

# MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS & BUDGET COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING

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Date: March 31, 2026  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Meeting called to order by: Rodney Varney, 1<sup>st</sup> Assessor

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## IN ATTENDANCE

Board of Assessors: Rodney Varney, Joanne Taylor, Lisa Kinsman  
Budget Committee: Sharon Dingfelder, Carole Hoffmann, Stacey Varney (arrived late)  
Staff: Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk

## ABSENT

None

## OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 3:57 PM by First Assessor Varney.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

First meeting, no prior minutes available.

## Continuing Business

None

## New Business

### Budget Process Overview

The Board and Budget Committee reviewed the municipal budget process, including roles, timeline, and development of recommendations for Town Meeting consideration.

### Current Fiscal Year Budget Check-In

The Clerk provided a current fiscal year budget update, including percentage of expenditures to date and explanation of select over-expended line items. It was noted that, overall, the budget remains within appropriations.

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed

- **Departmental Proposed Numbers**

#### Administration – Wages

Assessor Kinsman presented a detailed analysis regarding compensation for the Clerk/Tax Collector position, including consideration of responsibilities, market comparisons, and personnel policy provisions related to leave payout.

Following discussion, the Board of Assessors voted (2–0, 1 abstention) to recommend increasing the wage line to \$73,400. The Budget Committee did not take action on this item.

## **General Government**

### **Heating Oil (02-11):**

Recommended increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

- BOA: Motion by R. Varney, second by L. Kinsman
- Budget Committee: Motion by C. Hoffmann, second by S. Varney

The Clerk will follow up regarding potential pre-buy options.

### **Travel & Training (02-18):**

Recommended increase from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

- BOA: Motion by L. Kinsman, second by J. Taylor
- Budget Committee: Motion by S. Dingfelder, second by S. Varney

### **General Expenses Total:**

Recommended at \$552,670.

- BOA: Motion by L. Kinsman, second by R. Varney
- Budget Committee: Motion by S. Dingfelder, second by C. Hoffmann

## **Transfer Station**

### **Attendant Wages (05-01):**

Adjusted to reflect 12 hours per week. Recommended amount: \$12,330.

- BOA: Motion by L. Kinsman, second by J. Taylor
- Budget Committee: Motion by S. Varney, second by S. Dingfelder

### **Supplies (05-12):**

Recommended increase from \$500 to \$1,100.

- BOA: Motion by L. Kinsman, second by J. Taylor
- Budget Committee: Motion by C. Hoffmann, second by S. Dingfelder

### **Solid Waste Budget Total:**

Recommended at \$45,870.

- BOA: Motion by L. Kinsman, second by R. Varney
- Budget Committee: Motion by C. Hoffmann, second by S. Dingfelder

## **Highway Department**

### **Highway Budget Total:**

Recommended at \$123,000.

- BOA: Motion by L. Kinsman, second by J. Taylor
- Budget Committee: Motion by S. Dingfelder, second by S. Varney

It was noted that one Budget Committee member expressed concern regarding the overall figure.

## **Insurance**

No recommendation was made pending updated information from MMA. The Clerk will follow up.

## **Public Safety**

Recommendations remain pending confirmation from the Town of Rangeley. The Clerk utilized a 3% estimated increase for preliminary planning purposes.

### **Education (RSU 78)**

The education budget is non-discretionary and determined through the RSU budget process.

### **Funding Requests (Donations)**

Following review of submitted funding requests and compliance with the funding request policy, both the Board of Assessors and Budget Committee recommended a total of \$7,000 in appropriations as follows:

Meal Site – \$3,000

Rangeley Family Medicine – \$500

Public Library – \$3,000

Rangeley Region Health & Wellness (Staffing) – \$250

Rangeley Region Health & Wellness (Programs) – \$250

- **Revenue Projections**

Reserves and revenue projections were not discussed and will be addressed at a future meeting.

- **Key Budget Priorities and Goals**

The need for capital improvement planning was noted throughout budget discussions, including reference to larger infrastructure needs such as culverts and bridges. A more detailed discussion of budget priorities and long-term planning will be scheduled for a future meeting.

### **Other Business**

#### **Next Meeting Date**

➤ Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 4:00 PM

#### **Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM