Town of Alexander Selectmen's Meeting

7 August 2025

Attendance:
Skip Colson
Carl Oakes
David Sanford
Beth Johnson

Kristy Crawford

Larry Hill
Joe Manza
Jane Manza
Foster Carlow Jr.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Town Clerk Report
Kristy Crawford:
Billy Howard, County Commissioner, sent a letter asking again if the town would be willing to pay the County tax early. Skip replied that the Board has already talked about that and decided to pay it as late as possible.

The "30 days to lien" notices will be sent out for the 2024 unpaid taxes. The town has collected all but $51,763.69. Kristy said that's impressive.
The assessors did $1429.04 in abatements. There was a total of $13,444.87 in abatements, corrections, and payments.
Profit and Loss (from new online Quickbooks®) for the month of July:
20,039 in taxes came in, in addition to $135,559.79
[She presented a list of who has paid and how much in July.]
Fiscal year end numbers will be ready next month. (Kristy is still working on getting the new Quickbooks® working properly.

The audit will be on September 25th starting at 8 AM. Lesliann and Kristy will be helping all that day.
Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) money will be $23,708.
Revenue sharing is projected to be $90,393. Last year, it was $104,635.

Dakota Pierce had emailed a link to a video explaining what his company UpAhead® can do as far as text messages for the town. His quote is $149 to $249 per month, or a $1500 per year minimum. Comparatively, the town spends less than $100 each year on ads in the Calais Advertiser to tell townspeople about the two town meetings.
After watching the video, what do Board members think?

Skip didn't see the need for it.
David S. didn't think so either. It seemed geared toward a city rather than a small town. For example, townspeople can send text messages to the town office that a road needs repair. But in Alexander, it's already easy to know which roads need repair just by driving the roads. The price seems too high for the town compared with what the service would be used for, which is sending text messages to everyone in town, usually only a few times per year.
Kristy thought maybe a different outfit would work for the town's needs. It's a lot of money. She had tried to explain to Dakota that this is a very small town, but he was very persistent.
Skip said that Dakota kept calling him and calling him.
Board members said they were fine with not getting that service from that company.

Kristy said she would contact Kai at Maine DEP to get an extension of the deadline for FEMA work on the Pokey boat landing.
Skip has asked Andy Snowman to contact DEP for options on how to stabilize the road there. (It is way out of his knowledge base.) He also called and left a message with Kevin Dean who is DEP certified to work on that sort of thing. He hasn't heard from either one of them. It might take time to come up with a plan and get it done before the September 20 deadline.

Downeast Community Partners has sent a letter that they are in the process of joining forces with Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP).

The Maine Municipal Association (MMA) convention is coming up on October 8th & 9th. This year it is in Bangor, not Augusta or Portland, so it will be closer than usual. Kristy shared a brief version of the agenda [See "A"]. She and Lesliann are already signed up. They have block rooms for hotels. They have elections training. They have a lot of clerk trainings. They have assessing courses. Kristy has been doing this for around 4 years and it has been "A+" every year.
Beth asked about cost.

Kristy said it's not cheap for both days: $125. The town will pay for the motel room and the

convention if any town official wants to go. For new people it's great.

There was a brief discussion about using leftover FEMA money for brushing back the roads. Kristy thought that if it can be used to improve the roads, then the FEMA people will probably not ask for it back.

[Kristy leaves.]

Assessors
Jane Manza:
It had been brought to the attention of the assessors that Matthew Perry, of 59 Noddin Road, had applied for a Veterans Exemption in 2017. Unfortunately, it got "lost in the shuffle". Now that it has been found, the assessors can go back and exempt 1 year. But the selectmen can grant the exemption for up to 3 years back.
So, the assessors would like the selectmen to abate a total of $267.79. [See "B"]
Skip asked if it was possible to abate his taxes for more years back. But Jane said that it is not.

Motion to abate $267.79 of the local property taxes of Matthew Perry by Beth and 2nd by Carl
Vote: 4 for.

Amy Dunn came and did TRIO training on July 25 for TRIO sketch. The assessors feel pretty confident with that now. There were still some questions when they tried it, but Amy has been very good about helping them get it.

Cemetery
Jane Manza: People have given complements on the new sign
Skip and Carl have done some ground work; taking out divots and gullies.
Joe Manza will take a little more loam and put down grass seed.

David S. said that he has heard complements from people who were very touched by how good the cemetery looked in terms of respectfulness toward their deceased loved ones.

Roads
Skip said that brushing back the roads needs to go forward. Larry said that Shawn will do it around January, when the roads have frozen solid. He was cheaper than the other guy with the rubber tires.
Larry said he would like to have the end of the Flat Road, the Berry Road, the Spearin Road (just past the dump and where there are no power lines) and the McArthur Road. This will make it so Shawn doesn't have to transport his equipment very much.

Skip said that brush work has to be done first on roads where recent FEMA work was done, in order to use up left over FEMA money.
Those are the Flat Road, the Berry Road, and the Spearin Road.

Also the Crawford Road needs the brush cut back all the way across, and the Davis Road.

Skip asked Larry to remove vegetation that is occluding the view of a number of road signs around town.

Larry wanted to make sure that the selectmen know that the snowplow guy, Dale Earle, now has 3 towns to plow. He will be plowing Alexander, Crawford, and now Cooper. That will be a huge undertaking.
Skip said that Dale has done a good job, is respectful and has answered each time that he has been phoned. Larry agreed saying that when he has called, Dale has been there in 5 to 10 minutes.
Maybe he will hire someone to help?
Dale also has to sand (but not plow) the town office and school parking lots.

Planning Board
Larry said that the Planning Board approved 6 permits on Tuesday night. Another permit will be considered for next meeting. Such as:
-To renovate a camp on Pleasant Lake: Strip it down, add 33%, and move the septic system.
-A house for Krista Prue.
-The Darren & Tracy Hardy place. They have applied to move the entire house (including the contested porch) back 100 feet from the shore.

Roads Again
David Lee will work on the Davis road first thing in September.
It will be coordinated with Jimmy Davis at his campground. He will do his work and coordinate the hot topping.
Also the small patch at the school.
David Lee dug down a foot at the school for the van to park. He put in gravel there. He saved a little bit gravel for that walkway where it's going to be paved. Larry will get Shawn to come over and do that.

Carl said again that about 50 feet into the McArthur Road there's a sunken steel culvert that should be taken care of before winter or it will be hard on the plow.

Skip said it's $500 dollars for 20 feet of (plastic) culvert. Maybe Kevin Dean could do it. Larry said he will take care of it.

Jane asked about cutting back brush at one of the intersections so cars don't get clipped by other cars that they can't see.
Skip said that they are limited on their right of way for cutting: Only 25 feet from the center line. Jane proposed a parabolic mirror.

A Town Facebook Page
Beth said that she could do a town Facebook page (as an administrator), but she would need someone else to be an administrator as well. There would be no comments. It would be just to announce things in the town to keep people in the know. If we decide to go with that, Rhonda does a Grange thing.
Skip said that things are posted on the Randy's Variety Facebook page. But it's not truly an official town page.
Maybe Rhonda (Oakes) could be an administrator?
Maybe Kristy (Crawford) could be a third administrator, since she knows a lot about what's going on in the town?
Skip recommended that before starting it, that Beth get other people on board.

Beth thought that just town members should be invited to join.
Carl said he would ask Rhonda.
Larry thought it might be a means of cutting down on the time spent in the town meeting.
Skip said that the long town meeting last time was partly his fault, since for one article, he permitted "one more question, just one more question."
Larry thought that maybe the agendas for meetings could be posted beforehand.

Unclaimed Property Reporting
Beth brought up about the unclaimed property reporting requirements for the town that had been explained in a July 9th email. She outlined what that meant.

Skip said that Kristy said that she was fairly certain that the town didn't have any such property.

Jane said she called the unclaimed property office several years ago to inquire about what unclaimed property there was in Alexander. The guy hesitated, but did allow her to print out whoever had unclaimed money in Alexander. They will give you the list of resident or owners to post it. There is a connection at that office.
But there are people not aware of property that they haven't claimed.

Concealed Weapons Permit
Motion to go into executive session for 1 concealed weapons permit per 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(F) by Skip and 2nd by Carl at 6:51 PM
Voting: 4 for.

Out of executive session at 6:56 PM.

Motion to approve 1 concealed weapons permit by Beth and 2nd by Carl
Voting: 4 for.

Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting
There was some concern about some of the things that were said in the last meeting. Skip is not concerned by what it says he said.
We should be mindful that minutes are being recorded in a public meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 3 July 2025, as amended, by Skip and 2nd by Beth.
Voting: 4 for.

Motion to adjourn by Skip
Voting: 4 for, at 7:10 PM

2025 CONVENTION-AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, October 8

7:30 am	Registration begins
7:30 - 10:30 am	Continental Breakfast

8:00 am	Exhibit Hall Opens
9 - 10:30 am	Welcome and Keynote Speaker
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions Block #1
12:00 - 1:15 pm	MMA Leadership and Recognition Luncheon
1:15 - 2:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions Block #2
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Sponsor & Exhibitor BREAK & Afternoon Snack
3:00 - 4:15 pm	Concurrent Sessions Block #3
4:45 pm	Ethel Kelley Award Presentation
4:30 - 6:30 pm	Member Appreciation Reception and Entertainment

Thursday, October 9

7:30 am	Registration
7:30 - 9 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am	Exhibit Hall Opens
9 - 10:15 am	Welcome and Morning Plenary Session
10:15 - 10:45 am	Sponsor & Exhibitor BREAK & Morning Snack
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions Block #4
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Member Networking Luncheon
1:00 - 2:15 pm	Concurrent Sessions Block #5
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Concurrent Sessions Block #6

"B"

Board of Asssessors

Town of Alexander

50 Cooper Road
Alexander, Maine 04694

August 2, 2025

Matthew Perry
087-023+24 59 Noddin Road, Alexander, ME

Matthew Perry applied for a Veterans Exemption in 2017. It has been brought to the Board of Assessors attention that this exemption was never applied to his account. We are asking the Board of Selectmen to approve an abatement of $267.79 for the following:

Year	Veterans Exemption	Mill Rate	Abatement
2022	$5,760	17.2	$99.07
2023	$5,160	17.0	$87.72
2024	$6,000	13.5	$81.00
			$267.79

Thank you,

Board of Assessors
Merle Knowles 907-0206 Jane Manza 454-3017. Sue Carter 952-0472