

Washington County Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes – 10/20/26

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; Wayne Jones; Nelson “Tony” Santiago; Martha Howell; Tiffany Strout

Absent – Tim Call

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

Sonny Beal made a motion to approve the 10/06/26 meeting minutes as presented. Harry Fish seconded the motion. **Motion carried 10-0.**

Ben Edwards asked that the BAC Secretary include requests made to the Department Heads by the BAC in future meeting minutes.

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 presentation for the vehicle leasing agent (Rob Davis) for the Sheriff’s Department. **No objections** were made.

During the presentation, the BAC requested the following from the Sheriff’s office:

- Cost of repairs by vehicle
 - Chief Deputy Crabtree stated that repairs are not currently tracked by vehicle, so the information is not readily available.
- Prepare a specific request for their budget, based on whatever system they think is best for managing their fleet, and if that number varies based on the number of positions reinstated, be prepared to provide the BAC with that range.
- Provide a copy of a vehicle leasing contract similar to what the County would sign to better understand the terms of the agreement.

The BAC took a 10-minute recess at 10:15 am and resumed at 10:26 am.

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

During the presentation, the BAC requested the following from the IT Department:

- Copy of the 3-4 year plan to replace the hardware that is 8 years old or older
- Provide a more accurate cost for replacing/upgrading the network equipment
- Provide a list of challenges that may be upcoming

During the presentation, the BAC requested the following from the Finance Director:

- Provide a “crosswalk” for the whole budget that maps the various shifts and reclassifications between lines and departments

Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to suspend the rules to allow a presentation from the Unorganized Territories (Heron Weston). **No objections** were made.

Chair Schuth called for unanimous consent to postpone the main motion until October 27, 2026. **No objections** were made.

Wayne Jones made a motion to return the 2027 County budget, without changes, to the County Commissioners and request that they submit a budget estimate for the Budget Advisory Committee to start the budget process in accordance with the procedures established under Maine Law. The motion was seconded by Harry Fish.

Following discussion, Chair Schuth suggested modifying the motion for clarity. Wayne Jones, who made the original motion, and Harry Fish, who seconded it, agreed to the proposed modification. No one objected before discussion proceeded on the revised motion. The revised motion stated that the Budget Advisory Committee would adjourn until the County Commissioners provided their estimated budget as required by statute.

Following further discussion, Skip Colson made a motion to table the pending motion, seconded by Harry Fish. **The motion to table carried by a vote of 9-1, with Martha Howell opposed.**

Skip Colson made a motion, seconded by Harry Fish, to suspend the rules to allow further discussion.

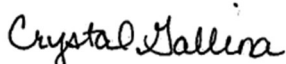
Skip Colson made a motion to request that the County provide the members of the Budget Advisory Committee with legal representation and identify a lawyer with whom we can communicate for any legal issues that affect the members as a result of their work as a member of the BAC. Wayne Jones seconded the motion. **Motion carried 10-0.**

Skip Colson made a motion that the Budget Advisory Committee will not provide a final recommendation on a budget until the County Commissioners have voted on, and provided us, with their recommended budget. The motion was seconded by Martha Howell. **Motion carried 10-0.** *(Note: The BAC will continue having discussions about the draft 2027 budget previously provided.)*

A reminder was given that the next meeting would be at 9:00 a.m. on October 27, 2026, in this same location. Presentations are anticipated to come from Insurance, Benefits, Debt, Capital Projects and Third-Party requests.

A motion was made by Harry Fish, seconded by Sonny Beal, to adjourn at 12:16 pm. **Motion carried 10-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Crystal Gallina, BAC Secretary