MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

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

In attendance
Assessors: Rodney Varney, First Assessor; Joanne Taylor, Second
Staff: Ethna Thompson, BOA Secretary; Paul Ferguson-Packard, Transfer Station Attendant.
Public: Sandy Runyon; Lisa Kinsman.

ABSENT
Assessor Johnson

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

Public Comment
No public comment was offered on matters outside the posted agenda. Members of the public in attendance were present to address specific agenda items.

Approve Minutes
The August 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes were approved by motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney.

Continuing Business

LUPC Building Permit Report
The Clerk reported that the LUPC reporting site was not loading in either available browser; therefore, no permit activity was reported.

Snow Removal Contracts
The Board reviewed three-year snow removal contracts submitted by Burgess Construction and Saddleback. The Burgess contract includes a $5.00 per hour increase for plowing and sanding, with the applicable sand and cutting costs adjusted accordingly. Burgess will maintain the submitted pricing for the three-year contract term. The Saddleback contract was also submitted for a three-year term with no increase in the rate now or over the three-year term.

The Board approved the Burgess Construction contract by motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney.

The Board approved the Saddleback contract by motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney.

Transfer Station Resource Recovery Barn – Project Update
The Board discussed the Resource Recovery Barn project, including electrical service, internet service, interior tables, and remaining construction needs.

The Transfer Station Attendant provided a service and connection map for the Resource Recovery Barn. The Board reviewed the service connections and determined that no direct coordination with CMP or Fidium was necessary.

By motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney, the Board authorized the Transfer Station Attendant to coordinate with an electrician and approved up to $2,500 for electrical work associated with the project.

The Board discussed the use of tables rather than constructed shelving to provide greater flexibility in the facility. By motion of Assessor Varney and second by Assessor Taylor, the Board authorized the Transfer Station Attendant or Clerk to purchase four-six foot and four-eight foot tables from Sam's Club.

The Transfer Station Attendant requested an increased hourly rate for construction work associated with the Resource Recovery Barn. By motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney, the Board approved a rate of $40.00 per hour for construction work related to the project.

The Board discussed a proposed opening date for use of the Resource Recovery Barn. Sunday, September 13, 2026, was identified as the tentative opening date, subject to completion of necessary work, including the ramp and tables. The Transfer Station Attendant and Clerk will coordinate to confirm readiness prior to public notification.

The Transfer Station Attendant requested that the existing metals pile be scheduled for collection. The Clerk will contact the collection company. Information regarding an e-waste facility in Waterville will also be obtained for consideration of appropriate disposal options.

New Business

Warrant(s) Disbursement Review/Sign
Warrants were reviewed and signed during the public meeting in accordance with the Board's standard practice.

Other Business

Administrative Updates

Regional Funding Formula
Lisa Kinsman provided an overview of the regional funding formula data and related materials, including color-coded spreadsheets and a summary memorandum. The Board reviewed the information and discussed identified concerns and potential impacts of the updated data.

The Board discussed the need to address known adjustments identified through the review and the possibility of establishing a subcommittee consisting of representatives from the participating boards to assist with review of the formula. The regional meeting is scheduled for 9/8 at which this will continue to be a topic.

Online Municipal Services
The Clerk provided an update regarding the status of online municipal services. Boat re-registration is now available online. The Clerk also reported that the required test deposit for online tax payments had been received and that implementation of online tax payments remained in progress as of the meeting date.

Municipal Laptop Remote Access
The Clerk provided an update regarding remote access for the municipal laptop. Further action is not currently considered urgent and may be coordinated with future implementation of TRIO web services.

Town Line Sign at Saddleback
The approximate coordinates for the Sandy River Plantation/Dallas Plantation line near Saddleback (44.9695, -70.5945) were noted for purposes of locating the municipal line for sign placement.

ACO Kennel
The Clerk reported that the participating plantations had been notified of the kennel order and that most components had been received. The kennel itself was damaged during shipment and was refused upon delivery. A replacement was being coordinated with Tractor Supply, with delivery anticipated September 8.

Street Sign Caps
Assessor Varney clarified that the requested street sign caps are the U-shaped/top-post components used to secure signs to the top of the signpost.

Edelheid Road Grading
The Clerk reported receiving a second invoice from M&H for Edelheid Road grading. After contacting the company, the Clerk was advised that two days of grading had been performed and that the second invoice was not a duplicate. The Clerk was directed to follow up regarding the difference in the roller charge between the two invoices.

Bridge Inspection Reports
The Clerk reported receipt of the biannual bridge inspection reports. No significant changes from the reports completed approximately two years earlier were noted.

Executive Session
The Board entered executive session at 4:40 PM pursuant to **1 M.R.S. §405(6)(E)** for consultation with legal counsel concerning the Plantation's legal rights and duties regarding the status of Old Country Road, by motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney.

The Board returned to public session at 4:59 PM by motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney.

Following the executive session, the Board took the following action:

Motion by Assessor Taylor: "I move that, based upon the municipal records reviewed to date and the legal advice provided to the Board, the Board recognizes Old Country Road, formerly Snowman Road, as a Town Way established and accepted by town meeting vote in 1928, with the public's right to travel over the way preserved."
The motion was seconded by Assessor Varney and approved.

Sandy Runyon, a property owner on the road, provided comments regarding his preference that the road is not plowed. The Board noted that, as a recognized Town Way, the road is subject to municipal maintenance responsibilities, and they are prepared to maintain it.

Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM by motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Varney.

Respectfully submitted,
Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk

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