TOWN of SABATTUS

190 Middle Road • Sabattus, Maine 04280 • Phone: (207) 375-4331 • Fax: (207) 375-4104

Selectboard Meeting
August 18, 2026 – 6:30 PM

The Board of Assessors (another function/responsibility of the Board of Selectmen) may meet before and/or after the regular business meeting of the Selectmen to act in the capacity of Assessors. The Assessors review applications for abatements and supplemental tax bills.

Roll Call of the Selectboard:

→ Laura Clifford, Chair	(P)	(A)
→ Noel Hinkley	(P)	(A)
→ George Merrill	(P)	(A)
→ Nancy Provost	(P)	(A)
→ Rick Lacombe	(P)	(A)

I. Agenda Adjustments

II. Ceremonial Presentations and Staff Recognitions

III. Public Hearings and/or Informational Meetings

IV. Staff

- **a. New hires:**
- **b. Resignations:**

V. Department Reports-

- **a.** Treasurers Report

VI. Unfinished Business

- **a.** Fire Department Needs
- **b.** Correct motion on 36 No Name Pond Road
- **c.** Roll Off Truck-Minimum bid
- **d.** Fire Department Grant – have submitted the grant package to HUD.
- **e.** Field Use Policy 2nd reading
- **f.** Remote policy 2nd reading
- **g.** Moratorium on Data Centers

VII. New Business

- **a.** Growth Ordinance discussion
- **b.** Supplemental bill for Glen Allen in the amount of $8,936.27 for removal of property from farmland
- **c.** Abatement for Jeffrey Ward in the amount of $21.89 for an error in acreage

VIII. Approval of the Selectboard Minutes – August 4, 2026

IX. Comments from the Town Manager

X. Comments from the Board

- **a.** George
- **b.** Noel
- **c.** Nancy
- **d.** Rick

XI. Comments from the Chair

XII. Comments from the Floor

XIII. Important Dates

- **a. Selectboard Meetings**: September 1, September 15, October 6, October 20
- **b. Planning Board Meetings**: August 25, September 22, October 27
- **c. Holidays**: Labor Day September 7, Indigenous Peoples Day October 12

XIV. Executive Session(s)

XV. Adjournment

Executive Session Motion Citations:

1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)	Personnel Matters
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(B)	Suspension or expulsion of a public-school student
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C)	Acquisition or disposition of real property or economic development
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D)	Labor Negotiations
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E)	Consultations with legal counsel
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F)	Discussion of confidential records
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(G)	Discussion of examination results
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(H)	Consultation with code enforcement officer on pending matters in District Court
36 M.R.S.A. § 841(2)(E)	All Poverty Abatement Hearings & Proceedings

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Town Manager – Raquel Welch-Day

Town Manager / Road Commissioner Report

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station has been very busy with all of the summer projects residents have underway. They are still looking for a part-time employee. Anyone interested in the position or who would like more information should reach out to Jerry at the Transfer Station.

Fire Department

The Fire Department is continuing to work on implementing a cost recovery program.

Chief Barry is also continuing a complete inventory of Fire Department equipment so we can get a clear picture of what we currently have, the condition of that equipment, and where our greatest needs are.

Chief Barry recently met with Maine SafetyWorks for an inspection. The inspection went better than anticipated, with most of the items needing attention related to updating policies.

The Chief has also been very busy pursuing grant opportunities. Applications have been submitted in hopes of securing funding for equipment including:

- **SCBA bottles**
- **Turnout gear**
- **Thermal imaging cameras**
- **Rescue airbags**

There is never a shortage of fire and rescue equipment that needs to be repaired or replaced, and grant funding is an important way for us to meet those needs while reducing the impact on local taxpayers.

Chief Barry is also obtaining estimates for the future replacement of Engine 2.

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Police Department

The Police Department continues to actively recruit officers to fill available positions.

We would also like to wish Officer Belcon the best of luck in her new position and thank her for her service to the Town.

The Police Department has been monitoring traffic on our newly paved roads. While the roads look great, they are not meant to be a racetrack. We are asking everyone to please slow down, obey posted speed limits, and help keep our neighborhoods safe.

Public Works / Road Commissioner

Public Works continues to have a very busy summer. When time allows, the crew has been completing roadside mowing and mowing Town properties. They have also been cold patching and addressing a number of complaints and unexpected issues that seem to pop up almost daily.

Marsh Road from Fisher Farm Road to Maxwell Road, and Maxwell Road to the town line, have been the primary focus this month. Everything is coming together well, and the crew hopes to wrap up this project within the next two to three weeks.
Other road projects are also nearing completion:

- **Webster Corner Road – The finish coat of hot top has been completed, all tie-ins are done, and side-road driveways and gravel shoulders are complete.**
- **Furbish Road, Fisher Farm Road, and Sutherland Pond Road – These projects are very close to completion.**
- **Approximately 100 feet of curbing remains to be completed on Fisher Farm Road near Marsh Corner.**
- **One driveway remains to be completed on Sutherland Pond Road.**
-

All of our new "Welcome to Sabattus" signs have now been installed.

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In the mechanic shop, staff have been busy working on Police Department vehicles as needed and continuing to prepare our fleet for the upcoming snow season. We have also received our new plow truck.

Town Office and Property Taxes

The Town Office has mailed out the 2026–2027 property tax bills.
The first half of property taxes are due September 24, 2026, and the second half are due March 11, 2027.

The Town's mill rate remains at 19.9, the same as last year. However, our certified assessment ratio has decreased to approximately 64%, which is about 6% lower than last year and continues to demonstrate the need for a town-wide property revaluation.

Because of changes in assessed values and the Town's assessment ratio, some taxpayers may see an increase in their tax bill even though the mill rate itself did not increase. For some properties, that increase may be approximately $30 to $60.

Halloween Parade

I have been organizing this year's Halloween Parade, which will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Participants will begin gathering at approximately 4:30 p.m. for preparation and lineup. The parade will travel along Main Street and end at the old Sabattus Elementary School.

Details regarding possible Trunk-or-Treat activities are still being determined. Additional information will be released as plans are finalized.

Traffic and Speed Studies

I have also been working with AVCOG's Transportation Resource Center to conduct speed and turning-movement studies in the area of Greene Street and No Name Pond Road.

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The studies did not identify a significant or widespread speeding problem. However, speeding is still occurring in the area, and I will continue working to determine what steps would be necessary to pursue a four-way stop at the intersection. A four-way stop may help slow traffic and improve overall safety at this location.

Shared Municipal Services

Another area I have been working on is developing stronger cooperation with our neighboring communities.

Small towns often face the same challenge: we have limited staffing, and when someone is on vacation, out sick, or unexpectedly unavailable, it can be difficult to maintain coverage.

We are currently working on an arrangement that would allow neighboring communities to provide Code Enforcement coverage when one of our Code Enforcement Officers is out for an extended period. In return, Sabattus could provide similar assistance when another community needs coverage.
I believe this type of cooperation is extremely important. Whether it is Code Enforcement, the Town Office, Police, Fire, Public Works, or another department, smaller communities need to find ways to work together when it makes sense.

I can honestly say that for a town our size, Sabattus is fortunate to have a strong staff, but there will always be times when sharing resources with neighboring communities can help all of us provide better and more consistent service to our residents.

Growth Ordinance

Another topic that has recently come across my desk is whether Sabattus could bring back a growth ordinance similar to one the Town had many years ago.
I contacted the Town's legal counsel for guidance on whether that type of ordinance would be possible in 2026. I was advised that a number of state

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housing laws have been enacted in recent years that significantly limit what municipalities can do in this area.
For example, state law now provides additional housing rights on lots where single-family residential uses are permitted, including provisions related to Accessory Dwelling Units and additional dwelling units.

The statutes referenced by legal counsel were 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364-A and 4364-B.

In short, state housing laws have changed considerably since Sabattus previously had a growth ordinance, and the Town cannot adopt a local ordinance that conflicts with those state requirements. We will continue to work with legal counsel whenever questions arise to make sure any local policies or ordinances comply with current Maine law.

Treasurer Report as of Aug 10, 2026

Delinquent Taxes Outstanding through August 10, 2026

Delinquent Taxes Years	Principal Tax Due	Interest w/cost due	Total Tax Due	Accts
Taxes Outstanding:				
2020	257.38	216.41	473.79	1
2021	1,716.43	951.21	2,667.64	2
2022	2,001.75	744.68	2,746.43	2
2023	2,907.76	800.75	3,708.51	5
2024	8,877.77	2,729.48	11,607.25	12
2025	75,947.75	12,150.31	88,098.06	51
2026	222,062.05	13,662.03	235,724.08	108
Totals	313,770.89	31,254.87	345,025.76	

Delinquent taxes collected between 7.15.26 through 8.10.26

Principal:	31,739.26
Interest w/Cost	2,893.26
Total Delinquent Taxes Collected:	34,632.52

Public Works Monthly Report July 2026

We are continuing roadside mowing and town property mowing when allowed. Cold patching on occasion and addressing a number of complaints and pop up issues as well. Marsh Road from Fisher Farm Road to Maxwell Road and Maxwell Road to the town line have been our focus this month. Everything is coming together very well. We hope to rap this project up in 2 or 3 weeks. Webster Corner Road has the finish coat of hot top done side road , driveways and Gravel shoulders are complete. Furbush Road , Fisher Farm Road and Sutherland Pond Roads are very close to being completed. We have about 100 feet of curb on Fisher Farm and Marsh corner and one Driveway left on Sutherland Pond Road to do. Our new Welcome to Sabattus signs are at our shop and will be installed soon.

In our Mechanics shop on going repairs to P. D. Units are being done as needed. We are repairing and prepping our fleet for the up coming snow season as well. I'm pleased to announce that our new plow truck has arrived. I would like to thank our crew for all they do and I appreciate all the hard work everyone does. Forward progress and continued support from the board and residents is greatly appreciated as well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob.

The month of July has been a little hectic due to the resignation of Officer Belkin. She did an outstanding job during my short period here. We wish her luck in her new endeavors. I have interviewed an applicant and have begun the lengthy process of background checks and hope at the end of the process we will have filled one of our open positions. I have another interview scheduled for early August with a second applicant and if that proves to be positive, we should be able to start the process with that individual. We have had some minor repairs for mechanical issues with our patrol cars. Nothing significant that has taken a vehicle offline for any length of time. We continue to monitor traffic on our newly paved roads. Though the traffic stop numbers have not significantly increased we often monitor traffic and can issue a warning of sorts simply by flashing the lights at a motorist who is traveling faster than they should be but not at the threshold of physically stopping the car and writing a ticket. That can be an effective way of reaching many motorists without the time that it takes to stop individual cars. We handled a total of 311 calls for service. The list of those calls is attached.

	June	July	August	September	October	November
Vehicle stop	47	57				
Suspicious person/veh	28	27				
Wellbeing check	14	6				
Assist other dept.	6	5				
Threatening	1	2				
Suspicious condition	11	6				
Children troubles	4	4				
Medical incidents	6	25				
Accident	13	8				
Property site check	67	73				
BOLO	2	1				
Other criminal	1	0				
Other non criminal	1	3				
Criminal mischief	1	3				
Police information	7	4				
Abandoned 911 call	10	14				
Broken down vehicle	2	3				
Neighbor troubles	4	0				
Admin paperwork	5	6				
MV laws	17	14				
Alarm	2	0				
Weapons, Gun, Knife	1	2				
Disturbance/disorderly	8	3				
CCW permits issued	9	7				
Theft		3				
Domestic		1				
Abandoned vehicle		1				
Suspicious/unknown sub		1				
Repossession		1				
Medical / mental		6				
Fireworks violations		2				
Burglary		1				
Follow up / paperwork service		4				
child custody dispute		1				
Hazardous condition		5				
Harassment		2				
Public service call		1				
Open door or window		1				
Animal complaints		3				
Foot patrol		2				
Bail / warrant check		1				
Fraud		1				
Unattended death		1				

For the month of July, we responded to 58 calls for service. 45 EMS call, 13 Fire Calls.

I met with Maine Safety works. The inspection went better than expected. Most of the things needing fixing are just updating policies. Which I have already been doing.

I have submitted a couple of grant applications for multiple different equipment items. SCBA bottles, Turn out gear, Thermal imaging cameras, Rescue Air bags

I have gotten the quotes and options for repairing Foresty 5

I have been talking with Pierce and Stuphen for replacement of Engine 2 options, to present to the council.

Thank you

Dustin

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Transfer Station

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July selectboard Report

1- 11 Recycling Cans Hauled 16 Tons

2 - 8 Demo Cans Hauled 26 Tons

3 - 5 Trash Cans Hauled 58 Tons

4- Grimmel Hauled 3 cans of metal

5 Mowing a round facility stained decking

6 Shipped 3 boxes of batteries for recycling

7 Trash packer 1 was serviced had 250 hours on motor