Town of Alexander Selectmen's Meeting

6 August 2026

Attendance:
Skip Colson
Carl Oakes
David Sanford

Foster Carlow Jr.
Joe Manza
Jane Manza
Roger Holst

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

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting
Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 2 July 2026 by Skip and 2nd by Carl
Voting: 3 for

Roads
[Larry Hill's absence was noted]

Skip said that David Lee has given a proposal for working on the Pocomoonshine Lake Public Landing. The town just has to get with FEMA to make sure it meets their criteria [since FEMA will be paying for most of it]. There had been a meeting with FEMA scheduled, but then it had to be rescheduled. They haven't yet settled on a new date to meet.

Skip also said that he still wanted to get the culverts blown out [by fire hose].

Downeast Broadband Utility [DBU]
Roger Holst:
Roger said that at the July 16th DBU meeting, not all of the usual people were there. For example, Crystal Gallina was not there to give the financial report.
During the meeting's discussion of social media, people in Baileyville and Nate Gardner created an electronic advertising flyer that they are willing to share with any other town. Roger has a copy that could be put on the town website. It can also be a paper flyer.
Roger said he will send it to Julie Burgess.
Skip said that he will get with Julie and the people who made the flyer, and work on putting it on the town website.

The DBU was supposed to buy the fiber optic lines on West Street in Princeton, and include that street with the rest of the town of Princeton's DBU membership. Previously, it had been thought that there were 96 customers on that road. But no, it turned out to be 96 *potential* customers. There are only 25 *actual* customers. Roger said he didn't think it would be worth it to the DBU to buy those lines. Currently, Pioneer Broadband owns the line on that road.

The next meeting will be on August 20th at Danny Sullivan's camp, as it has been each year.
The next meeting after that will be September 17th in Calais.

The total number of broadband customers is 988, up 3 from the previous month. Alexander went from 170 to 174 customers. Calais went down one. David S. said that it looks like Alexander is doing the best of any of the towns in the DBU.

The DBU has to have mapping to keep track of everything and where all the customers are. Vetro ©FiberMap has been the contracted mapping program for the DBU. However, the company has gone from $10,000 up to $15,000 per year in 2025. Now, they want to go to $10,000 every 6 months. But apparently, there is something that can do it for cheaper, using AI.
Skip said it almost sounds like an invasion of privacy.
Roger said he thinks it's more like line drawings.
Carl said to Skip that it doesn't matter, they can punch in "Skip Colson" online and find out all about him.

Cemetery
Skip said that a week or 2 ago, he and some others were doing some ground work at the cemetery, when they found five syringes stabbed in a line into the gravel pile. Those were the ones he saw, but how many did he not see? He expressed concern that this cannot be, especially with families and children visiting the cemetery, that they might be stuck by a needle by accident.

Skip said to maybe put up trail cameras in order to be able to identify who is doing that.
Foster said that posting a sign about having video surveillance would probably be required.
Skip said he will send off a message to MMA legal to find out what can or cannot be done.
David S. asked if it happened at night?
Skip said he did not know.

Jane asked how much a trail cam. costs.
Skip said that it depends on what it can do.

Supposedly, it would only be needed for the summer months.
Jane said that there is no signage with rules about the cemetery.
Maybe there needs to be sign that says that the cemetery is closed after sunset.

Joe, Jane and Foster said that things like that have been happening for a while.

Carl said that he did some work at the cemetery. He would like to get a load of loam out there some time.
Jane said that she will speak with her cohort [Rhonda Oakes] and approve it.
Skip asked Jane to call him when the loam is delivered (probably by David Lee) in order to help make sure not to lose any over the sides.
Carl has lost touch with Albert Stahle to help work on the cemetery.

Town Office Security
Skip said that for the last while, they have had a great deal of trouble with Belinda Burgess. She has called Kristy, Julie and Lesliann and very falsely accused them of sexual misconduct with her husband, and used foul language at them. Skip had to block her from calling him.
Recently, Belinda came in to the town office to pay for something, then she started calling Julie a very impolite word. Skip said that he thought that Belinda needs to be banned from coming in the office.
He was hoping that David Davis would talk to Crash. But he's not here, so it looks like he, Skip, will have to again. The situation is very embarrassing to talk about for both Skip and Crash.

Carl said he thought that Belinda might not act that way in front of Crash.
Skip said that the ladies who work at the town office aren't paid to take this kind of abuse. Belinda can do any necessary business via a second person or the mail.
David S. asked about a restraining order, but Skip did not want to go that more severe route yet.
Jane asked if the problem was medically related, and Skip affirmed that it was.

Motion to authorize writing a letter banning Belinda Burgess from the Alexander Town office by Carl and 2nd by David S.
Voting: 3 for

Julie Burgess's Report
[It was written report by Julie. See "A"]. Julie wrote about wanting to increase the registration fees to the highest amount, to make the town a little more money.
Carl noted that people have the option to do their registrations online for cheaper, including ATV's and snowmobiles.
Both Skip and Carl noted, however, that the town doesn't get any money when they are done online.

It was also noted that the state has "messed up" the registrations stickers for the town. The office hasn't had stickers for a little while.

Motion to approve the increase in agent fees for all vehicle registrations to the maximum amount allowable by Carl and 2nd by Skip
Voting: 3 for

New Business and Unfinished Business

Foster said that Downeast Ambulance is good.

Jane said that all is well with her departments.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Carl at 6:25 PM

Voting: 3 for.

Clerk Notes 8/6/2026

I gave everyone updated financials, if anyone has questions come see me next week or send me an email.

The office collects an agent fee for each vehicle registration we process. We have been collecting $3 for each Alexander registration and $5 for each Crawford registration. I was recently notified that we are allowed to collect $5 per Alexander registration and $6 per Crawford registration. We complete 600-700 registrations each year, so this could be over $1,000 in income we're missing out on. Every other office that completes registrations is charging these higher fees. We also have to spend $3.28 on postage every 2 weeks to send registration paperwork and reports to the state. I would like to start collecting the highest agent fee that we are allowed to on these transactions. Please make a motion to collect the highest BMV agent fee allowed if the board agrees.