

Machias Select Board Meeting  
Wednesday, January 28, 2026  
At Machias Tele-Business Center

In attendance: Selectboard members - Chairman Jake Patryn, Ben Edwards and Mike Hinerman; Town Manager Sara Dedmon, Finance Director Nicholas Macdonald, Ambulance Director Ryan Maker, Asst. Ambulance Director Stephen Simmons, Paul Sylvain of the MVNO and Tora Johnson of Sunrise County Economic Council, Recording Secretary Sharon Mack.

Jake Patryn called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

MINUTES: On a motion by Hinerman, second by Edwards, the board **VOTED** to approve the December 17, 2025 minutes as presented.

WARRANTS: On a motion by Hinerman, second by Edwards, the board **VOTED** to approve the Warrants

Payroll: 12/19/25 #77 \$48,254.14, 12/26/25 #79 \$55,865.25,  
01/02/26 #82 \$36,647.03, 01/09/26 #84 \$54,456.43, 1/16/26 #86  
\$36,869.12, 1/23/26 #88 \$54,300.03

Payables: 12/12/25 #76 \$96,581.54, 12/19/25 #78 \$164,823.69,  
12/26/25 #80 \$77,636.39, 01/2/26 #83 \$64,133.90, 1/9/26 #85  
\$125,684.34, 1/16/26 #87 \$168,423.80, 1/23/26 #89 \$1,015,420.02

School: 12/24/25 Payroll #77687 \$240,537.91 Payables #77691  
\$367,780.21, 1/9/26 Payroll #77937 \$271,007.8 Payables #77940  
\$27,124.33, 1/23/26 Payroll #78008 218,599.24 Payables  
\$170,271.23

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **PURCHASE OF A POWER LIFT STRETCHER** – Ryan Maker explained that a new ambulance should be delivered in March or April and the original plan was to retire the oldest ambulance. He determined it makes sense to keep the fourth ambulance to be used for calls in town only. It needs a stretcher, which he noted was a 10-15 year investment of \$34,457. He said the service has enough EMTs ready and will staff the fourth unit. Ryan said the fourth ambulance would remain a basic service but if the state determines it should be upgraded to paramedic level, which all three of the other ambulances are, he would come back to the town for approval of the purchase of a \$30,000-\$40,000 cardiac monitor to fulfill that level of care.

On a motion by Mike Hinerman, second by Ben Edwards, the board

**VOTED** to approve up to \$35,000 for the purchase of a power lift stretcher for the ambulance service.

Ryan Maker added that the service recently took delivery of a new pickup truck and side by side to be used for remote calls.

**2. BUDGET PROCESS** – Sarah Dedmon outlined the 2026-2027 budget process. Meetings with department heads are already underway, and the Budget Committee will meet through March and April from 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays. She said there are Five members and an alternate and encouraged Select Board members to participate in the process.

**3. SAFETY WORKS PROGRAM** – Nick MacDonald outlined the Maine Municipal Association Safety Works Program and a checklist of actions the town could accomplish. With 10 percent compliance, the town could save \$12,000 a year in workers' compensation costs. He said most issues are slip and fall injuries. Currently the cost is \$120,252 annually. He said all town employees including AOS employees would participate. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the board

**VOTED** to enter into the MMA Safety Works Insurance Program.

**Other Business: -**

1. Tora Johnson reported that the leadership committee for the Upper Machias Bay Master Plan met on Tuesday with Maine DOT and that 11th hour changes were announced by MDOT. She said the committee, state, and local officials were blindsided. Tora said there was consensus on removing the bridge, including vending and parking areas on the dike surface and testing and monitoring of the former landfill on Middle River. She said that now the MDOT is saying they will not support any solution other than replacement in kind. Ben Edwards noted that MDOT has previously always said the town could chart their own path, and they would support their decisions. Ben Edwards said he is furious that MDOT built trust in the community-led process and now they have wasted an entire year of a broad swath of Downeast leadership's time. Ben said he needs to question how this happened. Tora Johnson said no other state or federal agency was apprised of MDOT decision prior to the meeting. She described the action as "not a complete loss, but a major disruption in what was supposed to be a community-led, community-driven process."

2. Sarah Dedmon reported that Marcus LiBrizzi, author of a book on the community of Atusville and an UMM professor, is working on a \$4,000 grant to make improvements at the historic Atusville site. Local resident Faye Mack Costa will also be working with the town and Marcus LiBrizzi on the project.

3. Sarah Dedmon reported that another grant that late town manager Bill Kitchen applied for will be funding \$200,000 worth of upgrades to the town's Public Safety Building.

4. Sarah Dedmon said Public Works is readying for another winter storm this weekend.

5. Sarah Dedmon said she will be a panel speaker next week at a conference in Portland focused on regional collaboration.

6. Sarah Dedmon reminded the select board that the planning board will be voting on the proposed Solar Ordinance at 6 p.m. February 4, 2026.

7. Sarah Dedmon said she is working with the Machias Chamber of Commerce on a Maine Community Foundation Grant to replace the roof at Station 1898 and is optimistic about the grant.

8. Jake Patryn said he has been in discussion with harbor officials in Roque Bluffs and Jonesport about development at their harbors and all are eyeing working waterfront projects.

ADJOURN - On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the board

**VOTED** to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.