

Washington County Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)
Meeting Minutes – 9/29/26

Location: 28 Court St., Machias, ME

Attendance – Brian Schuth (Chair); Ben Edwards (Vice Chair); Crystal Gallina (Secretary); Harry Fish, Jr; Harry “Sonny” Beal, Jr; Wayne Jones; Nelson “Tony” Santiago; Martha Howell; Tiffany Strout

Absent – Ken “Skip” Colson; Tim Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Brian Schuth.

Chair Schuth informed the Committee that the County has a remote participation policy applicable to Commissioners and County Boards, inclusive of the BAC. In accordance with this policy, committee members must request in advance the opportunity to attend and participate by Zoom.

The process of unanimous consent was discussed as a BAC tool to expedite voting. Under Robert’s Rules of Order, unanimous consent may be used to pass non-controversial or routine motions without a formal vote. The Chair will propose an action and then call for objections. If no one objects, then the action is automatically passed without a formal vote.

Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to add Probate and Deeds to the agenda. **No objections** were made.

Harry Fish made a motion to approve the 9/22/26 meeting minutes as presented. Sonny Beal seconded the motion. **Motion carries 9-0.**

Under the open motion from the 9/22/26 meeting to pass the 2027 County budget as presented, Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to allow the Administration Dept to present their budget. **No objections** were made.

Next, Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to allow the Finance Dept to present their budget. **No objections** were made.

After the completion of the Finance Dept presentation, Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to take a 10-minute recess beginning at 10:21. There were **no objections**. Meeting resumed at 10:32.

Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to allow the Probate Dept to present their budget. **No objections** were made.

Next, Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to allow Deeds to present their budget. **No objections** were made.

Since time allowed, Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to allow Buildings & Grounds to present their budget. **No objections** were made.

Chair Schuth then proposed setting future meeting dates and scheduling the Departments still to be presented.

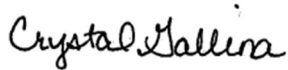
Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to schedule the next meeting for 10/6/26 at 9:00, at this same location, and invite the District Attorney, Emergency Management and the Jail to present. There were **no objections**.

Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to not meet on 10/13/26 and schedule a meeting for 10/20/26 at 9:00, at this same location, and invite the vehicle leasing agency, Unorganized Territories, IT Dept, Insurance, Benefits and Debt to present. There were **no objections**.

Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to schedule a meeting for 10/27/26 at 9:00, at this same location, and invite Governmental and Non-Governmental 3rd parties to present and to begin the final process of taking action on the budget. There were **no objections**.

A motion was made by Martha Howell, seconded by Tony Santiago, to adjourn at 11:46 am. **Motion carries 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Gallina".

Crystal Gallina, BAC Secretary