Selectmen's Meeting
of the Town of Alexander, Maine

6 November 2025

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

Kristy Crawford

Foster Carlow Jr.
Joe Manza
Jane Manza

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

Approve Minutes of Last Meeting
Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 2 October 2025 by Carl and 2nd by David S.
Voting: Unanimous

DBU, School Board
Ted Carter was not present, so there wasn't much discussion of the DBU or School Board...
Except to say that Kristy forwarded a copy of the new long term financing DBU loan agreement, in an email to most of the selectmen. If they want, they can request a paper copy. All 3 loans, one by Alexander, one by Calais, and one by Baileyville, have been signed.

Cemetery
Jane Manza said that they will be clearing off all the flowers, etc. from the cemetery after November 15.

Carl said that he received a quote over the phone of $2,800 to cut down some trees near the cemetery that are dead or leaning over, including a huge pine tree near the pit road.
David D. said that David Townsend does that kind of work. Carl said he wasn't sure if he would get a bid from David T.
Kristy said that the cemetery has $10,000 and $3200 in remaining balances in its two accounts.
Jane said she preferred to get that tree trimming done before winter set in rather than risk trees toppling on a grave stone, some of which are expensive, breakable and/or historic.
Carl thought it could be done around the end of November or beginning of December; as long as there's no snow on the ground.

Skip asked when they will be doing Christmas wreathes. Jane said there was no firm date, but very close to Christmas.

Skip said he saw an ad. by the town of Baileyville in the Calais Advertiser newspaper about not doing burials in the winter. Should Alexander do that too?
Jane said she didn't think so, since anyone doing a burial has to go through the cemetery people. However, Jane said she would at least let Mays Funeral Home in Calais know about the Alexander Town Cemetery policy.

Assessing
Jane said that the assessors have acted on a few abatements that have come in. Abatement requests can come in for up to 6 months.

Clerk's Report
Kristy said that in 2 weeks, the 2023 property tax foreclosure notices will be mailed. Affected property owners can come in and get them, rather than pay the postage of about $12 per (certified) letter. Kristy was not sure, but estimated that there were 16 to send out.

Brent Gibson turned in his insurance and independent contractor exemption paperwork, so he can do his snow removal work. (He is paid monthly.)

Tuesday is Veteran's Day, so the office will be closed, as also for Thanksgiving.
Dog license post cards have been mailed out.

236 votes were cast at the election 2 days ago.
On the following ballot issues the town voted...
➡"Yes" on issue number 1 (Voter fraud prevention with voter identification required), with 147 votes.
➡"No" on issue number 2 (Family members and others can apply to cause guns to be temporarily removed from a suspected dangerous person), with 148 votes vs. 86 "yes" votes.
➡"No" for the Washington County government bailout bond (up to $11 million) with 142 votes vs. 89 "yes" votes.

Kristy has been doing some research about the town's tax obligation to the County government. What is the law? Does the town have to pay the county tax? Who enforces it? Is there a such thing

as an illegal assessment? What about surplus funds?

Health insurance premiums will be increasing by 9% in 2026. The town is allowed to offer up to 3 health plans. Kristy contacted Lauren Gaudet at Maine Muncipal Employees Health Trust to see about offering other (cheaper) polices than just the one that the town offers now. Lauren gave an email on how to do that.
Kristy asked if anyone would take the lead on adding 2 more insurance options: There are 3 options (for a family) costing $3312.52, $3153.62, and $3049.32 monthly [See "A".]
If anyone is interested in switching to a cheaper plan, tell Kristy.
Skip proposed that he and Kristy look into it.
David D. noted that there were only about $300 dollars difference between the cheapest and most expensive plans. Would this make much of a difference? Kristy replied that the town has to look at cutting costs, and this is a start.
Kristy said this insurance would be available to active employees.

Skip asked if there is a deadline for deciding.
Kristy said that the email says October 31. But maybe Lauren will make an allowance for a later request.
Both Skip and David D. said they were more concerned about the difference in coverage, than the difference in cost: cut costs and not benefits. You don't want to save a little on up front costs only to have a major decrease in coverage or a major deductible.

Town Income
$270,134.42 in taxes have come in.
School revenue so far is $172,402.01.
Total revenue from the state of Maine is $130,921.00
Revenue from town sources is $77,817.08.

Town Expenses
The school has so far cost $529,771.69
The County tax of $148,930.00 has been paid.
Solid waste has been paid: $21,821.29.
Administration has been $57,154.49
Down East Community Partners, yearly: $1,130
Down East Ambulance, yearly: $12,072.00
Fire department, yearly: $19,200.00.
$1,853.98 in local tax abatements
$78,755.64 spent on roads

All the ARPA funds have been completely spent.

Roads
Larry thanked Kristy for getting an itemized list to him for the salt sand.
David Lee put up 1500 yards of (road) sand in the shed for $26,250.00. Also the road salt cost $13,144.64.

Larry talked to Shawn today about doing the hot topping on the Davis Road. It will cost in the vicinity of $55,000, including the little 10' by 4' piece at the school parking lot. Shawn wanted Jimmy Davis's address to bill him for his part of the hot top.

A 35 mile per hour speed limit sign was put up on the Pokey Road.

There is a big popple tree next to the Arm road. The light company cut the top off, but woodpeckers have weakened the rest of it, so it has to come down. When it is cut down, people may be needed on the ends of the road to direct traffic.

Larry asked for, and received, clarification on the totals for gravel used on the Davis and Crawford roads. [See "B".]

Hot top work around the intersection of the Davis and Crawford Roads is going to be about $75,000 total. The other part was filling in the edges of the Davis Road. So, out of the $100,000 that had been apropriated out of undesignated fund, there will still be $25,000.

The sunken culvert near the end of McArthur Road, Larry checked out and has decided to try to get by without fixing it for now. Carl recommended leveling it out with some gravel, as needed.
Skip said he thought that next year the town will be hardpressed for money. Usually prices rise, so maybe that culvert should be done now. Larry wasn't sure the town could get anybody to do the job right now. Skip offered to do the job with his tractor. Larry thought it would cost about $1500 to repair, but felt good about leaving it for now.

Jane asked about clearing back the brush on Clayton Blake's land at the corner of the Davis and Arm Roads. It's a blind spot and people have been driving dangerously there. David Davis thought that the brush was outside of the right of way. Carl thought maybe Clayton would be OK with it if he were asked. (But keep in mind that Clayton was just in a significant trucking accident, at Malcolm Hill.) Skip asked Larry to find out from Clayton.

Larry said that Jimmy Davis has recently bought a rubber-tired rig to use for trimming roadside branches. Jimmy had asked if the town was interested. Maybe that would be better than Shawn doing that work.
Skip said if there is somebody local--and not outrageously priced--then use them.
Larry reminded about Shawn's terms of work: $2500 to 3000 per day, with a crew to clean up big trees and he bills to Eastern Maine electric for work under powerlines.
Skip had also talked to Jimmy on this matter on Tuesday at the ATV club. But Jimmy had been pretty non-committal, since he wanted to do some practicing with the rig first.

Kristy was emphatic that, whomever is decided, to make sure he first shows proof of his commercial insurance, etc., since he would be hired as a contractor.

New Business: Give Money to the County?
[The Washington County commissioners have requested that the town of Alexander pay an additional $120,033.93 before the end of 2025 to help pay off their 2025 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). They say it would cost the town (and them) less now rather than paying later additional interest and other fees.]
David Davis, who is on the County budget committee, said he didn't make it to their last meeting, but serious cuts will now have to be made. Even then, he doesn't know where they will come up with the needed money. The bank should be partially responsible: it should not have loaned money to an unaudited government entity.
Skip asked David D. how it would affect the town if it paid the approximately $120,000 before December 31. David D. simply replied that the town would pay an extra $120,000.
Carl asked, "What bank would loan money if the towns don't back the loan?"

Kristy said that Billy Howard mentioned that the County has enough money until January. The County could run without a TAN if all the towns paid early before the money ran out.
The County needs to set its budget by January.
The County can also default on the TAN, or it might be able to work something out with Machias Savings Bank. Either way, they need to figure out how to run without a loan.
Skip said he was not sure whether to give them the money or not. Another town meeting would have to be called in order to consider doing it.
David D. expressed doubt that the town would go for that. Skip replied, "Maybe, but you don't know if don't ask."
Beth said that if it's less costly to the town going forward, then pay it now.
Carl expressed concern that there are too many unknowns.
Skip said he would like to see them go after anybody that may be culpable in any mismanagement of the County funds. He thought that the Board shouldn't take any action at this meeting. He didn't feel comfortable handing over the money that would have been used for next year's Road budget.

The town will be getting 2 tax bills in a single year, as the County changes its fiscal year to start on July 1st. Jane said that Billy had said that that would be 18 months out and not next year, right?
Skip said that the County would need 2 separate budgets covering 18 months. They can't give the town a tax bill for both years at the same time. One would be for January and the other for July.
Kristy said that she thought that the law says that there needs to be at least 90 days of advance notice.
The County has an $8 million TAN to pay before December or it may not get another one for next year. It's unclear if the town's part of the bill would get tacked on to the town's 2026 tax bill, (if the town doesn't pay by December 31).
It will be a 36% increase without the bond. With a bond payment, a 40% increase. County taxes will increase even without the bond.
Skip asked if the Board members were willing to wait before cutting a check. [Yes.]
Kristy said that there are 2 ways to ask the town to pay: As part of the County tax or ask the town to pay separately. For the former, it would be $120,000 plus over $140,000 on the budget warrant. The town would end up raising the money. For the latter, the town could write a warrant article to take from the $120,000 from the Undesignated Fund.

Skip asked what would happen if the townspeople were asked to pay the County tax, and they said "no". Kristy replied that the town would be labelled a delinquent municipality. The county treasurer would then call the sheriff. Apparently, the sheriff is allowed to start seizing not only the assets of the the town, but of private citizens of the town. But they probably wouldn't really do the latter. The town owns the sand salt shed, but not the school building.
Some 12 or 13 towns still haven't paid their 2025 County tax yet.

Anticipatory borrowing, such as for a TAN, may not exceed one year and the time to repay it may not be extended.

David S. said that in the Calais Advertiser [October 23, 2025, page 13, David Burns] had said that the maturity date for the TAN was some time in February not the end of December, so there certainly would be time to consider this at the December Selectmen's meeting. He also said he would like the County to have done everything possible to cut down on what is being asked of the towns before the town pays, which they have not done. Although different County officials have said they should cut their budget, they still haven't. He expressed concern that the County's handle on their finances was still too poor to be able to ensure that paying early really would have a benefit to the town. They should take care of these things first in order to give confidence to towns to pay this extra money.

Other New Business
Foster asked about the nuisance dog situation at McGoon's. Skip said that he talked with David Townsend in the town office. He hasn't gotten an answer, but he can keep bugging him.

Kristy gave a thank you to Foster for helping with the election.

Motion to give the Alexander Grange $500 for the Christmas party for the kids by Skip and 2nd by David D.
Voting: Unanimous
The Christmas party will be the 1st Saturday of December on the 6th.

Members' Reports
Kristy said that those who have gone to conventions can be reimbursed for mileage and meals.

Jane said that on Veterans Day on Tuesday, there will be flag waving at the Oakes' from 9 AM to noon. There will be free hot dogs for veterans and first repsonders.

Foster said that Down East Ambulance is "doing good". The annual Christmas party will be at the Happy Crab restaurant. Not sure which day.

Concealed Weapons Permits
Motion to go into exececutive session by Carl and 2nd by David D. at 7:10 PM to consider 2 concealed weapons permits
Voting: Unanimous

Out of executive session at 7:18 PM.
Motion to approve 2 concealed weapons permits and 1 change of address of a concealed weapons permit by Skip and 2nd by Carl
Voting: Unanimous

Motion to adjourn by Carl and 2nd by David D. at 7:18 PM.

Health Plans	9.0% increase for all active health plans
Dental Plan	5.0% increase
Vision Insurance Plan	Rate decrease with new vendor, please read details below
Life Insurance Plan	No adjustment to basic or supplemental life 15% increase to dependent life rates
Income Protection Plan	No adjustment
Long Term Disability Plan	No adjustment

These rate adjustments will become effective January 1, 2026. A full 2026 Rate Sheet is enclosed.

The health plan rate adjustments listed above apply to all Non-Rated Groups – that is, employer groups with 50 or fewer covered participants. Health plan premiums for the Individually Rated Groups (groups with 51 or more covered employees) will receive different adjustments, based upon the experience of the individual group. Rate adjustments for the Individually Rated Groups depend in part upon the group's own claims experience, and in part upon the experience of the Health Trust as a whole.

During the past couple years, the Trust has been observing significantly higher medical costs due to inflation, higher hospital costs and increased utilization for health services and pharmacy. The Trust still has adequate reserves to provide stability and meet our obligations with a safety margin, as required. However, the amount that is available for mitigating premium increases is becoming limited.

The Health Trust is observing considerable increases in claims costs, which requires this higher-than-average rate adjustment. The pressures that the Health Trust faces are mirrored throughout the Maine market, where reported rates increases are even higher than for the non-profit Health Trust. The Maine Bureau of Insurance approved a 17.9% average increase for the community rated small group market in 2026.

MAINE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH TRUST

MONTHLY PREMIUMS FOR POOLED (NON-RATED) GROUPS
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

MEDICAL PLANS

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES & NON-MEDICARE RETIREES	ACADIA	BAXTER	KATAHDIN	MOOSEHEAD	PEMAQUID
Employee Only	$1,476.73	$1,405.91	$1,359.40	$1,254.12	$1,206.50
Employee & Spouse	$3,312.52	$3,153.62	$3,049.32	$2,813.17	$2,706.37
Employee with children	$2,409.60	$2,294.00	$2,218.16	$2,046.38	$1,968.67
Family	$3,312.52	$3,153.62	$3,049.32	$2,813.17	$2,706.37
COBRA REGULARS (18 Months)					
Employee Only	$1,506.26	$1,434.03	$1,386.59	$1,279.21	$1,230.63
Employee & Children	$2,457.79	$2,339.88	$2,262.53	$2,087.30	$2,008.04
Employee & Spouse or Family	$3,378.77	$3,216.69	$3,110.31	$2,869.43	$2,760.50
COBRA DISABILITY (up to 29 Months)					
Employee Only	$2,215.09	$2,108.87	$2,039.10	$1,881.18	$1,809.75
Employee & Children	$3,614.39	$3,441.00	$3,327.25	$3,069.57	$2,953.00
Employee & Spouse or Family	$4,968.78	$4,730.43	$4,573.98	$4,219.76	$4,059.56

Transaction Report

Town of Alexander

July 1-November 6, 2025

TRANSACTION DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	FULL NAME	ITEM SPLIT ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Roads								
Davis Road Work								
09/10/2025	Check	4283	Kevin Dean	grading sides of new tar	Roads:Davis Road Work	Machias Saving Bank	5,850.00	5,850.00
09/24/2025	Payroll Check	4291	Carlton J. Cooper	Wages(Davis Road Work)	Roads:Davis Road Work	Machias Saving Bank	495.36	6,345.36
09/24/2025	Payroll Check	4293	Larry Hill	Wages(Davis Road Work)	Roads:Davis Road Work	Machias Saving Bank	955.90	7,301.26
10/10/2025	Check	4299	David Lee Construction		Roads:Davis Road Work	Machias Saving Bank	16,618.00	23,919.26
11/05/2025	Payroll Check	4335	Larry Hill	Wages(Davis Road Work)	Roads:Davis Road Work	Machias Saving Bank	851.62	24,770.88
11/06/2025	Check	4330	David Lee Construction		Roads:Davis Road Work	Machias Saving Bank	2,540.00	27,310.88
Total for Davis Road Work							**$27,310.88**	
Total for Roads with sub-accounts							**$27,310.88**	
TOTAL							**$27,310.88**	