MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

Date:	September 15, 2026
Time:	3:30 PM
Meeting called to order by:	Joanne Taylor, 2nd Assessor

IN ATTENDANCE
Assessors: Joanne Taylor, Second Assessor, Erin Johnson, Third Assessor
Staff: Ethna Thompson, BOA Secretary

ABSENT
Rodney Varney, First Assessor

PUBLIC HEARING
Assessor Taylor opened the public hearing at 3:30 PM for consideration of the September 2026 General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A–H, and Recovery Residence Housing Maximums for the period October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

The Clerk reviewed the ordinance and highlighted the updates and applicable maximum levels of assistance.

No members of the public were present. The public hearing was closed at 3:36 PM.

OPEN MEETING
Immediately following the close of the public hearing, Assessor Taylor opened the regular Board of Assessors meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT
No members of the public were present.

APPROVE MINUTES
The September 1, 2026, regular meeting minutes and September 8, 2026, Regional Quarterly Meeting minutes were approved by motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Johnson.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

LUPC Building Permit Report
The Clerk reviewed LUPC permits issued since the previous meeting, including several short-term rental self-certifications and building permits.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Arctaris Saddleback Ski Operations, LLC – Liquor License Renewal Application
The Board reviewed the liquor license renewal application submitted by Arctaris Saddleback Ski Operations, LLC. The Board noted that the individual identified as the contact on the application was no longer affiliated with the organization and questioned the certification associated with that individual. The Board determined that the application was incomplete and required correction before further consideration. The clerk will email Kate Williamson as follow up.

General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices
Following the duly noticed public hearing, Assessor Taylor made the following motion:

"I move that the Sandy River Plantation Board of Assessors, following the duly noticed public hearing, adopt the September 2026 General Assistance Ordinance, including Appendices A through H and the Recovery Residence Housing Maximums, with the applicable maximum levels of assistance contained therein, including the 2026–2027 maximum levels effective October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, and that the General Assistance Administrator be authorized to file the adopted ordinance and required materials with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and make the ordinance available for public inspection as required by law."

The motion was seconded by Assessor Johnson and approved.

TextMyGov Proposal
The Board reviewed the TextMyGov proposal and determined that it was not interested in pursuing the service at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Administrative Updates

ACO Kennel
The Clerk reported that the new kennel and related supplies had been received, with additional setup remaining. Participating plantations will contribute toward the project once final costs are determined.

The Board discussed the contractor's questions regarding the kennel base, including wire mesh and concrete or wood decking, and the proposed location. The contractor had recommended placement toward the rear of the lot, near the concrete girders, due to concerns about the structure's proximity to the building and neighboring properties.

The Board expressed a preference for placing the kennel in the area formerly occupied by the snowblower shed, considering snow removal and winter accessibility. Completion was anticipated within approximately two weeks.

Town Office Sign
The Clerk reported that the new sign was received September 10. The contractor will install the new post and sign structure and remove the existing sign and structures. Placement considerations, including potential roof snow slide, remain under discussion with the contractor. Installation was anticipated within approximately two weeks.

Community Resilience Partnership
The Clerk reported that Tamra Benson had advised that CEBE was awarded grant funding associated with the Community Resilience Partnership. Additional information regarding next steps will be provided once funding is received.

Workers' Compensation
The Clerk reported that the MMA Risk Management workers' compensation underwriting process is underway.

2027 Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant
The Clerk reported that the Maine Forest Service had opened the 2027 Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant application period, offering up to $5,000 in funding with a 50% matching requirement.

The Board determined not to pursue the grant at this time, considering the potential availability of up to $75,000 in nonmatching grant funding through the Community Resilience Partnership with CEBE.

Transfer Station Resource Recovery Barn
The Clerk provided an update regarding the Resource Recovery Barn following its opening. Initial operations have been successful, and the facility has been well received.

Fire and Emergency Management Training
The Board received information from the contracted Fire Chief regarding required and recommended training for elected officials and the Emergency Management Director. The Clerk reported that the applicable FEMA and MEMA training requirements had previously been identified in the training tracker established July 14, 2026, and that the Clerk was working toward completing those requirements.

The Board clarified that its original request for the Fire Chief to participate in a joint meeting was intended to explore practical training opportunities for the Board, residents, and homeowners, including fire extinguisher use, CPR, and other basic emergency preparedness and safety topics. The Board remains interested in coordinating these community-focused training opportunities with the Fire Department.

Town Office Early Closure
The Clerk advised that the Town Office will close at noon on September 24 to allow attendance at a county flood management meeting.

Donation Acceptance – Resource Recovery Barn
The Clerk reported receipt of a $500 donation from Jeannine Dickey for tables for the Resource Recovery Barn.

By motion of Assessor Taylor and second by Assessor Johnson, the Board accepted the $500 donation from Jeannine Dickey for Resource Recovery Barn tables, pursuant to the authority granted by the voters.

Edelheid Road Grading
The Clerk reported that follow-up regarding the second grading invoice confirmed that the work was completed over two days. The contractor amended the roller charge, and payment was submitted.

Deputy Treasurer Position
The Clerk reported that the Deputy Treasurer position has been posted.

Town Line Sign at Saddleback
Assessor Johnson reported that the Sandy River Plantation/Dallas Plantation line near Saddleback has been identified and marked with brightly colored ribbon.

The Board discussed installation of the town line sign, including wood versus metal posts, and agreed to review other municipal boundary signs to determine typical installation methods. The Clerk was directed to contact Dallas Plantation regarding its interest in placing a sign on the opposite side of the line and to ask the Transfer Station Attendant whether he would be willing to install the sign.

CALENDAR
September 29, 2026, at 3:30 PM – Regular Board of Assessors Meeting.

ADJOURN
The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM by motion of Assessor Johnson and second by Assessor Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,
Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk

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