

**Machias Select Board Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**  
**Machias Tele-Business Center**

Chairman Jacob "Jake" Patryn called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Present were: Jake Patryn, Select Board Vice Chairman Ben Edwards, Selectboard members Miike Hinerman, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher. Also present were Town Manager Sarah Craighead Dedmon, Machias Police Chief Keith Mercier, Police Lt. Tim Mace, Machias Ambulance Director Ryan Maker, Tora Johnson of Sunrise County Economic Council, MVNO reporter Paul Sylvain, recording secretary Sharon Mack.

**MINUTES:** On a motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Michael Hinerman, the board's April 23 minutes were unanimously approved.

**WARRANTS:**

On a motion Carole Porcher, second by Sandra Sinford

VOTED:

To approve payroll warrant #87 in the amount of \$23,333.17; #89 in the amount of \$34,839.31; #91 in the amount of \$36,466.76; #93 in the amount of \$34,039.09; #95 in the amount of \$22,383.52, motion by Carole Porcher, second by Sandra Sinford.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Mike Hinerman

VOTED:

To approve Accounts Payable warrant #88 in the amount of \$87,935.49; #90 in the amount of \$1,251,887.45; #92 in the amount of \$55,508.70; #94 in the amount of \$1,506,436.85; #96 in the amount of \$190,731.19, motion by Carole Porcher, second by Mike Hinerman.

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Carole Porcher

VOTED:

To approve School Warrant #041825 in the amount of \$327,034.59; #050225 in the amount of \$430,883.79.

**UNION CONTRACT:** The Select Board signed a three-year contract with the Fraternal Order of Police for the Machias Police Department.

**Signatures:** The Select Board members all signed a special amusement and entertainment permit for Mason's Brewery, US Rt 1, for a one day event.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE TOWN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**

- The Select Board authorized transferring \$6500 from the Comprehensive Plan Account as that account is covered 100% by the Community Action Grant obtained by Sunrise County Economic Council. The equipment will enable meetings to be streamed online, training to be held in the conference room, as well as the room being an emergency site if needed. The funds will purchase a large television with swinging arm, an OWL, which tracks individual speakers, and a computer. On a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Mike Hinerman.

**2. SEWER ABATEMENT** - The Select Board authorized a sewer abatement for 22 Water Street, which experienced a broken pipe in late December. The property's first quarter bill was \$913.30 when it normally would have been about \$110. The board voted to approve an abatement down to an agreed upon average bill, as provided by town office staff.

On a motion by Mike Hinerman, second by Carole Porcher, unanimous vote.

**3. FORECLOSED PROPERTY** - The Select Board approved allowing the former owner of 7 School Street to purchase his property back from the town upon final payment of all back taxes, up coming 2025 taxes, current sewer and sewer liens - an amount approximately \$8,000, and to provide a quit claim deed when those payments are made. Motion by Ben Edwards, second by Sandra Sinford, unanimous vote.

**4. SALE OF OLDER AMBULANCE** - Machias Ambulance Director Ryan Maker said he would like to sell the old ambulance as it is still in serviceable condition for a service that has far fewer calls than Machias. He said he would estimate it would sell for \$15,000 to \$20,000 and he will reach out to services in Moosabec, DownEast and Dennysville. If none of those services are interested in purchasing the ambulance, it would be placed out to bid. The select Board approved the sale of the older ambulance at Maker's discretion, motion by Mike Hinerman, second by Sandra Sinford, unanimous vote.

**5. AMBULANCE GRANT** - Ryan Maker said his service had received a \$34,000 state-offered EMS Supplemental Grant, one of only five services in Maine to obtain the award. There is no match, he said, and the funds will be used for training. The Select Board voted to approve and accept the grant and to allow Ryan Maker to sign the contract. Motion by Carole Porcher, second by Mike Hinerman, unanimous vote.

**6. KITCHEN KUP UPDATE** - Ryan Maker updated the Select Board on the upcoming May 31 Kitchen Kup golf tournament to be held at Barren View Golf Course. He said all tee times are almost sold out and profits should be about \$15,000. The community has been very generous with their support, he added. The funds will be used to purchase a closed trailer to house a yet-to-be-purchased rescue Utility Vehicle. The UTV will be purchased with grant funds and Ryan Maker

expects it to be \$37,000. It will come fully outfitted for remote rescues and transports.

**7. NEW EQUIPMENT** – Ryan Maker said he has about \$200,000 in surplus funds for the past fiscal year and would like to waive the bid process to make two major equipment purchases: Two stair chairs for \$10,364.18, and a Hoover Jack, which lifts patients from the floor or ground to the level of the stretcher. The Jack has a weight capacity of 1200 pounds and cost \$7,767. The board agreed that since the purchase was specialty medical equipment, the bid process could be waived. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Sandra Sinford, unanimous vote.

**8. SHELLFISH ORDINANCE** – Jake Patryn presented a proposed shellfish ordinance that he wrote in consultation with the town of Machiasport. He said the Maine Department of Marine Resources requires a shellfish warden and a shellfish committee. Tora Johnson, who serves on the state’s Shellfish Advisory Council, will research how to include non-residents in the process so as not to disenfranchise non-residents that are currently working in Kennebec Bay. She said this process could also be a great assessment tool for determining the health and status of the bay.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. 7 COURT STREET** – Sarah Dedmon said she had received three proposals for the rehabilitation of the former town office. She stated the town’s insurance will pay the costs to restore the office space. She said the town has no intention to move back into the building but that it could be leased. She said the three proposals were Bangor Abatement at \$56,624; Joey Dennison at \$57,000; and Alan Lyford at \$61,500. The Select Board expressed its desire to give preference to the two local contractors. The Select Board voted to allow Sarah Dedmon to determine each contractor’s time line for the work and to award the job at her discretion to one of the local contractors. Motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Ben Edwards, unanimous vote.

## **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Sarah Dedmon announced that the town’s 20-year veteran Finance Director, Meghan Dennison had presented her resignation, effective June 6, 2025. The search for a replacement is underway.

Sarah Dedmon said signs for the town office location had cost a bit more than proposed. They will cost \$1276. The Select Board authorized her to spend up to \$1276 from the selectmen’s contingency account on a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Mike Hinerman, unanimous vote.

Sarah Dedmon announced that Janice Whitney, a teacher at Rose Gaffney School in Machias has been selected as Washington County’s Teacher of the Year.

Sarah Dedmon said a clean-up of the Grove Street playground area yielded 2,820 pounds of trash and debris.

Sarah Dedmon said she had received word the town has been awarded three grants to the late town manager Bill Kitchen had applied for. They include: a generator for the town office; DOT installing sidewalks on Steel Hill on Court Street; and a Maine Municipal Association Safety Grant for new office chairs for the town office staff.

Sarah Dedmon reported that a taxi lane at the Machias Valley Airport will be built in June 2025, and that at least two people are inquiring about building hangars. She said that the town gets a small lease fee for the land and property taxes on any hangars that will be built.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Tora Johnson reported that an intern has been hired to map the Machias stormwater system through the Community Action Grant. The mapping will take place this summer. She said there was also a tour of the town's closed landfill and a Brownfields' Team will be drafting regulations to submit to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. She said she has also created a master plan for Machias Bay.

Sandra Sinford expressed concern regarding parking issues at South Side Ballfield. Sarah Dedmon said she will look into a property that abuts the field that the town owns to see if it is suitable for additional parking.

The Select Board asked about the cost of a permanent Christmas tree on the island at Jeremiah O'Brien Bridge. Sarah Dedmon said the cost for a 20-foot fir tree was \$10,000. It was suggested she get prices for a smaller tree.

The Select Board went into executive session at 6:50 p.m. in accordance with MRSA Title 36 Chapter 105 Subchapter 8, 841 (2), for an abatement. Motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman. Unanimous vote.

The Select Board voted to exit the executive session at 7:08 PM. No decisions were made.

On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.