Town of Alexander Selectmen's Meeting

4 December 2025

Attendance:
Skip Colson
David Davis
Carl Oakes
David Sanford

Kristy Crawford

Joe Manza
Jane Manza
Foster Carlow Jr.

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

Additions, Deletions to the Agenda
No School Board or DBU discussion (for lack of Ted Carter being present).

Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 6, 2025, as amended, by David D. and 2nd by Carl
Voting: 4 for.

Cemetery
Jane Manza said that the cemetery assistant caretakers will oversee the laying of the veterans' wreaths at the graves with some of the children from the school and some other people on Monday the 8th at 12:30 PM.
Carl is storing the wreathes in his former store for now.
Rhonda and Carl shoveled the snow off the plaques of the veterans: over 50 of them.
Skip commented that when he saw the wreathes, he noted that they smelled good and that they are heavy and not cheaply made.

Assessing
Jane said that a meeting of the assessors that had been planned for last Tuesday was canceled because of snow. They intend to have a meeting in December before the end of year to take care of abatements.

Also, there will be Santa Claus at the Grange from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Saturday (thanks, in part, to the support of the town selectmen), including gift packages for the children. Carl said they usually have between 40 and 50 kids come to that.

Clerk's Report
Kristy said that she has told every single person that has come into the office about the special town meeting on the 15th that has to do with the whether to pay the extra money requested by the County. The warrant for that meeting is posted on the town office door and on the town website. Notice for the meeting is set to be in the Calais Advertiser for 2 weeks. Cassie Oakes will probably write about it in her column in that paper also. Kristy is all set up for the town meeting.

The total income for the town is $836,465.84.
But the total expenditures are $1,777,210.65.

Of the 2025 property taxes, 73% still needs to be collected.
Kristy presented a breakdown of the Administration, Roads and Cemetery accounts.

Mike Howell had done some work on the town office roof. He finally brought in the receipts for that.

Roads
The Davis Road project came in about $20,000 under what was projected. The paver, Shawn Hartford, of County Concrete, also paved the small section up at the school, at no charge. He also donated $500 to the school for warm up-gear for the basketball teams!

The total for the paving of the Davis Road, from Kevin Gillie's to the Campground, was $248,000, almost a mile.

The ditches are still not frozen solidly enough to properly hold up Shawn Sullivan's excavator that will do the brushing back. The Flat, Berry, and Spearin roads should be done (first).

New Business
None discussed.

Unfinished Business
None discussed.

Member Reports
Carleton Davis was going to wire up the lights on the town office Christmas tree. But then it rained and the rain froze. Gerald Cooper ended up putting the lights on later.

Skip talked about his experience as a new delegate on the County Budget Committee. The committee started with a budget of $13 million, then whittled it

down to $11,800,100 and approved it on a vote of 6 to 5. It was one of the most frustrating things he has ever done in his life. About half the people seemed to have no empathy for the taxpayers who would be footing the bill. He found it disconcerting how poorly they spoke of taxpayers and that they seemed to demand that they pay up.
From there, that budget will go to the County Commissioners next. They can pass it as it is. Or, they can add to or delete from it. They seem to want to cut it. From there, Skip was unsure about the next steps, but thought that the commissioners could send it back to the budget committee if they wanted changes. The committee would have to veto those changes with a ⅔ margin. Since the committee passed it by 1 vote, they probably wouldn't be able to do that. He said he will find out for sure how that works and hopefully know before the 15th.
David D., who had been on that committee, agreed that that work is "like fingers on a chalkboard".
Skip said that, overall, he was happy to be involved with this process. It was eye opening, but the lack of empathy was discouraging.

Dale Earle called Skip both today and yesterday. He explained that he has 3 plow trucks, but 2 are broken. He can't get parts for 1 for a while. He went to New Hampshire to get a 4th one. Even still, Skip finds that the snow plowing has been better here than in Calais. Recently, the roads were awful as you went into Cooper. (David D. pointed out that those roads were also supposed to be plowed by Dale.)

Foster said that the Down East Emergency Medical Services [DEEMS] meeting and supper will be held around the middle of the month at the Happy Crab restaurant in Eastport.

Motion to go into executive session to consider an employee matter per 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(A) by David D. and 2nd by Carl at 6:27 PM
Voting: 4 for.

Out of executive session at 7:09 PM

Kristy Crawford has accepted a job with Downeast Credit Union, starting in early January 2026, and will therefore be leaving her position as the Alexander Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasurer.

Motion to adjourn by David D. and David S. at 7:10 PM