

Machias Selectboard Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Machias Tele-Business Center

Chairman Jacob Patryn called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present were: Jacob Patryn Chairman, Selectboard members; Mike Hinerman, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher. Also present were Town Manager Sarah Craighead Dedmon, Machias Police Chief Keith Mercier, town planning consultant Tora Johnson and recording secretary Sharon Mack. Absent: Ben Edwards

WARRANTS:

On a motion by Michael Hinerman, second by Carole Porcher the Board

VOTED:

To approve payroll warrant #74 in the amount of \$37,014.49, accounts payable warrant #75 in the amount of \$128,108.01, payroll warrant #76 in the amount of \$33,014.00, accounts payable warrant #77 in the amount of \$458,512.27, school warrant 30725 in the amount of \$304,699.91, payroll warrant #78 in the amount of \$21,231.84, account payable warrant #79 in the amount of \$28,426.57, payroll warrant #80 in the amount of \$30,662.04, accounts payable warrant #82 in the amount of \$82,428.44, school warrant #32125 in the amount of \$608,843.54, payroll warrant #81 in the amount of \$952.67, payroll warrant #83 in the amount of \$45,049.66, accounts payable warrant #84 in the amount of \$297,516.20, payroll warrant #85 in the amount of \$42,686.81, accounts payroll warrant #86 in the amount of \$171,617.64, school warrant #40425 in the amount of \$320,553.34.

Payroll Warrants were approved and signed by a motion by Michael Hinerman, second by Carole Porcher.

Accounts Payable warrants were approved and signed by a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Michael Hinerman.

School warrants were approved and signed by a motion by Porcher, second by Hinerman.

TOWN REPORT PRINTING BIDS:

Four bids were opened and read. All bids were for 300 copies, stapled, color cover and 100 pages.

1. Downeast Graphics & Printing of Ellsworth, \$1,599.
2. Albison's of Augusta, \$1,568.
3. Express Copy of Portland, \$872.30
4. Snowman Group of Herman, \$958.54

After a short discussion and consultation by text with Asst. Town Clerk Jane Foss, it was determined to allow the town clerks to select which of the two lowest bidders (Express and Snowman) they would prefer working with.

Motion by Carole Porcher, second by Michael Hinerman

VOTE: unanimous.

AMBULANCE WRITE OFF:

Ambulance Director Ryan Maker attended via audio connection and said Comstar, the company used for billing and collections by the Machias Ambulance Service, has identified \$326,271.79 in uncollectable medical debt. He explained this debt has been accrued since 2016 and averages \$35,000 to 40,000 per year. He said another \$50,000 will be entering into collections to attempt to recoup those debts. The money will come from the town's fund balance. Jacob Patryn asked Ryan Maker to monitor that debt and come back to the board twice a year with details. Sinford also asked Ryan Maker for data regarding the number of patient transfer calls for service versus emergency calls.

VOTED

The board unanimously voted to write off \$326,271.79 of medical debt on a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Sandra Sinford.

TOWN MANAGER UPDATE:

Sarah Dedmon provided a short update on progress with the installation of a generator and flagpole at the town office and reported that budget workshops were progressing.

Sunrise Community Economic Council – Community Action Grant:

Tora Johnson of Sunrise Community Economic Council, who provides the town with planning expertise, said the town should be notified soon regarding its Community Action Grant which would provide assistance with the town's comprehensive plan, audio and visual upgrades at the town office meeting room, and the town's stormwater mapping project. She said an intern will be hired for a paid position for the mapping project. She also updated the board on progress of the comprehensive planning committee, which is creating a community and other surveys and will be holding public outreach meetings over the summer.

On a motion by Michael Hinerman, second by Carole Porcher, the board voted to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.