Minutes of the Washington County
Public Hearing on the
Proposed Budget for FY 2027
held September 10, 2026
in the Washington County Probate Courtroom
Machias, Maine

Attending the meeting were:
Commissioner David C. Burns, Chair
Commissioner Courtney Hammond
Commissioner Billy Howard
Renée Gray, County Administrator
Carla Manchester, Administration
Skip Colson, Alexander / BAC Member
Ben Edwards, Machias / BAC Member
Paul Sylvain, MVNO / Machias
Colleen Brown, whiting
Rachel Worcester, D.A.'s Office
Tony Santiago, Columbia Falls / BAC Member
Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WCSO
Rich Rolfe, Jail Administrator / WCSO
Barry Curtis, Sheriff
Mike Crabtree, Chief Deputy
Josh Rolfe, RCC / WCSO
Candace Davidson, East Machias
Jeffrey Davidson, East Machias
Tammy Gay, Deeds
William Tuell, East Machias
Harry "Sonny" Beal, Jr., Columbia Falls / BAC Member
Marianne Moore, Senator
David Bibber, Charlotte
Sondra Small, Finance
Leigh MacKeen, Whitneyville
Lisa Hanscom, EMA
Tiffany Strout, Harrington / BAC Member
Megan Huffman, Finance
Darlene Perry, Probate
Brian Schuth, Eastport / BAC Member
Martha Howell, Lubec / BAC Member
Harry Fish, Jonesport / BAC Member

Commissioner Burns called the Public Hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. on the proposed County Budget for FY 2027. Commissioner Burns opened

the floor to the Budget Advisory Committee to nominate their Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. After a brief discussion as to whether nominations should be done now or wait for the first BAC meeting, it was decided to continue with the nomination process. Skip Colson nominated Brian Schuth; Sonny Beal seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with a unanimous vote of 9-0. Brian Schuth accepted position of Chair. Skip Colson then nominated Ben Edwards as Vice Chair; Sonny Beal seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with a unanimous vote of 9-0. Brian Schuth asked for nominations for a secretary. Skip Colson nominated Crystal Gallina; the nomination was seconded, and the nomination passed with a unanimous vote of 9-0. Crystal accepted the position. After all seats were filled, Chair Brian Schuth suggested the first BAC meeting be scheduled. Most BAC members suggested meetings be held on Tuesdays. The first meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th at 9 a.m. and will be held in the 28 Center Street Conference Room. Brian asked that if anyone had statements to be considered at the meeting for them to please submit them to him in advance. It was noted the BAC meetings will be available by ZOOM. The link will be posted on the Washington County website calendar.

Commissioner Burns stated the 2027 proposed budget is being offered to the Budget Advisory Committee without a unanimous proposal by the Board of Commissioners. He stated the BAC will need consider what services are now being provided and what services are necessary; consideration will need to be given to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Burns asked the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) members to introduce themselves.

- Tiffany Strout, Legislative Delegate
- Sonny Beal, Jr., District 3
- Tony Santiago, District 3
- Harry Fish, District 3
- Ben Edwards, District 2
- Martha Howell, District 2
- Brian Schuth, District 2
- Skip Colson, District 1
- Crystal Gallina, District 1

With no further questions or comments from the public, Commissioner Burns asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing.
(Ben Edwards / Representative Tiffany Strout, 9-0)

ADJOURNMENT
4:11 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Carla J.R. Manchester, Admin. Asst.