

**Machias Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 23, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
At Machias Tele-Business Center**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jacob (Jake) Patryn called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

In Attendance: Chairman Jake Patryn, Vice Chairman Ben Edwards, Select Board Michael Hinerman and Sandra Sinford, Town Manager Sarah Dedmon, Machias Police Chief Keith Mercier and Lt. Tim Mace, Tora Johnson, and Sharon Mack.

CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the Board

VOTED to accept the June 25, 2025 minutes as presented.

Sarah Dedmon explained that a new fire department bank account required the names of the persons allowed to sign, rather than just their positions. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the board

VOTED to amend the July 9, 2025 minutes to include the names of Fire Chief Joe Thompson, Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Bowker, and Machias Treasurer Sarah Dedmon as signers.

Approved Warrants -

Payroll #101 \$46,282.83, Payable #102 \$133,536.58, School AP \$89,643, Payroll #103 \$42,063.03, Payable #104 \$223,762.85, School Payroll \$196,209.14, Payroll #105 \$66,595.33, Payable #106 \$274,674.25, School Payroll \$133,802.02, Payroll #107 \$37,507.71, Payable #108 \$ 46,237.78, School AP \$315,029.27, Payroll #109 \$41,814.65, Payable # 110 \$285,239.62, School Payroll \$133,856.47, Payroll #111 \$10,006.40, Payable# 112 \$10,821.92, School Payroll \$251,334.14, Payroll #1 \$47,177.71, Payable #3 \$57,218.64, School AP \$377,326.25, Payroll #2 \$44,545.66, Payable #113 \$33,988.30, School AP \$158,598.13, Payroll #4 \$11,553.22, Payable #5 \$12,379.27, School Payroll \$109,536.49, Payroll #6 \$27,962.46, Payable #7 \$103,694.16, Payroll #8 \$1,232.82, Payable #9 \$2,039.10

On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the board **VOTED** to sign all the proposed warrants.

Quit Claim Deed Signature: Board members signed a Quit Claim Deed for Bernard Metcalf, 7 School Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Acknowledgement - Sarah Dedmon acknowledged the retirement of Machias Fire Chief Joe Dennison and expressed the town's gratitude for his 29 years of service and guidance. She displayed a glass momento that will be presented to Joe Dennison at a later time.

Modify MSB and Bangor Savings Account Signers - Sarah Dedmon explained that with the recent staff changes the signators on Machias Savings Bank and Bangor Savings Bank accounts need to be modified. On a motion by Michael Hinerman and second by Ben Edwards, the board

VOTED to remove the names of Christina Therrian and Meghan Dennison from the accounts and add Deputy Treasurer Elizabeth Fitzgerald and Deputy Clerk, Jane Foss.

Affirmative Action Appointment - Sarah Dedmon explained that a news reporter asked for the name of the Town's Affirmative Action Officer but after checking with the Maine Municipal Association has found that is only a state required position, not for a municipality.

OLD BUSINESS

UMBMP Survey - Tora Johnson of Sunrise Economic Council explained that a committee of 40 people created a survey, which will be compiled and summarized to allow the leadership committee to enter into the next phase of the UMBMP project. They will take the data, science and survey responses into consideration and make recommendations for action. Tora Johnson then asked the selectboard a series of questions for the UMBMP survey. The questions and their replies included:

A. How do you see the recent flooding affecting Machias? Board members replied that their main concern was for the property owners who suffered costly damages and are now hesitating to make further investmants in the area. They pointed out that even

the town office had to relocate because of flood damage. They also said solutions need to be found so they can devote more of the board's time to other pressing issues. They discussed the need for creative solutions, such as risers, bio-soil, or inflatable bumpers, rather than building a fortress wall around the downtown.

B. When you are making plans for the town's future, how far out are you planning? The board members stressed they are thinking of the next generation's future when planning 20 to 40 years ahead. Creating a road map of what needs to be done and then implementing it will be key. Sarah Dedmon said that in speaking with Maine Department of Transportation, their planning looks 75 years into the future and they are now building bridges that can be expanded to meet future needs.

C. What opportunities do you see to help business owners with viable ideas for affected properties? The selectboard noted that all ideas are to be considered and that the town could assist business owners through connection to grants and other state and federal assistance programs. They suggested creating a volunteer task force that could be quickly mobilized in the case of flooding and/or other emergencies. A list of resources such as equipment, personnel, should be created.

D. What opportunities are there to minimize waste water pollution from the Machias Waste Water Treatment plant into the Machias Bay estuary? The board agreed that the well placed use of bio-soils could help alleviate runoff from higher areas in Machias, while creating an opportunity for more green space downtown. Sarah Dedmon said that since the new pumping station went on line, there have been no overflow incidents.

E. What challenges or barriers are facing Machias property owners? The board said that cost of mitigation, estimating the potential for improvements and getting accurate information out to residents is vital. Uncertainty is currently plaguing downtown property owners. Making sure that all area towns are aware of pending Route 1 shutdowns when the causeway undergoes replacement.

F. What additional information do you wish you had to make decisions? The board said accurate data on the environmental impacts of replacing the causeway is key. They also agreed that face to face conversations with landowners, conservation groups and residents will be vital. The board said it will have to find out

what is acceptable to the community and find compromises. The board said they need to have a well thought out plan that includes how the downtown got into this situation and why we are making our decisions. Tora Johnson said new data indicates that sea rise is happening faster than expected. Measurements taken a month ago show a 12 inch increase in water levels compared to 2018 data.

Town Manager's Update

A. Sarah Dedmon asked the board to acknowledge and support the hiring of two new town employees. On a motion by Michael Hinerman, second by Ben Edwards, the board

VOTED to ratify the hiring of Dalton Trahan at the Machias Transfer Station and Melode Lazarro as an administrator at the Machias Ambulance Service.

B. Two new police cars are currently being updated.

C. New signs are going up for the town office.

D. The taxi lane work will be done this week and the lane should be paved next week.

E. Jane Foss has stepped in to absorb some of the former financial officer's work.

F. An out-of-town rate increase at the transfer station is now in effect.

G. At least 90 people attended the recent UMBMP visioning meeting at the Pellon Center. All feedback was positive, she reported.

H. A jazz quarter is performing at this week's Kitchen Concert.

I. Ambulance training will be conducted this coming weekend.

J. Middle River Park stage is under construction.

K. Downeast Coastal Conservancy held their annual meeting this past week.

L. Mitigation at the former town office at 7 Court Street is underway and contractor Joey Dennison has suggested metal flashing up to the windows on the exterior as a water barrier. Dedmon said the estimated cost is around \$10,000. She will get more information and bring this to the board at its next meeting

M. The public works department tree trimming and crosswalk paintings underway.

N. Sarah will bring amended language for a sign ordinance to the next meeting. This will allow for a stop sign at the intersection of Roque Bluffs Road and West Kennebec Road. The Maine Department of Transportation cannot install the sign without the amendment.

O. Several staff members will be attending a Maine Municipal Association leadership training session on August 5, 2025.

Other Business:

Tora Johnson suggested the town look at Maine's Safe Streets Grant for next year to identify problem areas and strategies. She said that if awarded, the town could implement temporary changes and then make them permanent in a second phase. She said the area on Main Street where Colonial Way and Water Street enter, as well as all of Dublin Street have serious safety concerns.

On a motion by Michael Hinerman, second by Ben Edwards, the board **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:24 p.m.