

# MACHIAS SELECT BOARD

## MINUTES

**FEBRUARY 26, 2025**

Chairman Jacob Patryn called a meeting of the Machias Select Board to order at 6:01 PM. Also present were Select Board members Ben Edwards, Carole Porcher, Michael Hinerman, and Sandra Sinford; Machias Town Manager Sarah Craighead Dedmon; Tony Bennett, Jodi Look, James Jackson, Anne-Marie Evans, Paul Sylvain, Machias Police Chief Keith Mercier, and Lt. Tim Mace.

### **1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION**

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board

**VOTED:**

To adopt the minutes with one typo correction, fixing a reference to Chief Patryn instead of Chief Maker.

### **2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION**

On a motion by Carole Porcher and seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board

**VOTED:**

To approve payroll warrant #59 for \$32,758.19; #61 for \$24,092.07; #63 for \$29,637.47; #65 for \$35,935.33; #67 for \$31,524.69; #69 for \$22,935.02, and #71 for \$31,786.46

On a motion by Carole Porcher and seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board

**VOTED:**

To approve accounts payable warrant #60 for \$171,359.73; #62 for \$3,815,410.03; #64 for \$669,429.56; #66 for \$179,079.43; #68 in the amount of \$55,988.48; #70 for \$81,156.71, and #72 for \$42,992.24.

On a motion by Sandra Sinford and seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board

**VOTED:**

To approve school warrant #011025 for \$378,091.18; #012425 for \$319,535.71; #020725 for \$499,459.64, and 022125 for \$271,819.35.

### **3. MACHIAS ASSESSOR POSITION**

Anthony Bennett, a certified assessor working alongside Machias Assessor Doug Guy, attended the meeting to indicate his interest in filling the vacancy that will be left when Doug resigns. Previously, Mr. Guy submitted a letter of support for Mr. Bennett as his replacement.

The Board thanked Mr. Bennett for his attendance and indicated that the Town would contact him again to continue the application and interview process.

### **4. TOWN MEETING UPDATE**

The Board discussed finalizing the date of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. In recent years, the Board has voted to ask the voters to move the meeting to September.

Ben Edwards said he would be fine with moving the meeting back to June but would like to see future strategy play a strong role in all of the department's budget discussions.

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board

**VOTED:**

To approve the Town Meeting date of June 11, 2025.

### **5. SOLAR MORATORIUM**

Sarah Craighead Dedmon told the Board that recent interest in the development of a local solar farm meant it would be a good time to ask the Machias voters to consider a solar ordinance. But first, she said it would be appropriate to place a 180-day renewable moratorium in effect if the voters approved.

Audience members suggested adding a commercial wind moratorium and tower moratorium to the agenda of the public hearing and special town meeting since they would already be happening.

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

**VOTED:**

To schedule a public hearing and special town meeting to discuss possible wind, solar, and tower moratorium ordinances.

### **6. SEWER ORDINANCE MODIFICATION**

Sarah Craighead Dedmon told the Board that a business person in an adjoining town had inquired about tying into the Machias Sewer System at their own expense. Oliver Associates leadership confirmed that the plant has more than adequate capacity and suggested a modification to the ordinance.

Sarah agreed to invite Oliver leadership to attend the public hearing in order to answer any questions.

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

**VOTED:**

To explore modifying our sewer ordinance to allow addresses outside of Machias to tie into the system at the upcoming public hearing and special town meeting, scheduled for March 12 and March 26.

## **7. STATION 1898 BOXCAR OWNERSHIP**

Jodi Look of the Machias Ridge Riders Trail Club attended the meeting to share that the Club was considering purchasing the boxcar immediately adjacent to Station 1898 for use as a club house.

The Ridge Riders maintain over 100 miles of trails, most of them privately owned, that connect through Machias. The boxcar, which was put up for sale by Kehben Grier of the Beehive Design Collective, has already been fitted out for office space, and was for sale for \$11,000.

Sarah Craighead Dedmon shared that she had been working to secure local ownership for the boxcar when she learned it had been put up for sale, because she did not want the car to leave the Station 1898 grounds, where it completes the look of an old train station.

Sarah asked the Board to consider contributing \$1,000 to the purchase of the car, in exchange for right of first refusal should the Ridge Riders ever need to sell the car.

On a motion by Carole Porcher and seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board

**VOTED:**

To allocate \$1,000 from the Board contingency fund to assist the Machias Ridge Riders in the purchase of the Station 1898 Boxcar reliant on the Town receiving right of first refusal in the event they sell it.

## **8. MACHIAS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Ann-Marie Evans and James Jackson of the Machias Comprehensive Plan Committee attended with an update, saying they would like the Board to consider sharing their priorities for the future of Machias, by ranking the Comp Plan chapters in order of priority.

Chairman Patryn declined to participate in that way, saying the Comp Plan should be a way to collect information from the ground up, and that he would participate only as a resident.

Because no decision has yet been made on the facilitation of the comprehensive plan, Ms. Evans asked that the Board not interfere if the committee plowed ahead anyway, the Board agreed.

The Board said they would consider the assignment at its next meeting.

### **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Sandra Sinford and seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board

**VOTED:**

To enter executive session in accordance with Title 1 Chapter 13 MRSA §405 Paragraph 6A at 7:45 PM.

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Carole Porcher the Board

**VOTED:**

To exit executive session at 8:15 PM. No decisions were made.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Carole Porcher the Board

**VOTED:**

To adjourn at 8:15 PM.