

Machias Select Board Minutes
May 13, 2026
@ Machias Tele-Communications Building

Call to Order: Jacob (Jake) Patryn, Chairman at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Jake Patryn, Carole Porcher, Ben Edwards, Mike Hinerman, Sandra Sinford, Town Manager Sarah Dedmon, Town Clerk Sandra Clifton, Finance Director Nicholas MacDonald, Paul Sylvain of the MVNO, Ambulance Director Ryan Maker, Ambulance EMT Tina Ingemi, Tora Johnson of SCEC.

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

VOTED to adopt the minutes from the Select Board/Budget Committee meeting of 04/16/2026 as presented;

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

VOTED to adopt the minutes from the Select Board Meeting 04/22/2026;

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

VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Budget/Select Board meeting of 04/22/26 as presented;

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

VOTED to amend the 05/05/26 Select Board/Budget Committee minutes to correct the mill rate from 17.75 to be 17.20.

Signatures Needed

1. **Fire Contract** - On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher the board.

VOTED to approve the renewal of the fire contract with the Town of Northfield.

2. **Appointments** - Due to the resignation of Planning Board member Jacob Potter-Rivera, Sarah Dedmon said the board should move Dean Petruzzi from an alternate position to a full member. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

VOTED to appoint Dean Petruzzi as a full-time planning board member.

New Business:

1. RMG Student Presentation - cancelled

2. Warrants - The board agreed to handle warrants on-line with digital signatures. Sarah Dedmon said this process has been cleared by the town's attorneys and can be expanded in the future to serve other departments. On a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Ben Edwards, the board

VOTED to adopt an electronic signature policy.

3. Tax Abatements - Sandra Clifton explained that an abatement should be made for a mobile home (RE 345) that had been 20-times overvalued for many years. The overcharges were \$646.95 in 2024 and \$470.25 in 2025. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

VOTED to discharge the real estate debt for property RE 345.

4. Revision of Background Check & Fitness for Duty Evaluation Policy

– Ryan Maker and Tina Ingemi explained that some amendments regarding timeline would make the policy faster and more efficient and provide greater flexibility in hiring without compromising standards. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher the board approved the amendments to the policy.

5. Appoint Emergency Management Director – Ryan Maker stated this position was previously filled by the retired fire chief Joe Dennison and has no stipend. The position is key in case of a mass casualty incident, terrorist attack, cyber security attack and other incidents. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board **VOTED** to appoint Ryan Maker as Emergency Management Director for the Town of Machias.

6. Foreclosure Sale – Sarah Dedmon explained that the tax acquired property at 48 Fremont Street is not in great shape and is being listed with a realtor for \$55,000. She explained that according to state law, only the select board can approve a sale of tax acquired property and proceeds, if the property is sold, would go back to the original owners. She said there are seven more properties that could be listed and she is also looking into a derelict building ordinance. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

VOTED to authorize the town manager to list tax acquired properties for sale with a realtor.

7. Machias Ambulance Write-Offs – Ryan Maker said there was \$50,311.67 in ambulance services for 2023 and the first two quarters of 2024 that the service the ambulance uses to collect debts has deemed uncollectable. Ryan Maker said he is researching converting to a service that buys the bad debts. The current service just attempts to collect them. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

VOTED to approve the bad debt write offs in the amount of \$50,311.67.

8. Harbor Ordinance Workshop – Jake Patryn said he will meet in the coming week with the Army Corps of Engineers about dredging. The board agreed to set a Harbor Ordinance Workshop for 4:30 p.m. May 27, 2026 and bump the regular board meeting to 5:30 p.m.

9. Economic Development Conference – Sarah Dedmon, Nick MacDonald and Carole Porcher will be attending a Build Maine economic development conference in Skowhegan on June 2 and 3, 2026. Sarah Dedmon asked the board to pay Carole Porcher's expenses. The select board **VOTED** to take up to \$750 from the Board's Contingency Fund for Carole Porcher's hotel and registration fees.

Town Manager's Update

1. Sarah Dedmon told the board there will be three new articles for town meeting. One would give the select board the authority to move funds between departments. The second amends the tax acquired property sale article in accordance with state law. The third will allow the town to spend up to 3/12th of its annual budget before the annual town meeting.

2. Sarah Dedmon said she will be hosting "coffee with the town manager" at various locations around town to help residents more fully understand the budget.

3. Sarah said the Kitchen Concerts will be held this season in Middle River Park, each Thursday from June 18-August 13, 2026 and will include solo opening acts. The Ridge Riders Club will be selling refreshments.

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

VOTED to adjourn at 6:41 p.m.