

**Machias Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 9, 2025
Machias Tele-Business Center**

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

In attendance were Town Manager Sarah Dedmon, Select Board Michael Hinerman JR, Carole Porcher, Ben Edwards, Sandra Sinford, MVNO's Paul Sylvain, Tora Johnson, Police Chief Keith Mercier, Lt. Tim Mace, EMS Chief Ryan Maker, Fire Chief Joe Thompson.

MINUTES - On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the Board **VOTED** to readopt the May 14, 2025 minutes to show the excavator bid results as shown below:

OLD BUSINESS

EXCAVATOR BID - The board accepted a bid for \$149,400 offered by Beauregard Equipment for a Case excavator with mulcher. On a motion by Edwards, second by Hinerman, the Board

VOTED: to purchase an excavator from Beauregard Equipment, including mulcher, at \$149,400.

VOTED to adopt the June 25, 2025 minutes but stating that the Select Board are unable to move money from contingency fund and also to include that the board will not be awarding the funding from contingency fund for fire department expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

659 KENNEBEC ROAD OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES - Sarah Dedmon explained that when the property at 659 Kennebec Road was sold in 2016, the town continued sending tax bills to both the new owners, who paid them, and the former owners, who also paid them. Danielle Love, current owner, is asking for re-imbusement for the over payment. The town's financial officer recommended that the board issue a refund to Danielle Love for the 2016 through 2021 taxes paid, and approve an abatement for 2022 and 2023. The total amount is \$1,199.69. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the Board

VOTED to issue a refund of taxes paid by Rasco and Love from 2016 to 2021, and approved an abatement for the taxes paid by Rasco and Love for 2022 and 2023.

AMBULANCE GRANT PURCHASES, WAIVE BID PROCESS - EMS Director Ryan Maker asked that the bid process be waived for grant funded purchases for a Ford F150 pickup truck at an estimated \$60,000.00, that will be used as non-transport, and a Polaris Ranger Side by Side equipped for EMS trail and remote rescues at \$34,441.60. Ryan Maker said the money is from a Maine EMS Sustainability Grant of \$135,000 and no taxpayers' funds will be used. Monies from a recent fundraiser will be used to purchase an enclosed trailer for the side by side that will be pulled by the pickup truck. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

VOTED to waive the bid process for up to \$100,000 in grant funds for a specialized side by side and pickup truck for EMS use. A short discussion followed regarding changing the bid process requirements to waive bidding when grant funds are being used.

TRANSFER STATION FEES - Sarah Dedmon said she is seeking approval to raise out of town fees at the transfer station from 12 cents per pound, to 15 cents per pound. Residents' fees will remain at 10 cents per pound. On a motion by Michael Hinerman, second by Ben Edwards, the board

VOTED to raise out of town transfer station fees to 15 cents per pound.

AIRPORT ENGINEERING - Sarah Dedmon reported that after advertising for quotes and proposals for engineering services at the Machias Municipal Airport for the next five years, three different firms have responded. The bid opening was extended until tomorrow and she asked for volunteers to help her review the bids. Ben Edwards volunteered.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BANKING - Sarah Dedmon asked to open a bank account for the funds that the volunteer firefighters have raised themselves. She said this would be used at the discretion of the volunteers as all of the monies have been raised by them and the

town's tax ID# could be used. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Sandra Sinford, the board

VOTED to open an account at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust for use by the volunteer firefighters, with authorized signers to be the fire chief, the assistant chief and the town's treasurer.

Upper Machias Bay Master Plan Committee said she has questions for the Select Board regarding the plan. Jake Patryn and other board members agreed that they would like some time to go over the questions and Tora Johnson said she would email them an update on the committee's work and the questions. Jake Patryn said the questions can be answered in a discussion with Tora Johnson at the next board meeting on July 23. Sarah Dedmon said there is a visioning gathering for community members at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at the Pellon Center. Tora Johnson also reported that the Stormwater Inventory Project is ongoing.

Sale of Used Bruck - Sarah Dedmon asked the board to approve the sale of used brick-like pavers, stored now at the transfer station and the public works garage, at 35 cents each. She said similar pavers sell for 68 cents each when new. On a motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Ben Edwards, the board

VOTED to offer the used pavers for sale to the public at 35 cents each.

Town Managers Update

1. Shannon Larmie has been hired for Wednesday coverage at the Machias Fire Station.
2. Police Chief Keith Mercier has ordered a 2023 Charger and a 2025 Ford Explorer as cruisers.
3. Airport taxiway reconstruction is going well.
4. Quite a few pilots attended a July 8, 2025 airport meeting and hangars are in demand. She said twice as many pilots requested hangar space than there is room for. She is getting an estimate for metal hangars which will have building guidelines and regulation

regarding size, materials, etc. Pilot will have a 20-year lease on the land and groundwork will begin in the fall. She said she has not finalized lease rates yet but the majority of revenue for the airport will come through property tax on the hangars. Next year, work will begin on the apron.

5. Kitchen concerts are going well, she reported. A Machias Community Supper will be held at Centre Street Church before tomorrow's concert.

6. 7 Court Street, the former town office, was cleaned out by Public Works today. There will be flood mitigation on the exterior of the building.

7. The flagpole at the police station/town offices is in place.

8. The proposal to place a roof over the stage at Bad Little Falls deck has been shelved for the time being. As Downeast Coastal Conservancy is constructing a stage at Middle River Park, she said she will be listening to the public and the local bands about which locations will be used for Kitchen Concerts.

At 6 p.m., on a vote by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the board

VOTED to adjourn.