

Machias Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 28, 2025
Machias Tele-Business Center

Call to Order: Jacob (Jake) Patryn, Chairman called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Present were: Jake Patryn, Select Board Vice Chairman Ben Edwards, Select Board members Mike Hinerman, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher. Also present were Town Manager Sarah Craighead Dedmon, Tora Johnson, Code Enforcement Officer Betsy Fitzgerald, Paul Sylvain of the Machias Valley News Observer and recording secretary Sharon Mack. Bob Berta of County Wide arrived at 6:05 p.m.

At 5 p.m., on a motion by Mike Hinerman and second by Sandra Sinford, the Select Board

VOTED: To enter into Executive Session in accordance with Title 1 MRSA §405 (6)(E)

At 5:25 p.m, on a motion by Ben Edwards, and second by Carole Porcher, the Select Board

VOTED: To exit the Executive Session without comment.

Public Hearing

The Select Board held a public hearing on a proposed consent agreement concerning Map 8 Lots 17 & 18 and possible action on Consent Agreement concerning M 8 Lots 17 & 18, property owned by SFS Development, which is under construction as a self-storage facility. Owners Randy Sinclair and Grady Burns represented SFS and presented a map indicating the property, existing structures and planned remediation measures. SFS is currently in remediation with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for encroaching their project into a natural resource area. SFS owner Sinclair said five buildings and a center cement pad are already in place but several other cement pads will be removed as part of the remediation. The Select Board questioned whether fire and EMS vehicles could fit between the storage buildings. Sinclair assured them there was a 25 feet wide entry and lanes between buildings. Selectperson Ben Edwards said there was a question whether the Machias Planning

Board had approved the new configuration and explained that the new plan must be approved, along with an after-the-fact permit by the town's planning board. Randy Sinclair explained he wanted to quickly get the permit and remediation behind him as he has future plans for development of a 100 unit mobile home park and construction of a Dairy Queen shop in Machias.

Upon advice of the town attorney, Steven Wagner, who attended via Internet, the Select Board agreed to approve the consent agreement subject to the modifications of the original plan and approval of an after-the-fact building permit by the Machias Planning Board, and if so approved, authorized the town manager to sign the permit.

The public hearing was closed at 5:51 p.m.

Call to Order: At the close of the public hearing, Jake Patryn called the Select Board meeting to order.

MINUTES: REVIEW AND ACTION On a motion by Mike Hinerman, second by Ben Edwards, the Select Board VOTED to accept the May 14, 2025 minutes as presented.

Warrants: to be approved at the next meeting

The Select Board approved and signed a permit for a Special Taste Testing Event at the Blueberry Festival.

The Select Board approved and signed a Special Entertainment Permit for American Legion, Court Street.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Sandra Sinford, and based on the discussion held during the earlier public hearing, the Select Board

VOTED to accept proposed consent agreement, subject to the modifications of the original plan and the approval of an after-the-fact building permit by the Machias Planning Board, and if so approved, authorized the town manager to sign the permit.

2. Waive bid process - Public Works -Trailer

Sarah Dedmon explained the trailer would be used to transport the town's excavator and Public Works Director Mike Schoppee is

investigating used equipment. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the Select Board

VOTED to waive the bid process and authorize Schoppee to spend an amount not to exceed \$16,000.

3. Bond Vote - CDS Grant

Sarah Dedmon explained that the town has requested a waiver of a 20% match of \$532,000 to CDS Grant to upgrade sewer plant storage, which is the final infrastructure improvement to mitigate overflow issues at the plant. She said the entire project totals \$2.66 million. If the waiver is not granted, the town will borrow the matching funds. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Sandra Sinford, the Select Board **VOTED to authorize a municipal bond** in an amount sufficient to meet the CDS mandated match in the event the town does not secure a waiver.

4. Hiring Part-Time Ops Coordinator

Sarah Dedmon asked for the board's blessing on hiring the town's current CEO and former manager, Betsy Fitzgerald, as a 20-hour per week operations coordinator. Sarah Dedmon said Betsy Fitzgerald will help with day-to-day operations as well as supporting the manager and take advantage of grant opportunities. The position will be funded at \$31,200, which will come from the town's administration account. Betsy Fitzgerald would start work the following week. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the Select Board **VOTED** to approve hiring Betsy Fitzgerald as a part-time operations coordinator.

Sarah Dedmon also said she has hired Josh Spencer for 10-20 hours a week to help with issues left over from moving the town office from its former location.

5. Transfer swing to Porter Memorial Library

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Ben Edwards, the Select Board

VOTED to transfer ownership of a town-owned swing set at Porter Memorial Library to the library.

Other Business

1. Town Manager's Update - Sarah Dedmon reported

- a. The flagpole was delivered today at the town office and will be installed by 4Shore Construction.

b. Public Works employees have been provided with tick tapes due to an increase in tick populations.

c. Potter's Hands construction finished installing a new walkway across town property to Porter Memorial Library.

d. Shiretown Property Management will be starting remediation at the former town office and will start work in July.

e. Hanscom Construction will be starting taxi lane construction at the Machias Municipal Airport. She said two parties have expressed interest in building hangars at the airport.

2. Tora Johnson of Sunrise County Economic Council said two interns are starting a summer project to map the town's stormwater system and the project is covered under a Community Action Grant. The chaotic system contributes to downtown flooding, Johnson said, and that the locations of parts of the system are unclear. The assessment will result in interactive maps, more efficiency through the system, and precede an engineering phase next fall and winter.

At 6:25 p.m., on a motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Ben Edwards, the Machias Board

VOTED to adjourn.