

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

Date: June 16, 2026
Time: 3:30 PM
Meeting called to order by: Rodney Varney, 1st Assessor

In attendance

Board Members: Rodney Varney, Joanne Taylor, Lisa Kinsman

Staff: Ethna L. Thompson, BOA Secretary

Public: Cliff Raymond, Tamra Benson (CEBE)

ABSENT

None

Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by First Assessor Varney.

Public Comment

None

Approve Minutes

The June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes were approved by motion of Assessor Kinsman and second by Assessor Taylor.

Continuing Business

LUPC Building Permit Report

The Clerk reported one new item of activity on the LUPC report since the previous meeting consisting of a self-certification permit. The Clerk noted that the online report did not identify a permittee, making it difficult to determine the exact location of the project, although it was believed the activity may be associated with a property on Edelheid Road.

The Clerk indicated she would continue monitoring the report and attempt to identify the location of the activity.

CEBE Participation

Tamra Benson provided an overview of the Community Resilience Partnership program and the assistance available through CEBE. The presentation outlined the benefits of participation, including access to technical assistance and eligibility for state resilience grant funding.

It was explained that participating communities may become eligible for Community Resilience Partnership grants, which currently offer up to \$75,000 in non-matching grant funds for qualifying projects. The program includes a step-by-step process involving community assessment, identification of resilience actions, and adoption of recommended strategies.

Ms. Benson indicated that CEBE assists communities throughout the process, including enrollment, completion of required steps, and preparation of initial grant applications.

Following discussion, Assessor Kinsman moved to proceed with the next steps necessary to participate in the program. The motion was seconded by Assessor Varney and passed.

The Board also authorized execution of the required letter of support, using the template provided by CEBE, once finalized. The letter must be submitted prior to the August 15 deadline.

New Business

Warrant(s) Disbursement Review/Sign

The Board reviewed and signed the warrants for disbursement in accordance with established practice.

Fireworks Permit – Egounis

The Board reviewed the fireworks permit application submitted by Gail Egounis for a display proposed to occur on property owned by the Dingfelder family. Documentation authorizing use of the property was included with the application.

The Board determined that the proposed display appeared to satisfy applicable setback requirements.

By motion of Assessor Kinsman and second by Assessor Varney, the fireworks permit was approved.

Report of Missing Road Sign – Old Country Road

The Clerk reported receiving correspondence regarding a missing road sign on Old Country Road. Subsequent communication indicated that the sign itself had been located and that the issue appeared to involve a damaged mounting bracket.

The individual reporting the issue offered to purchase replacement hardware and make the necessary repairs.

The Clerk noted that maintenance of private road signage is generally the responsibility of the property owners or road association. However, because of recent discussions concerning the public easement across Old Country Road, the Clerk requested confirmation from the Board regarding the appropriate approach.

The Board concurred that maintenance of the private road sign remains the responsibility of the property owners and supported allowing the individual to proceed with replacement and repair of the sign components.

Legislative Policy Committee Election

The Board reviewed the Maine Municipal Association Legislative Policy Committee election ballot. By motion of Assessor Kinsman and second by Assessor Varney, the Board voted to support the candidacies of Ethna Thompson and Gary McGrane as the Board's selections.

Audit Engagement Letter

The Clerk reported receipt of the engagement letter for the FY 2025–2026 municipal audit.

The Clerk informed the Board that governmental audit firms are limited in availability and that she had advised the auditors of the Plantation's intent to proceed with the engagement. Due to fiscal year timing and funding availability, execution of the agreement and payment would occur on/or after July 1st.

By motion of Assessor Kinsman and second by Assessor Varney, the Board authorized the Clerk to execute the engagement letter on July 1, 2026.

Other Business

Enhanced Communication Opportunities

Assessor Kinsman discussed the possibility of establishing a public information bulletin board at the Transfer Station to provide an additional avenue of communication with residents.

Potential uses discussed included posting meeting schedules, office closures, annual town meeting notices, and other municipal announcements. It was suggested that either a Board member or the Transfer Station Attendant could assist with maintaining the postings, with materials provided by the Clerk.

Library Funding Discussion

Assessor Kinsman opened discussion regarding funding requests received from the local library following distribution of informational materials by a library representative at the Annual Town Meeting. She questioned whether such requests may be more appropriately addressed through regional discussion rather than through the annual funding request process.

Following discussion, no action was taken.

Regional Funding Formula

Assessor Kinsman continued discussion regarding the regional funding formula and the use of updated data sources.

The Board discussed the regional nature of the formula, noting that it was originally adopted by the Town of Rangeley and the participating plantations.

Board members expressed support for utilizing current and readily available data rather than relying on older census information. The Board indicated support for using annually updated information for population, housing counts, and state valuation figures.

Assessor Kinsman suggested requesting updated data from participating communities as of April 1, 2026, along with historical information covering fiscal years 2023–2024 through 2025–2026. The Clerk reported that previous attempts to obtain some of this information had encountered resistance.

Following discussion, the Board directed the Clerk/BOA Secretary to prepare correspondence, on behalf of the Board, requesting updated data from the participating communities in advance of the next quarterly regional meeting, currently anticipated for September 2026.

Calendar

June 30, 2026 — Regular Board of Assessors Meeting, 3:30 PM

September 2026 — Regional Quarterly Meeting (date to be determined)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk

These minutes are a summary of the meeting and not a verbatim transcript.