# Washington County Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes – 10/27/26

Location: 28 Court St., Machias, ME

Attendance – Brian Schuth (Chair); Ben Edwards (Vice Chair); Crystal Gallina (Secretary); Harry Fish, Jr; Harry "Sonny" Beal, Jr; Ken "Skip" Colson; Nelson "Tony" Santiago; Martha Howell; Tiffany Strout; Commissioner William "Billy" Howard (non-voting participant)

Absent – Tim Call, Wayne Jones

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Chair Brian Schuth.

Chair Brian Schuth asked if the Commissioners choose to act to bring a budget to the BAC, that the budget they vote on incorporates the known changes, such as the decrease in Finance Dept salaries and new sewer rates.

Skip Colson made a motion to approve the 10/20/26 meeting minutes as presented. Tony Santiago seconded the motion. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Tiffany Strout entered the meeting at 9:11 am.

Harry Fish made a motion to postpone indefinitely the current main motion from the 9/22/26 meeting to pass the 2027 County budget as presented. Martha Howell seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-0.**

Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to allow presentations from third-party requesters. **No objections** were made.

Presentations were given by the following third-party requesters:

- Downeast Institute
- Washington County Extension Association
- Washington County Firefighters Association
- Washington County Soil & Water Conservation

The BAC took a recess at 10:18 am and resumed at 10:29 am.

Chair Schuth suggested that the budget for Insurance and the budget for Benefits be discussed. **No objections** were made.

The BAC requested the following information from Finance:

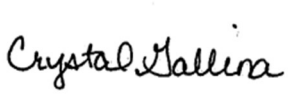
- Provide an insurance budget updated with actual premium costs.
- Provide a benefit budget updated with actual premium costs.

- Provide a “crosswalk” of the amounts moved between lines and departments for a better year-over-year comparison.

A reminder was given that the next meeting would be at 9:00 a.m. on November 3, 2026, in this same location. All budgets have now been discussed, so BAC members should direct questions directly to Department Heads prior to that meeting.

A motion was made by Sonny Beal, seconded by Harry Fish, to adjourn at 11:20 pm.
**Motion carried 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,



Crystal Gallina, BAC Secretary