

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JANUARY 29, 2024

A meeting of the Machias Board of Select-people was called to order at 6:03 PM by Chairman Jake Patryn. In attendance were Board members Carole Porcher (via Zoom), Sandra Sinford, Ben Edwards, and Michael Hinerman; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord (via Zoom); Police Chief Keith Mercier; Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker; Fire Chief Joey Dennison (via Zoom); Anne Marie Evans, Stephen Simmons, Ross Pedersen (via Zoom).

Mr. Kitchen explained that this is technically an emergency meeting of the Board with no specific agenda but mainly to discuss the devastating affects of the recent weather on Town facilities. He noted that many, many volunteers gave their time to help in removing debris and came together to offer assistance. Mr. Kitchen noted efforts to establish a pop-up town office to continue needed services to the community such as vehicle registrations and other necessary services. Mr. Kitchen explained that the Town has property insurance with Maine Municipal Association and that an insurance adjuster surveyed the damage caused by the flood to the town office two weeks after the date of the flood. He noted that the rugs in the town office had to be pulled up, walls removed, and mold remediation performed. Mr. Kitchen explained that a list of damages to municipal property is being compiled; he noted that a threshold has to be met to be eligible for FEMA funding and that the Town will apply for whatever is not covered under the Town's insurance. Mr. Patryn noted that that the Town needs to consider precautions so this does not happen again. Mr. Kitchen pointed out that the State had been developing plans for a flood wall. Mr. Kitchen also noted major damage to the Sunrise Trail and that a massive re-build will have to be undertaken to the trail.

Police Chief Keith Mercier reviewed assistance provided by the police department. He noted that officers responded to 1326 calls for assistance in 2023.

Chief Mercier asked the Board to hire a part-time police officer to fill shifts.

On a motion by Michael Hinerman, seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board VOTED:

Based on the recommendation of the Police Chief, to hire Ryan Allen as a part-time officer

Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker reviewed the activities of the Machias Ambulance Service. He explained that he has applied for \$150,000. in funding for a paramedics school for personnel. Mr. Maker told the Board that all three ambulances are in service.

The Board discussed utilizing the tele-business center as the town office. Mr. Kitchen reviewed the layout for using the tele-business center. He discussed the possibility of either selling the Court Street building, building a completely new town office, or continued use of the tele-business center as a town office. Mr. Patryn noted the need to consider all the options. The Board discussed development of a committee to look at the options. Mr. Patryn suggested that a storm recovery committee should be looked at to examine long-range plans. Mr. Patryn suggested that the members of the Board

could think of people willing to serve on a committee. Ms. Porcher suggested advertising for interested people.

On a motion by Ben Edwards, seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM.