

**Machias Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2025
At Machias Tele-Business Center**

In attendance: Jake Patryn, Ben Edwards, Mike Hinerman, Sandra Sinford and Carole Porcher. Also, Town Manager Sarah Dedmon, Financial Director Nicholas MacDonald, Paul Sylvain of the Machias Valley News Observer and Sharon Mack, recording secretary.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jake Patryn at 5:03 p.m.

MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION On a motion by Edwards, second by Hinerman, the board

VOTED to accept the minutes of October 22, 2025 as presented.

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

Payroll: 10/24/25 #56 \$34,962.68; 10/31/25 #58 \$54,923.90.

Accounts Payable: 10/24/25 #57 \$107,866.07; 10/31/25 #59 \$955,330.92, #60 \$187,839.65.

School: 10/24/25 #77096 \$417,860.93 AP, #77087 \$287,573.91 Payroll.

COUNTY TAN DISCUSSION - Board members discussed the failed vote to pay the county's TAN by December 31, 2025 and the ramifications of that vote. Sarah Dedmon said there will be a public hearing, 5 p.m. Nov. 19, 2025 at the Tele-Business Center and a special town meeting at 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Tele-Business Center to offer options, ramifications of options and future plans to pay Machias' share of the County TAN, which is \$314,152.00. Board members agreed that it would be prudent for Machias to borrow the funding and have it ready by the end of the year. Nicholas MacDonald said the funds could be borrowed for 5-years with no pre-payment penalty and would give Machias time to complete an ongoing audit. Options include paying it all off or making installment payments on a new loan. Ben Edwards, who also serves on the county budget committee, said that if the committee decides to keep county services at the same level as 2025, the debt will roll over into 2026 and could result in a \$23 million county budget next year which would double Machias' county tax. He said that any cuts of the county budget would have to come from patrol services. He noted that the Sheriff's Office has just 4 deputies

on duty at all times, two on the east of Machias, and two on the west. There is no Maine State Police coverage. Only Machias and Baileyville are fully police staffed. Ben Edwards recognized that deputies are "quite dramatically underpaid" and that the committee is working with the deputies' union to cut this year's salary raise of a proposed 10% each year for the next three years, to 3 percent. He acknowledged these are dramatic cuts. Jake Patryn said accurate information needs to be presented to the voters at the special town meeting. Sarah Dedmon said she will draft a warrant article that would allow the board to borrow a five-year note.

PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENT 4.5 – Sarah Dedmon said the amendment would allow for regularly scheduled part-time employees who work more than 20 hours a week to be paid during storm closures or holidays that fall on open days. She said the policy was created in the 1980s and was actually created on a typewriter. She stated there will be policy updates coming before the board throughout 2026. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

VOTED to accept the personnel policy amendment.

TOWN MANAGER UPDATE -

1. Sarah Dedmon reported that the water heater failed in the police station and flooded the offices with 300 gallons of water. A mold and remediation company cleaned it up.
2. There were more than 100 people at Monday's Upper Machias Bay Management Plan meeting and dinner.
3. The Maine Department of Labor will be coming to the town office next week for a safety evaluation.
4. The town office will be closed on Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Christmas Eve and Christmas.
5. A new calculator has been created to streamline and edit tax forms.
6. 48 Fremont Street is now town tax acquired property.
7. The Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection said the concrete pad proposed for the transfer station's metal pile can be downgraded to gravel but will require a barrier. The staff is considering using refrigerators.

8. December 6, 2025 is the town's Community Christmas parade and fireworks.

9. December 13, 2025 is a performance of The Nutcracker at UMM.

Other:

HARBORMASTER TRAINING – Jake Patryn stated that the training for harbormaster certification will be \$730. Once he is trained, Jake Patryn said he can create a Harbor Ordinance that works for all involved and his certification will allow for grant applications. On a motion by Ben Edwards, second by Carole Porcher, the board

VOTED to pay for Patryn's certification training and take the funds from the Selectboard's Contingency Fund. Patryn recused himself from voting.

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

VOTED to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.