Town of Alexander Selectmen's Meeting

4 June 2026

Attendance:
Skip Colson
David Davis
Beth Johnson
Carl Oakes
David Sanford

Julie Burgess
Amanda Posick
Dale Earle
Foster Carlow Jr.
Larry Hill
Fran Holst (leaves at 6:10)
Roger Holst (leaves at 6:10)
Joe Manza

Start time at 6:00 PM.
U.S. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Downeast Broadband Utility (DBU)
Roger Holst told about the DBU's last meeting, which was May 21st in Calais. All the meetings will be in Calais, and not in Baileyville. There is no town manager in Baileyville: Chris Loughlin left.

On the financial side, the DBU is losing $1000 per month. The DBU has money built up, but needs changes in order to become solvent. At $25 each, 40 more subscribers would be needed to break even. Other member towns are not doing well, such as Princeton, which has more competition there for fiber internet. The DBU is not yet sure how long it will be before it would run out of money.

There were no internet outages in the previous month.

The guest speaker was John Dougherty in charge of MooseNET. They will put a major fiber optic cable from Quebec to Calais. (This is instead of giving that money for small towns to set up the internet to each household, like they had been.)

The number of Alexander subscribers is down from 159 to 158. David D. asked about summer residents maybe increasing those numbers during the middle of the year?
Roger said he thought that "we've pretty well maxed out in Alexander." But it's yet to be seen what will happen with the money that Ted Carter has put up for new installations. (The first $99 will be waived by Pioneer. And Ted's money will pay for up to $300 of the installation beyond that. A lot of installations are only the $99.) Hopefully, some more subscribers will come forward.

DBU Officers were elected. Most stayed the same as they had been. Danny Sullivan is president. Elery Beale is vice president. Crystal Gallina is the treasurer. Denise Barker is the secretary, but she will be leaving soon; not sure who will fill that position.

Also at the meeting, a lady came in to talk about her organization: The Maine Transportation Authority. Danny Sullivan gave her a rough time about the obstacles that the MTA has put up for towns to get money for for putting in fiber optic cable. He had all his facts. But she seemed to ignore him.

The next meeting will be the 18th of June.
Beth said that the town was going to advertise that. There is a poster in the town office.
Foster said that he thought it was in the Calais Advertiser a week or two ago.

Julie said that she has not received any of the agendas for DBU meetings. Roger said that he will forward the minutes of the meetings to her. She can forward them to others, such as town officials.

Approve the Minutes of Previous Meeting
Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 7 May 2026, as amended, by Beth and 2nd by Carl.
Voting: Unanimous

The Snow Plow Contract for Town Roads
Dale Earle read and signed the contract for plowing the roads (winter road maintenance), followed by the selectmen. Julie signed as the witness.
Skip thanked Dale.

Roads
Larry Hill said that the sunken culvert on the McArthur road will cost $600 to $800 to fix. David Lee will use his "cookie cutter" to remove the pavement and then fill it in with gravel. Not sure when he will be able to do the job.

The Roads account balance has about $97,000.

The culverts haven't been cleared out yet. Larry has been waiting until the water levels in the ditches have gone down. Then, he will get a hold of Ed Burgess and get that taken care of.

David D. said that some kids have put up a slow down, kids playing sign on the Davis Road

He asked Larry to put up a regular Children Playing sign for right after the inlet, along Mike Clark's.

Joe Manza expressed concern about traffic going too quickly and cutting corners at the intersection of the Davis and Arm Roads. Maybe put up a blind corner sign.
Making that a 4-way stop was proposed.
Beth said it's awful how fast people go past her house on the Cooper Road.

School Board
Amanda Posick:
Amanda explained that last year, babysitting was provided for free by Ashley Lutz (who is not a town citizen, and therefore not a voter) during the June town meeting. It was held in a classroom, where the kids would not disrupt the meeting. Around 10 kids had gone to that.
For this year's town meeting, the schoolboard would like Ashley to be paid $150 to do that again. They would like half the money coming from the parent group and half from the town, via the selectmen.
David D. said this might be a backwards way of padding the votes for the school budget by getting extra parents there.
Skip pointed out that people that are opposed to spending money have kids too.
David D. asked where exactly the town's $75 would come from? Julie thought it would come out of the administrative account or donations account. The latter account has spent about $1300.

Motion to not pay the $75 for the babysitting for the June 2026 town meeting by Beth and 2nd by Carl
Voting: Unanimous

Amanda thanked the selectmen for what they do for the town.

Amanda went through the proposed 2026-2027 Alexander school budget.
She explained that the school board is asking to raise the budget by $75,000 and is not asking for anything additional. Staff pay raises are small.
Special education will be going down by about $82,000. There will be 1 educational technician instead of 2.
When the school year started, the board hadn't seen that both ed. techs were needed. It held one of them for general eduction. (One took health insurance.)

The substitute salary will go up.

Alexander gained a high school student. That is part of the increase. High School tuitions have all gone up. A high school student that had needed special services does not need them any more, so that saves money.

The 2 special ed. techs were eliminated.

Extracurricular has a zero increase.
With student and staff support, there is a small increase in insurance.

There is zero increase in school board stipends, audits, or dues.

For the Superintendent's office, heating oil, electricity, and insurance have all increased.

Alexander Elementary has more students. Student numbers were in the low 40s last year. Now the school has about 48 students. Beth questioned that. Amanda said yes. Skip said that Principal Trevor Flood had told him that it was 46 students plus maybe 2 more.

There will be an increase in technology costs. A new computer is needed for the secretary, and a new firewall.

For student transportion, there will be increases in fuel, insurance and repair costs. However, total student transportation is down because the school is no longer hiring a van monitor since that job is no longer needed.

In facilities maintenance, heating oil cost increases are planned for.

Food service insurance increased.

Alexander has Washington County's teacher of the year, Josie James! There will be a state teacher of the year.
Amanda also invited everyone to the school science fair.

Skip asked what is the difference between "amount remaining" and "amount unassigned"? ($61,559 is unassigned.) What is the difference between that and "allowable unassigned"?
Amanda was not sure and will have to talk to Chad and get back to Skip on that.
Beth asked about the additional high school student. Amanda explained that the $33,000 reflects that all the high school tuitons have increased, in Baileyville, Calais and Washington Academy.

Skip reminded everyone that if the elementary school were closed, that the town would have no input on what it would pay for educating students.

Amanda said that Wesley students are coming to Alexander for pre-school.

Beth asked to find out how many students could be enrolled without hiring new teachers.

Skip said he looked up the elementary school ratings for Alexander and found that the school is near the top in the state.

Beth asked about why there are as many homeschool students as there are in Alexander? Skip said he could answer that, saying some students, especially with special needs, sometimes just don't fit with the regular school, even after school staff members' efforts. Another reason for some is a religious component.

David D. asked about the school van.
Amanda explained that the van is still being used, but there is no person going as the van monitor.

Amanda said that she and Stephen Seavey and all the school board members plan to be at the June town meeting.
She also told when the next school board meeting will be.

Skip recommended budgeting a little money each year to save for fixing up the parking lot paving. Amanda said she will bring it up at the next school board meeting.

A Recess was called at 7:02 PM.
Out of recess at 7:05 PM.

Clerk's Report
Julie presented the updated financial report.

Skip asked Julie to please open any mail that comes to the town office in Skip's name, in case it needs immediate attention.

Municipal Budget Warrant Articles
Skip said that in the town meeting, the municipal budget warrant articles are supposed to go first, according to MMA. But it's been switched to the school budget first over for a number of years, because Ted had asked. Skip said he doesn't have a problem with that. It makes the municipal budget easier to pass because the school budget comes first and then half the people leave after that.

There are 19 school budget articles.
[Skip read each municipal budget article and each was discussed. Pertinent disucussion follows:]

Even though all the money had previously been removed from the Comprehensive Planning Account, the auditor nevertheless found $36 there. So, an article is needed for moving that money out of there.

Less will be needed for the Animal Welfare fund because it got a major boost from a fine of $500. Julie cautioned that fines are not a normal occurance to be counted on.

David D. explained that the FIT test is done every year by the Alexander Volunteer Fire Department.

Julie and Skip explained that the culverts will be blown out by the Fire Department, but they will be paid road labor wages from the Road account.

Solid waste will have a big increase due to an expansion that will be built at the Baileyville transfer station [See "A"].

Julie gave clarification on what the difference is between State Road money vs. Local Road Assistance from the State. State Road money can be used for most kinds of road work.
She explained that even though the town doesn't do any repair work on the Cooper and South Princeton Roads (which are state roads), the town *does* pay provide the winter plowing of those two roads (those parts that are within the town).
The auditor has to separate these two accounts.

In years past, the town had been paying a tiny percentage of what the Washington County Community Partners put into the town. That organization has recently merged into the organization now called "Community Action in Aroostook, Washington & Hancock Counties".
Beth pointed out that there is about $2660 in the donation account. The town gave about $583 last year in donations. What this organization is asking is less than half of that: $209.60.
Skip reminded that the monetary value in services that the town got back from that organization was way more that the town paid.

There was also a letter from Women, Infants & Children (WIC) asking for money.
Carl said that when he had his store, he used to accept WIC funds as payment for milk, cheese,

baby formula. You have to be fairly low income in order to get it.
The selectmen did not seem in favor or donating to that.

Skip said that the maximum rate of interest to charge for back taxes is 7% and requested that that be recommended in the article.

Skip asked the selectmen if they would like to put in an article asking to authorize the selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts. State law says that multi-year contracts must be approved by the town. Why is it needed? Sometimes you can get a better contract price if it's guaranteed for 3 years, instead of just one.
Or, David D. said, the town is stuck with someone for 3 years if he or she doesn't do a good job. Skip pointed out that if a contractor does a bad job, then they can be released from the contract under "breach of contract"
Dale said that it is definitely helpful to have a multi-year contract, in order to be sure that purchasing costly things like plow trucks will be worth it. He said that he charges more to the town of Cooper because that town only provided him a one year contract. Crawford is not charged more with their one year contract, but he only plows their roads with a pickup truck. He said that bank loan officers "look at you if you have three heads" if you ask for a loan on a plow truck and you only have a one-year plow contract. He said that he is lucky that he has private investors instead.

Julie said that there is not an article for appropriating County taxes as there has been in the past. But according to MMA, it's not needed. In this matter, she becomes considered a deputy of the County. The amount that will be paid to the County could be in the town's Annual Report.
Beth agreed that transparency on the issue of the County is owed the people because of all that has happened with the County's finances and how much the County has suddenly asked the town to pay.

New Business and Unfinished Business
Julie said that if anyone has anything to put in the town book, to please tell her.
Skip only asked that Josie James' photo be on the cover, as the County teacher of the year.

Member's Report
Foster said that everything is good with Down East Emergency Medical Services (DEEMS)

Motion to go into executive session for 1 concealed weapons permit as per 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(F) by Carl and Beth at 7:45 PM
Voting: Unanimous.

Out of executive session at 7:51 PM

Motion to approve 1 concealed weapons permit by David D. and 2nd by Carl
Voting: Unanimous

David D. said that primary elections will be next week.

A recess was declared at 7:53 PM while Julie printed out the 2026 Town Meeting Warrant for the selectmen to sign.

Out of recess at 8:03 PM

[The town meeting warrant was signed by the selectmen.]

The lack of an article about the County tax was discussed again. Carl asked how the County tax would be added to the tax assessment. Julie explained that it would be essentially tacked on by her, as the tax collector, when she tells the assessors how much total money is needed.
Skip said he would call Sue Carter about that.

Julie said she does have the warrant from the County to share with the assessors. It includes what the town prepaid and what it still owes.
Beth and Skip both said that that should be included in the town report.

Motion to adjourn by Corl and David S. at 8:19 PM
Voting:

Town of Baileyville

63 Broadway Street
P.O. Box 370
Baileyville, ME 04694

207-427-3442
Fax 207-427-6200

"A"

February 10, 2026

Transfer Station Member Towns:

The Town of Baileyville constructed and has maintained the Baileyville Transfer Station and Demo Landfill since 1996. During this time, we have billed out to the member towns associated costs to man and operate the Transfer Station and Landfill on a monthly basis.

The billing is broken down into 6 lines, which are:

- O&M Cost- Employee cost to include pay and benefits
- MSW Transport-Cost of transporting MSW to Canada
- Disposal-Cost to dispose of MSW at Southwest in Canada
- CDD(Landfill)-Monies to be used(reserved) for Landfill additions and closing cost
- User fee-Cost for member town to use Baileyville's facilities with Town of Baileyville taking on 100% oversight
- Misc. Solid Waste-these are day to day cost that come up each month (ex. Tire disposal, DEP licensing fees, supplies, engineering costs, phone, electric, diesel, gas etc.)

MSW Transport, Disposal and Misc Solid Waste lines change monthly based on exact billing.

The O&M Cost, CDD Landfill lines are a fixed amount and have not changed since inception in 1996

The User Fee line started in July of 2009 and has not been increased since inception.

We are all well aware of pricing increases, cost of employment, benefit increases and inflation to every aspect of doing business in the current environment. (Our current estimated budget for Phase 3 of the Landfill to be constructed this summer is $749,000.00).

As a result of this, the Town of Baileyville is forced to adjust the baselines of some of our fixed lines in our monthly billing. The following changes will start with the Billing cycle covering January 2026:

- User fee-currently $2,786.61 increased to $4,571.30 = 64%
- CDD Landfill-currently $1,310.10 increased to $2,689.00 105%

These increases will be split amongst the 12 member towns and territories based on census population just as all billing has always been.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie McLaughlin, Public Works Director, for an in-depth explanation of costs and services provided. He can be reached at 427-6208 or at publicworksdirector@baileyville.org.

Respectfully,

Christopher K. Loughlin
Town Manager