

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

Date: August 4, 2026
Time: 3:30 PM
Meeting called to order by: Rodney Varney, 1st Assessor

In attendance

Board Members: Rodney Varney, Joanne Taylor, Erin Johnson

Staff: Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk/BOA Secretary

Public: Sandy Runyon

ABSENT

None

Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 PM by First Assessor Varney.

Public Comment

Sandy Runyon was present to speak regarding the Local Roads agenda item.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **July 21, 2026 Regular Meeting** were approved.

Motion: Assessor Taylor, Second: Assessor Johnson, Motion Carried.

Continuing Business

LUPC Building Permit Report

The Clerk reported additional Short-Term Rental (STR) self-certifications since the previous meeting.

Regional Funding Formula

Response to Data Request

The Clerk reported that the Town of Rangeley had responded to the Board's request for historical data related to the regional funding formula. The response consists of a multi-page document and is available for review.

The information was forwarded to former Assessor Lisa Kinsman, who has agreed to remain involved in the ongoing regional funding formula discussions.

Resource Recovery Barn

Building Site and Project Update

Assessor Varney reported that the building site is ready for the Resource Recovery Barn. The first portion of the building is scheduled for delivery later in the week, with the remaining portion scheduled for delivery the following Monday.

Grant Expenditure Report

The Clerk provided an update on grant expenditures. Of the \$50,000 total project budget, \$34,550.48 has been expended to date, leaving \$15,449.52 remaining.

Draft Operations/Use Policy

The Clerk distributed copies of the email circulated draft Resource Recovery Barn Operations/Use Policy for Board review.

The Board determined additional time was needed to review the draft.

Motion: Assessor Taylor, Second: Assessor Johnson, Motion Carried to table the item until the next meeting.

New Business

Warrant(s) Disbursement Review/Sign

The Board reviewed and signed the Treasurer's disbursement warrants in the ordinary course of business.

Local Roads – Old Country Road

The Board discussed the status of Old Country Road and the nature of the public access, easement, and/or right-of-way associated with the road.

The Clerk circulated an unofficial research document summarizing information identified to date regarding the road's history and status. The Clerk will continue researching the matter and consult with the Plantation's attorney as appropriate to further establish the legal and historical basis for determining the road's status.

Sandy Runyon stated that he has performed maintenance on portions of the road over the past several years and expressed his interest in determining the status of the road and the associated public access.

No determination was made at this meeting.

Regional Quarterly Meeting Agenda Items

The Board discussed anticipated agenda items for the upcoming regional quarterly meeting scheduled for September 8, 2026.

The ongoing regional funding formula was identified as an anticipated agenda item. The Board also discussed the importance of participation by the Rangeley Fire Chief in regional discussions, particularly those involving public safety and emergency management. It was noted that Sandy River Plantation contributes approximately 12% of the applicable regional budget and that the Board believes participation by the Fire Chief in regional matters is appropriate.

Other Business

Beaver Mountain Lake Fireworks

Assessor Taylor expressed concerns regarding continued use of fireworks in the Beaver Mountain Lake area.

Following discussion, the Board considered providing residents with information regarding applicable permitting requirements. The Clerk was directed to consider including information with the tax bill regarding permits for fireworks, driveway permits, and Short-Term Rental registrations.

Saddleback Town Line Sign

Assessor Johnson inquired about a Sandy River Plantation town line sign for Saddleback area.

Assessor Varney reported that the sign is currently stored at the Town Office and is awaiting available time and materials for installation.

MMA Vice President and Executive Committee Slate

The Board reviewed the slate of candidates for MMA Vice President and Executive Committee positions. Motion: Assessor Johnson, Second: Assessor Varney, Motion Carried to vote for the presented slate of candidates.

Route 4 Driveway

Assessor Varney inquired about a large driveway recently constructed along Route 4 near the Appalachian Trail. The Clerk indicated that the work appears likely to be associated with a previously confirmed permit related to conducting a 3.5 acre timber harvest on property owned by Cousineau.

Calendar

The Board confirmed the following upcoming meetings:

- August 18, 2026 – 3:30 PM: Regular Board of Assessors Meeting
- September 1, 2026 – 3:30 PM: Regular Board of Assessors Meeting
- September 8, 2026 – 6:00 PM: Regional Quarterly Meeting

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk

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