

**Machias Selectboard Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2025 @ 5 p.m.**  
**At Machias Tele-Business Center**

In Attendance: Chairman Jake Patryn, Vice Chairman Ben Edwards, Michael Hinerman, Carole Porcher, Sandra Sinford; Town Manager Sarah Dedmon, Machias Police Chief Keith Mercier, Machias Finance Director Nicholas MacDonald, SCEC Consultant Tora Johnson, Paul Sylvain, Public Works Director Mike Schoppee, Machias Transfer Station Director Nicole Albee, Justin Albee, EMS Director Ryan Maker, Machias Fire Chief Joseph Thompson, Jonathan McClure, and Jennifer

Chairman Jake Patryn called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the board  
**VOTED** to accept the minutes from the August 27, 2025 as presented.

**WARRANTS:** On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Mike Hinerman, the board **VOTED** to accept the warrants as listed:

Payroll - 8/29/2025 #27 \$32,922.56, 9/5/2025 #29 \$50,747.04, #30 \$1,141.50

Accounts Payable - 8/29/2025 #28 \$67,266.20, 9/5/2025 #31 \$136,392.24

School – 9/5/205 Payroll #76280 \$262,365.72, AP #76285 \$161,385.39

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. OPENING FUEL OIL BIDS: Two bids were received and opened - RH Foster with a fixed price of \$2.699 per gallon which is \$.308 over the rack price of \$2.3919, and Hammond and Sons Oil Inc. at \$.33 over rack price.

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

**VOTED** to award the town's fuel oil bid to RH Foster at \$2.699 per gallon fixed price.

2. OPENING PROPANE BIDS: One bid was received and opened - RH Foster with a fixed bid of \$1.499 per gallon. On a motion by Michael Hinerman, second by Ben Edwards, the board

**VOTED** to award the town's propane bid to RH Foster at \$1.499 per gallon fixed price.

3. OPENING SAND BIDS: Two bids were received and opened - By Us at \$10.65 per cubic yard, and Hanscom's at \$16.00 per cubic yard.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, second by Ben Edwards, the board

**VOTED** to award the town's sand bid to By Us at \$10.65 per cubic yard.

4. SEWER ABATEMENT: Chairman Jake Patryn outlined the request for a sewer abatement at 12 High Street due to a plumbing issue. He said there is no previous delinquent history at the home but there have been high bills. He suggested that the town average the property's bills over the last year and provide an abatement based on that average. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

**VOTED** to grant a sewer abatement to 12 High Street in an amount to be determined by the town clerk based on the property's past history.

5. OPENING EAST KENNEBEC ROAD TO LOCAL TRUCKING: 4 Shore Construction owner Justin Albee is requesting the load limit on East Kennebec Road be increased to allow him to fulfill a large contract next spring for gravel delivery from his pit on Porcupine Mountain Road. A lengthy discussion was held between Albee, Public Works Director Mike Schoppee and the board about the weight of the trucks, possible damage to the road and/or road base, and signage. Schoppee said Justin Albee has obtained a \$20,000 bond to cover any damage his trucks caused the road. Chairman Jake Patryn said that raising the limit would set a precedent and the board needed to carefully craft a new policy for future requests that included weight limits, seasonal restrictions and distance limits. Jake Patryn said he would create a new policy, and the board could refine it over the next few board meetings.

6. DISPOSAL OF TOWN PICKUP AND PLOW: Public Works Director Mike Schoppee wishes to dispose of a 2002 International and a 2016 GMC one-ton pickup truck. He stated neither will pass inspection any longer and are likely good only for parts. He said he could offer them for sale or bid and if they have not been purchased after two months they would be scrapped. On a motion by Sandra Sinford, second by Ben Edwards, the board

**VOTED** to allow Public Works Director Mike Schoppee to dispose of the 2002 International and 2016 GMC pickup truck at his discretion.

7. **TRANSFER STATION RATES:** Transfer station manager Nicole Albee asked to increase the price per pound for furniture and white goods, ash and overflow bags from 12 cents per pound to 15 cents per pound. She said it would help with collecting the money and she has received no complaints from users. Town Manager Sarah Dedmon said this increase was part of the town's goal to create a sensible overall plan for the transfer station. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the board

**VOTED** to increase the price per pound at the transfer station to 15 cents per pound for furniture, white goods, ash and any overflow removed from bags to allow proper closure.

8. **TRANSFER STATION TO EXPAND RECYCLING:** Nicole Albee asked the board to allow the transfer station to cease accepting magazines for recycling and approve accepting boxboard and office paper. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the board

**VOTED** to cease recycling magazines and expand recycling to include boxboard and office paper.

9. **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, LONGFELLOW CEMETERY:** Jennifer Vane, representing Wreaths Across America asked the board to accept Longfellow Cemetery as an official WAA site and volunteered to organize, coordinate and execute the fundraising, laying of the wreaths and cleanup. Machias Cemetery Association President Jonathan McClure said that the local Boy Scouts have historically provided cleanup at the cemetery in the spring and asked that they be allowed to continue this community service. Jennifer Vane said there are 199 veterans' graves in the cemetery and the official wreath laying ceremony would take place at 12 p.m. December 13, 2025. She said there would be an advertising campaign to encourage local people and businesses to sponsor wreaths. Public Works Director Michael Schoppee said his crew will keep the cemetery plowed until that event date barring a major storm. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

**VOTED** to designate Longfellow Cemetery as an official Wreaths Across America location.

10. **SEWER RATE INCREASE:** Town Manager Sarah Dedmon said the sewer department last had an increase in 2024 and the department is running in a loss already. She said an increase of 15% is proposed. No vote was taken.

11. MACHIAS VALLEY AIRPORT HANGAR LEASE RATES: Sarah Dedmon said the airport committee this week paced out the location of four proposed hangar sites, one able to contain two aircraft. The leases are for the land only with a 20-year time frame. She said leases across the state range from six cents to 20 cents per square foot. She said 11 to 12 cents would be a good rate for Machias as it does not have sewer or water. It was estimated that the lease payments would range at approximately \$730 per year and Sarah Dedmon said that the benefit is not on the lease amount but the eventual property taxes on each hangar. She suggested the board wait for statewide rate figures to be provided by the Maine Department of Transportation and make a decision on Machias rates at its next meeting.

12. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE TO UPPER MACHIAS BAY MANAGEMENT PLAN: Sarah Dedmon asked the board to appoint the town's Finance Director Nicholas MacDonald as an alternate representing Machias on the plan's Leadership Committee with voting privileges if Jake Patryn is unable to attend. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Michael Hinerman, the board voted to appoint Nickolas MacDonald as an alternate member of the UMBMMP with voting privileges in the absence of Jake Patryn.

13. FUNDS TRANSFER: Sarah Dedmon asked the board to allow for the transfer of Dept. of Environmental Protection grant funds, left over from previous projects, for a new roof on the Machias Sewer Treatment Facility. GR Roofing was the lowest bidder at \$221,500. No taxpayer funds will be used on this project. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Sandra Sinford, the board

**VOTED** to allow the transfer of DEP grant funds in the amount of \$221,500 to GR Roofing for replacement of the sewer treatment plant roof.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Tora Johnson of the Upper Machias Bay Master Plan reported that new statistics compiled by the Downeast Salmon Federation revealed that a storm on the level of the January 10, 2024 flood event will impact the former landfill cap.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. **Ambulance** - Ambulance Director Ryan Maker said there is a two-day conference at Washington Academy this weekend for area responders. He said he will be opening bids in two weeks for a new ambulance.

**2. Police Update** - Police Chief Keith Mercier reported that starting on September 21, 2025 Machias will have 24-hour police coverage for the first time in more than a decade. Coverage will begin at three nights per week and will allow the department to shift from reactive to proactive.

**Town Manager's Update:**

1. Sarah Dedmon has submitted a grant for wildfire safety equipment and is hopeful the grant will be awarded for 12 safety suits.
2. Nicolas MacDonald has submitted a grant for security cameras at Bad Little Falls Park and increased networking connectivity at the tele-communications building. Sarah Dedmon said future grants will be used for cameras at the Water Street parking lot and the causeway and web cams for tourism purposes highlighting the falls, the town and the river.
3. Sarah Dedmon said the board will be looking at updated purchasing, event and community engagement policies at their next meeting.
4. Sarah Dedmon will be using grant funds next summer to bring a restoration crew to the Court Street Cemetery to teach local volunteers how to clean and restore gravestones.
5. Survey Fireworks - more than 60 percent of voters in a recent poll (more than 300 respondents) want the delayed fireworks to be used on the night of the Christmas Parade of Lights. Chairman Jake Patryn said the response was very encouraging and hoped to use Facebook polls in the future to increase public engagement.
6. Sarah Dedmon reported that the Maine Public Utilities Commission last week approved a 27.36% water rate increase for the Machias Water Company which will take effect on October 1. She noted that the Machias Water Company initially had requested a 35% hike.

Ben Edwards made note that the anniversary of the late town manager Bill Kitchen's death was the day before.

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

**VOTED** to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.