

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

Date:	December 16 2025
Time:	3:30 PM
Meeting called to order by:	Joanne Tylor, 2 nd Assessor

In attendance

Board Members: Joanne Taylor, Lisa Kinsman

Staff: Ethna L. Thompson, BOA Secretary

Public: Craig Sargent, Leslie Ferguson-Packard

ABSENT

Rodney Varney

Open Meeting

In the absence of the First Assessor, the meeting was called to order by Second Assessor Taylor at 3:30 PM.

Public Comment / Agenda Adjustment

Assessor Taylor made an allowance to take Craig Sargent out of agenda order to allow for his presentation.

- Mr. Sargent presented information regarding the planned 250th Anniversary fireworks displays scheduled for July 2026. He outlined a multi-barge fireworks show on Rangeley Lake, with a display planned for the village of Oquossoc on July 2, the Town of Rangeley display on July 3, and a weather contingency date of July 5. He reviewed projected costs totaling approximately \$104,000, described vendor and volunteer coordination, and requested \$3,000 in financial support from Sandy River Plantation.
The Board acknowledged the presentation and explained the established process for funding requests, noting that any request would need to be submitted for voter consideration at the June Annual Town Meeting.
- Leslie Ferguson-Packard provided an update following her first meeting as a member of the RSU 78 Board of Directors. Discussion included governance topics, including policy considerations (BIHC), audit review, planned purchase of a new school bus (approximately \$165,000, with funds available), and upcoming roof needs.

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the December 4, 2025, regular meeting were reviewed and approved.

Motion: Kinsman; Second: Taylor.

Continuing Business

- **Old Country Road Easement – Correspondence Update**
The Clerk reported that one property owner responded via email regarding the earlier correspondence requesting removal of personal property from the public easement. The Clerk read the response into the record. The Board directed the Clerk to reply, acknowledging the response and advising that a follow-up on-site inspection will occur on January 13 to confirm that the easement is open and unobstructed.
- **LUPC Building Permit Report**
The Clerk reported one after-the-fact retaining wall activity logged on December 12, 2025. Additionally, there was an update closing out an older permit record dated December 10, 2021, which was formally withdrawn as of November 14, 2025.
- **Policy Implementation & Monitoring**
No new policy actions were taken. The Clerk noted she will begin drafting recommended plans and policy updates based on recent discussions with Maine Forest Rangers.

New Business

- **Warrant(s) Disbursement Review/Sign**
The Board reviewed warrants processed during the off week and reviewed and signed warrants for the current week.
- **2026 Fireworks Display and Funding Request**
(See Public Comment / Agenda Adjustment.)
- **MaineDOT 2026 Light Capital Paving (LCP) – Correspondence & Response**
The Board reviewed correspondence received from MaineDOT regarding the 2026 Highway Preservation/Light Capital Paving program and its potential impact on Sandy River Plantation. The Clerk was directed to complete the survey, indicating that the Plantation owns no utility or rail infrastructure within the scheduled work area that would be affected by the proposed 5/8-inch surface overlay.
- **Transfer Station Coverage**
The Board discussed coverage needs during the temporary absence of the current Transfer Station attendant.

Other Business

- **Regional Quarterly Meeting Scheduling**
The Clerk reported that the Town of Rangeley confirmed availability for February 24, 2026 for the next regional quarterly meeting. Follow-up communication was sent to the remaining plantations, and confirmation is pending.

- Merry Mingle - Community Gathering Proposal

The Clerk proposed hosting a holiday community open house at the Town Office on Monday, December 22, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, to provide light refreshments and an opportunity for informal seasonal community engagement. The Board supported the proposal and approved up to \$225 for food items, with beverages to be provided using office supplies.

Calendar

The next regular Board of Assessors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 3:30 PM.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethna L. Thompson, BOA Secretary

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