (207) 400-7233
Michael.soboleski@legislature.maine.gov

April 2025

Sandy River Plantation
33 Townhall Rd.
Sandy River Plt., ME 04970

Friends and Neighbors,

I want to thank the residents of Sandy River Plantation for the opportunity to serve as your State Legislator for a second term. It is the honor of a lifetime, and I look forward to getting to work as the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature convenes.

I am honored to share with you that I have once again been assigned to serve on two important committees in the Maine State Legislature: the Labor Committee and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. These roles give me a unique opportunity to advocate for both the hardworking people of Maine and the preservation of our natural resources. As a strong proponent of protecting Mainers quality of life, I will continue my work to address PFAS contamination, pushing for stronger action to clean up these harmful chemicals and protect our communities. At the same time, I remain committed to supporting policies that create good-paying jobs and protect workers' rights. I look forward to bringing a balanced, thoughtful approach to these committees as we work towards practical solutions for both our economy and environment.

There is a great deal of work ahead this legislative session for the people of Maine, and I am committed to working tirelessly on their behalf. I believe it is critical to protect the fundamental rights of families and individuals. We must safeguard parental rights, ensuring that parents remain the primary decision makers in their children's education and upbringing. Additionally, I will stand firm in defending the Second Amendment, protecting the constitutional right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms. Finally, I am committed to fighting for lower energy costs by supporting policies that foster innovation and reduce burdensome regulations, helping families in Maine keep more of their hard-earned money.

Please know that your questions, comments, and concerns are of great importance to me. I can be reached at (207) 400-7233 or via email at Michael.Soboleski@legislature.maine.gov.

Again, thank you for trusting me to serve you in Augusta!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael A. Soboleski".

Michael A. Soboleski
State Representative

House District 73

