

MEETING MINUTES- REGIONAL QUARTERLY

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

Date: May 27, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM
Meeting Hosted by: Town of Rangeley
Location: Dallas Plantation Office, 436 Dallas Hill Road

IN ATTENDANCE

Town of Rangeley: Sam White, Keith Savage, Joe Roach – Town Manager, Carina Pathiakis - Deputy Clerk

Dallas Plantation: Linda Jones

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

Rangeley Plantation: None

Public: Mark Beauregard, Mark Bridges, One unidentified female attendee

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Selectperson Sam White in the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Town of Rangeley Board of Selectmen.

2. Introductions / Take Attendance

Participants introduced themselves and noted their affiliations. Members were generally acquainted through prior participation in the regional group.

3. Regional Funding Formula

The group continued discussion regarding the regional funding formula utilized by the Town of Rangeley to allocate shared service costs to participating plantation communities and counties. Discussion focused on updating the data sets utilized within the formula. It was noted that work had been completed to compile and organize more current figures for use in the calculation process, including significant contributions from Sandy River Plantation Assessor Lisa Kinsman in developing updated data and a working calculation tool.

Members discussed that outreach to county representatives had not yet occurred prior to the meeting. Discussion included prior recommendations that county representatives be contacted regarding proposed formula updates. Some participants expressed the view that discussion regarding updated data sets has been ongoing for an extended period and that sufficient opportunity had existed to notify outside parties during the process. Others supported additional outreach and review prior to implementation of revised figures.

The Town of Rangeley Town Manager recommended that each participating board consider adoption of updated 2024 data sets for the three factors currently utilized within the formula: population, building count, and state valuation.

The Town of Rangeley indicated that county representatives will be invited to attend the second June meeting of the Rangeley Board of Selectmen for further discussion regarding the proposed formula updates. Plantation representatives were also invited to attend.

4. Local ACO Shared Kennel Options

Shared animal control officer (ACO) kennel options for participating communities were discussed. Previous challenges associated with the existing kennel facility in the Town of Rangeley were mentioned, including maintenance concerns and operational limitations related to temporary animal housing.

Sandy River Plantation reported that its Board has authorized purchase of a roofed kennel structure with enclosed doghouse intended to provide short-term holding capacity for animals in ACO custody. Sandy River Plantation further stated that the facility would be made available for use by participating plantation communities served by the shared ACO at no additional cost.

5. Rangeley EMS

The Town of Rangeley provided an update regarding the status of the Rangeley EMS study. Town Manager Joe Roach reported that no recent action or directive has been issued by the Rangeley Board of Selectmen to move the study or related proposals forward at this time.

He further noted that ongoing cooperative discussions between the Rangeley Fire Department and Maine EMS services continue.

6. Regional Dark Skies Update

Town Manager Joe Roach provided an update regarding the regional dark skies initiative. He reported attending a recent meeting at which participants discussed efforts to expand dark skies territory to connect with the Lac-Mégantic Dark Sky Reserve region.

7. FCEM Communications System

Dallas Plantation First Assessor Linda Jones provided an update regarding Franklin County Emergency Management Agency (FCEM) communication systems. She reported that Franklin County EMA has completed implementation of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) notification platform and is currently in the training and testing phase.

Additional information is expected to be distributed in the future. Linda Jones also noted that the program continues to be monitored through the Franklin County Commissioners' budget process.

8. Overview of Each Municipality's Emergency Management Plan

Discussion was held regarding municipal emergency management planning. Town Manager Joe Roach displayed the Franklin County Hazard Mitigation Plan currently utilized by the Town of Rangeley.

Sandy River Plantation reported adoption of a Municipal Emergency Management Plan in March 2026. It was noted that the plan had been reviewed by the Rangeley Fire Chief, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and Franklin County Emergency Management Agency prior to adoption.

Members discussed the importance of continued regional coordination and communication regarding emergency management planning and response capabilities.

9. Clerk Attendance at RSU 78 Budget Hearings

Sandy River Plantation Clerk spoke to this agenda item. Discussion included review of statutory responsibilities associated with the hearings and whether attendance by clerks and/or registrars is required.

It was noted that the responsibilities historically performed by clerks at such meetings may instead fall to other designated officials under applicable law. Discussion also acknowledged scheduling challenges associated with attendance at evening hearings following regular municipal workdays.

Regional participants generally expressed support for individual municipalities determining attendance expectations locally, provided no statutory requirement exists mandating clerk and/or registrar attendance. It was also suggested that additional legal clarification regarding registrar responsibilities may be appropriate.

10. IF&W Stickers

Representatives from the participating communities discussed ongoing issues obtaining sufficient inventory from the State for Inland Fisheries & Wildlife registrations.

Members noted that inventory shortages create operational difficulties for clerks throughout the region, particularly given the seasonal demands associated with a tourism-based area.

There was consensus that the municipal clerks draft a joint letter to the State, to be CC'd to legislative representatives, requesting improved inventory availability and distribution practices. The Sandy River Plantation Clerk offered to draft the letter.

11. Announcements

The Town of Rangeley reported that the workforce housing project within the community is moving forward.

No additional announcements were made by the other participating communities.

12. Other Business

A member of the public asked about signage located at the intersection of Dallas Hill Road and Route 4, specifically referencing house-for-sale signage and whether it complies with applicable Town of Rangeley ordinances. The Town Manager indicated he would have it looked at.

13. Schedule Next Meeting

No tentative meeting date was established. The Town of Rangeley indicated that a scheduling poll will be distributed.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ethna L. Thompson, Clerk

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