

# MEETING MINUTES- REGIONAL QUARTERLY

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

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Date: February 24, 2026  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Meeting Hosted by: Sandy River Plantation  
Location: Plantation Office, 33 Town Hall Road

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Sandy River Plantation (Host): Rodney Varney, Joanne Taylor, Lisa Kinsman, Ethna Thompson (BOA Secretary)

Dallas Plantation: Linda Jones, Linda Casper

Town of Rangeley: Sam White, Keith Savage, Joe Roach – Town Manager

Rangeley Plantation: None

Public: Mark Beauregard

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM**, by First Assessor Varney.

### 2. Introductions

Representatives from Dallas Plantation, Sandy River Plantation, and the Town of Rangeley were present.

Keith Savage was introduced as a new board member representing the Town of Rangeley. As most attendees were familiar with one another, formal introductions were not conducted.

### 3. Regional Funding Formula

The group continued discussion regarding the regional funding formula used to allocate shared-service costs, including fire protection and transfer station operations.

Members noted that the formula historically incorporates three primary data points. Discussion focused on updating housing unit counts due to regional growth and concerns that previously utilized census data may no longer reflect current conditions. At the prior quarterly meeting and through follow-up correspondence, municipalities were asked to bring updated housing data for review.

Several communities provided updated information. The Town of Rangeley indicated that clarification was needed regarding the specific data requested and did not have the requested figures available at this meeting. As a result, a comprehensive comparative review was deferred pending additional information.

Public comment (Mark Beauregard) supported adding distance as a factor in the formula, especially for unorganized territories receiving fire protection. Linda Jones (Dallas Plantation) questioned how density would be addressed if distance were added, noting development patterns and call-volume differences. The Town of Rangeley stated that existing contract fees for unorganized territories appear to offset associated service costs.

Sandy River Plantation raised questions about accurately identifying which unorganized territories receive services. Review of prior documentation showed that while at least one territory is identified as receiving service from a neighboring department, other potential service areas in Franklin County had not been clearly accounted for. Members agreed that confirmation of covered service areas is necessary to ensure accuracy.

No formal action was taken. The group agreed that updated housing data and confirmation of service areas are needed before further consideration of formula adjustments. The Rangeley Town Manager will follow up with housing figures and confirmation of Franklin County UT coverage areas.

#### **4. Fire Services Coordination**

Discussion resumed from the previous meeting regarding fire service coordination and potential training opportunities offered by the Town of Rangeley Fire Department.

Assessor Lisa Kinsman (Sandy River Plantation) expressed interest in expanded community-wide training opportunities—such as fire extinguisher education, CPR instruction, and home safety inspections—rather than limiting sessions to one-on-one or request-based formats. Assessor Varney mentioned it would be nice to have the Fire Chief in attendance at one of these quarterly meetings.

Town Manager Joe Roach indicated he will follow up and provide additional information as it becomes available.

No formal action was taken.

#### **5. Saddleback Updates**

No representative from Saddleback was present; therefore, no direct update was provided.

Dallas Plantation, in coordination with Sandy River Plantation, shared information regarding a proposed 38-unit subdivision project that will span both communities. The update included general information about the project location.

No formal action was taken.

#### **6. Announcements**

##### **Dallas Plantation**

- Announced an upcoming public hearing with the Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (CEBE) regarding proposed projects and grant opportunities.
- Reported nearing completion of a major survey related to reconstructing its oldest dirt roads.
- Noted a positive experience working with the newly selected engineer, Acorn, and appreciation for support from the Maine Local Roads Center.

### **Sandy River Plantation**

- Reported being awarded grant funding to construct a resource recovery barn at its transfer station.

## **7. Other Business**

### **Snowmobile Sticker Inventory (Dallas Plantation)**

Dallas Plantation raised concerns regarding recurring shortages of snowmobile registration stickers, noting that when the Town of Rangeley's inventory is depleted, surrounding plantations experience increased demand.

Ethna Thompson, Sandy River Plantation Clerk, explained that sticker allocations are based on prior year issuance data. She further noted that some early orders submitted by municipalities were misdirected by the State, returned, and subsequently redistributed. Due to delivery delays and associated costs of excess inventory, she intends to retain the remaining five stickers on hand for Sandy River Plantation residents and taxpayers.

Linda Jones stated she will send correspondence to the State requesting that the Town of Rangeley receive sufficient inventory at the beginning of the season to reduce redistribution pressures.

### **Friday Office Closures (Dallas Plantation)**

Dallas Plantation asked whether the Town of Rangeley's Friday office closures will continue, noting challenges assisting seasonal community members when Rangeley offices are closed. The Rangeley Town Manager questioned how Plantations determine whether complaints are from Rangeley residents. Dallas Plantation representatives and Ethna clarified that the feedback is received directly at the counter(s).

### **LD 2174 (Rangeley Board of Selectmen)**

Sam White, Selectman for the Town of Rangeley, expressed concerns regarding LD 2174, noting that substantial amendments were made to the bill slated for public hearing scheduled for February 25. She further stated that, as amended, the legislation appears to restrict municipal home rule authority that is otherwise expressly safeguarded in existing laws and regulations. Copies of the amended language were distributed for review.

The Sandy River Plantation Clerk offered to follow up with the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) to seek clarification regarding potential implications for plantations and to forward any relevant information to the group.

## **8. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting date has tentatively been scheduled for May 5, 2026.

## **9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk

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