

MACHIAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

An ordinance of the Town of Machias , enacted at the Annual Town Meeting on March 27, 1972.

Section I. A fire department is hereby established to consist of a Chief Engineer and as many assistants and such other officials as the Town Manager, subject to the confirmation of the Board of Selectmen, may deem necessary. After the Annual Town Meeting and prior to the 1st day of April in each year, the Town Manager, subject to confirmation by the Board of Selectmen, shall appoint the Chief Engineer and the Chief Engineer shall appoint his assistants and other officers and shall organize the department as herein prescribed. The appointment of the Chief Engineer and his assistants shall be made in writing and recorded by the Town Clerk and they shall continue until the new organization is completed.

Section II. The Chief Engineer shall make and enforce rules and regulations for the government, discipline, and good order of the department and shall have full control of all officers and members while on duty, and of all equipment and apparatus. He shall have the power to call meetings for drill or other purposes as he deems necessary or expedient and shall preside at such meetings. He shall employ a suitable person.

Section III. It shall be the duty of the Chief Engineer frequently to examine all the apparatus and equipment of the department and everything connected therewith and to see to it that everything is constantly in perfect working order and suitable for the purpose for which it is designated. Immediately upon his discovery of any defect which he is unable to repair, he shall forthwith in writing notify the Town Manager of such defect and make recommendations as to remedying the same. It shall be his duty and that of his assistants to acquaint themselves with the location, character, construction and peculiar condition of the buildings in the town in order to better know the proper steps to be taken in case of fire.

Section IV. The assistant engineer shall render all possible aid to the Chief in the performance of his duties, and in his absence at a fire or other meeting, the ranking assistant shall exercise the power and discharge the duties of the Chief Engineer.

Section V. The Town Manager shall be charged with the duty of immediately causing to be made all necessary repairs to the apparatus and equipment when written report of any defect is made to him by the Chief Engineer.

Section VI. Said department shall hold at least one meeting in each month of the year.

Section VII. Upon any alarm of fire, the officers and members of the several companies shall forthwith repair to their respective apparatus and in a speedy and orderly manner convey the same to the fire or place of danger, and, under the direction of the Chief Engineer, or one or more of his assistants, exert themselves in a faithful manner and perform all service that may be required of them by their superior officers, to

extinguish the fire and protect life and property exposed to it, and shall remain on duty until discharged by appropriate authority. The Chief Engineer and his associates shall be invested with all the power and authority conferred upon fire wards by the Statutes of the State.

Section VIII. Any member who shall, while on active duty, neglect or refuse to perform the same, be guilty of disobedience, become intoxicated or behave in a disorderly manner, shall be suspended by the officer in charge, and on complaint to the Chief Engineer, be suspended or dismissed, if in his judgment such suspension or dismissal is for the best interest of the service.

Section IX. The members of the Machias Fire Department shall in the month of April elect not less than ten men to act as Fire Police. The said men thus elected shall be appointed by the Municipal Officers as Town Policemen. Provided, however, that the said Fire Police shall have authority to act as Police only during the progress of a fire, or fires, or any other official activity of the Fire Department.

Section X. When acting pursuant to their duty, the Fire Police shall have the full authority of a Town Police Officer.

Section XI. It shall be unlawful for any person to pass any fire line or obstruction laid down during the progress of any fire by the Fire Police. It shall be unlawful for any person to disobey any order concerning the control and direction of traffic or pedestrians made by the Fire Police. It shall be unlawful to obstruct any Fire Policeman in the lawful exercise of his duty as Fire Police. Any person convicted of the violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty-Five Dollars (\$ 25.00) and not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

Section XII. No intoxicating liquors of any kind, nor gambling, shall be allowed in or about any building under the control of the Chief Engineer.

Section XIII. The Chief Engineer and all other officers and members of the Fire Department shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Town Manager, subject to consent and approval by the Board of Selectmen. The Chief Engineer shall audit all bills and forward the same to the Town Manager for payment.

Section XIV. All other ordinances, by-laws or regulations that are in conflict with any of the provisions contained herein are hereby repealed.

Copied from Town Records
October , 1981

Martha A. Bagley
Town Clerk