

**Machias Selectboard Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 23, 2025**  
**Machias Tele-Business Center**

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

Present were: Jake Patryn Chairman, Vice Chairman Ben Edwards, Select Board members Mike Hinerman, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher. Also present were Town Manager Sarah Craighead Dedmon, Machias Police Chief Keith Mercier, Police Lt. Tim Mace, Michael Schoppee Public Works Director, MVNO reporter Paul Sylvain, recording secretary Sharon Mack.

**MINUTES:** On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the committee's April 9, 2025 minutes were unanimously approved.

**WARRANTS:** No warrants.

**ASSESSOR'S APPOINTMENT PAPERS:** The board members signed the papers For Anthony Bennett.

**LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS:**

1. Helen's Restaurant, signed by the board.
2. The Anchor, signed by the board.

**EXCAVATOR BIDS:**

Three bids for a public works excavator were opened and will be reviewed by Sarah Dedmon and Public Works Director Mike Schoppee. Their recommendations will be brought back to the Select Board for approval.

The bids were:

Milton Cat: \$118,000; 1 year warranty, \$386.67; 3 and 5 year warranty, \$1226.; mulcher, \$34,092.

Beauregard Equipment of Bangor: \$125,400; three year warranty, \$1450; five year warranty, \$2450; mulcher, \$24,000.

United Construction and Forestry: it was noted there were several amendments made to the specifications of the bid request; \$127,600; three year warranty, #1100; five year warranty; mulcher, \$25,450.

### **EXCISE TAX REFUND:**

Jake Patryn explained that a Northfield resident overlooked his qualifications for a veterans' discount on the excise tax for a 1997 Geo Tracker in the amount of \$61.28.

By a motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Carole Porcher, the board approved the refund.

### **LIBRARY WALKWAY AND SWING SET:**

Sarah Dedmon explained that a grassy path from the parking lot shared with the Catholic Church and the Porter Memorial Library is dangerous and icy in the winter and several people have fallen. She said the part of the land, a small strip, is owned by the town. The Potter's Hands Carpentry has offered to generously donate an asphalt or concrete walkway - estimated at 52" wide by 100 feet long - that will be maintained by the library. Sarah Dedmon explained that the ownership is very convoluted and that the town owns the Revolutionary War statue at the front of the library but the library owns the wall. The issue is further complicated because the town owns a swing set behind the library but it is on library property where the town placed it in the 1980s or 90s. Sarah Dedmon asked that the board turn ownership of the swing set over to the library. The board questioned why, if the town is not benefitting from the small strip of land, why it can't be transferred to the library. Sarah Dedmon said she will check the property's survey and with the Maine Municipal Association to see if the ownership issues could be cleared up with a simple transfer.

By a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Ben Edwards, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the walkway project pending Mike Schoppee's approval of the design.

By a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Michael Hinerman, the Select Board unanimously voted to gift the swing set to the library after Mike Schoppee makes a minor repair.

## **SEWER RATES:**

Sarah Dedmon said that as the board heads into budget deliberations, she wanted them aware that the existing sewer rates do not cover sewer expenses resulting in a loss of tens of thousands of dollars annually. She said at some point, the board will have to look at an increase but suggested it be done in small increments each year over two to three years, rather than levying one large increase. She noted that Machias' sewer rates are below average in Maine.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Sarah Dedmon said the Machias Ambulance Service is hosting a golf tournament at Barren View Golf Course to raise money for an off-road UTV for rescue purposes. The event is a scramble with teams of four, called the Kitchen Cup, the tournament will have entertainment and a food truck and is garnering lots of sponsors. She stated that true to Bill Kitchen's original dress style, particularly fun socks, players will be fined if they are not wearing some item that Bill would have loved.

Sarah Dedmon also reported that because Central Maine Pyrotechnics - the only fireworks provider in the state - does not have enough staff, they cannot provide fireworks for the Fourth of July. They are already holding 40 other events that date. Sarah Dedmon suggested moving the annual fireworks to August 16, 2025, which is the last day of the Machias Wild Blueberry Festival. The Select Board agreed that was a good solution.

Sarah Dedmon said she is meeting April 24, 2025 at Bad Little Falls Park with musicians participating in the Thursday Night Concerts this summer at the Falls. The concerts are renamed Kitchen Concerts and will be generously sponsored by R.H. Foster. She said in the future, Downeast Coastal Conservancy's Middle Park could be a good alternative location as Downeast Coastal Conservancy is constructing a large stage at the park.

Sarah Dedmon also noted that a military event set for the Machias Valley Airport has been cancelled after it was determined that the runway pavement is too thin for heavy landings. She said the town's Airport Committee has restarted its monthly meetings and fly-in pancake breakfasts are being planned for this summer. Construction will also begin soon on hangars at the airport.

Sarah Dedmon said Machias Memorial High School students will conduct a community cleanup at Grove Street Park on May 7th. The public is invited to join in.

Sarah said she has asked the Maine Dept. of Transportation to look at signage and encroaching bushes at the intersection West Kennebec Road and Kennebec Road at a dangerous curve.

Sarah Dedmon said sidewalk pavers removed from town sidewalks will be priced and offered for sale. Mike Schoppee said there are many pallets full and several large piles.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

By a motion by Hinerman and second by Edwards, the selectboard unanimously voted to enter into executive session based on MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13 § 405 paragraph 6D, at 5:49 p.m.

Executive session adjourned at 6:23 p.m., motion by Mike Hinerman, second by Carole Porcher.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m., motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Carole Porcher.