



1. Department Head/Safety Committee Meeting

Assessing

The 2025 Tax Commitment is complete. Following an initial surge in resident inquiries, activity has slowed. The department is focused on rebuilding data in the revaluation software. Lindsey presented at the recent Community Conversations meeting and plans to conduct additional field visits as weather allows.

Buildings

Demolition is nearly complete at the Watts Block building of the fire escape stairs and the kitchen with the help of the Public Works Department. There were 3 heat pumps replaced, and security cameras installed at the Academy Building. There are 8 windows to be replaced in the Municipal Building-2 in the public restroom across from the Food Pantry, and 6 windows in the empty room adjacent to the Police quarters. Dean is getting a quote for A/C/ installation in the Lura Libby Room from Rockcoast Plumbing and Heating. The building facilities assessment is to be completed by the end of December and will be shared with all departments.

Code Enforcement

The Planning Board are working on Land Use Ordinance amendments now through March which includes updating the mining ordinance. Chief Hanna has worked on drafting a Knox Box ordinance. The ordinance will be retroactive for commercial buildings and business owners will be required to let the town know when they have rekeyed the building. Jersey Mikes plans their business opening for November 12th. AT&T projects to open in December. Starbucks and the empty store front are not completed yet. The Sports Complex is currently in the permitting process.

Environmental Department

A total of 180 million gallons were discharged. All spray fields are operational. Video inspections on Beechwood Street revealed significant root intrusion. Several unbilled sewer connections were identified and corrected. Gravel from the Knox Street Rebuild Project is being relocated to TED for reuse.

Fire-EMS

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) training was rescheduled to December. A full evaluation of NIMS training needs will be conducted to determine which departments need additional training. The federal NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) has been discontinued and replaced by a new system effective January 1, 2026.

This transition will require adjustments to town ordinances and operational procedures as Fire and EMS reporting is merged. The sleeping quarters at Watts Block are now complete.

Library

There has been great attendance of Library programming. They are currently planning programming for 2026.

Planning

The Knox Street Rebuild Project remains on schedule and within budget. Storm drain installation is complete. Work will resume in April 2026, with project completion expected by June 2026. John expressed appreciation to Public Works for assisting with material hauling. The town received FEMA grants for the design of the Water Street and Public Landing pump stations which are to be completed by early January. Working Waterfront had their first public outreach workshop hosted by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute last week. The bidding of MDOT projects is on hold due to the government shutdown which may affect the school sidewalk project. Grants have been submitted to rebuild the multi-purpose Water Tower Trail.

Recreation Department

Basketball season is beginning, including the first-ever Pre-K basketball program. Adult Pickup Basketball will take place at Thomaston Grammar School for Thomaston, Rockland, and Cushing residents. Homeworthy will no longer receive the \$10,000 heating assistance grant; however, the Recreation Department is collaborating with them to host the Warm Hearts Gala on December 5th at the Rockland Elks Lodge (tickets \$50). Thomaston crewnecks are now for sale at the Town Office. Planning for the 2026 Fourth of July celebration will begin soon.

Town Office

The Citizen Satisfaction Survey closes Friday. Kara and Joanne will tabulate paper submissions and compile overall results. FY26 budget materials will be distributed to Department Heads in December. This year, the Select Board and Budget Committee will work jointly on the budget process. Jodell is finalizing the FY25 audit.

2. Economic and Community Development Committee

Monthly meeting of the ECDC to discuss the coordinator's report, future of Thomaston Grocery, and Thomaston's 250th anniversary planning.

3. Cemetery Meeting

Chris Rector and I met with Ian Emmott regarding the abandonment of past burial grounds on Dragon Cement property. Ian is working with the Knights of Columbus to seek means of potentially purchasing the property.

4. Employee Meetings

Courtney Farnum, John Fancy, Kendray Rodriguez, Eric Quatrano, Marina Friel, Dave Hanna, Jamie Leo

5. Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)-Tax Reform Working Group

Discussed updates on Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force, priorities of the working group, and preparation for the next regular LPC meeting in January.

6. Women Leading Government Meeting

Monthly Board meeting to discuss ongoing efforts to become a Maine Municipal Association affiliate group and plan future professional development programs.

7. Maine Municipal Association-Cash Management Workshop

I attended a day long workshop on various topics like introduction to cash management, receipts, receivables, operating and capital budgets, cash flow forecasts, investments, and banking relations.

8. Midcoast Municipal Association Meeting

Director Samantha Horn of Maine State Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) gave a presentation of the department's services that include housing opportunity programs, municipal planning assistance, community resiliency partnerships, floodplain management, Maine coastal programs, Volunteer Maine, code enforcement training, and the State Resilience Office.

9. Other

Citizen Survey Report

We received 104 surveys on SurveyMonkey and 112 paper surveys, totaling 216 responses. Joanne and I have tallied results and will compile a final report for the Select Board at their next meeting in December.