

# TOWN OF MACHIAS

## SELECT BOARD MINUTES

**FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

Vice Chairman Ben Edwards called a meeting of the Machias Select Board to order at 6 PM. Also in attendance were Board members Carole Porcher, Michael Hinerman, and Sandra Sinford; Police Chief Keith Mercier, Officer Tim Mace, Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker, Deputy Ambulance Chief Stephen Simmons, Paul Sylvain, Tora Johnson, and Interim Operations Manager / Board Secretary Sarah Craighead Dedmon.

### **1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION**

On a motion by Sandra Sinford and seconded by Michael Hinerman the Board  
**VOTED:**

To approve the minutes of the Jan. 22, 2025, Select Board meeting.

### **2. TOWN MANAGER POSITION**

Vice Chairman Edwards read a statement from Chairman Jake Patryn, who could not be present for the meeting, detailing the process of searching for a replacement for the late Town Manager Bill Kitchen and signaling his support for offering the position to Sarah Craighead Dedmon. Mr. Edwards read his statement talking through the hiring process and objectives of the search, and also signaled his support for hiring Sarah Craighead Dedmon

All acknowledged, many tearfully, the sad reason for the Town Manager vacancy, in remembrance of Bill Kitchen.

On a motion by Sandra Sinford and seconded by Carole Porcher the Board  
**VOTED:**

To offer the Town Manager position to Sarah Craighead Dedmon

### **3. AMBULANCE - NEW PARAMEDIC POSITION**

Chief Ryan Maker said that the Ambulance Service has found two qualified applicants for the one open paramedic position, and asked the Board to approve the creation of another paramedic position using surplus funds from this current budget year. He also stated the MAS would be requesting additional positions during the upcoming Town budget cycle.

Chief Maker said that three full-time paramedics would allow the service to offer paramedic coverage 24x7, 365 days per year.

On a motion by Carole Porcher and seconded by Michael Hinerman the Board  
**VOTED:**

To allow the ambulance service to accommodate another full-time paramedic position.

#### **4. SCEC UPDATE**

Dr. Tora Johnson updated the Board on the state of an old landfill located along the banks of the Middle River. Using funds from the state Brownfields program, SCEC hired consultants to look at the landfill and a report from a DOT assessment, which found that it remains largely unchanged except that there are PFAS chemicals in the leachate.

Going forward, working with SCEC the Town will seek funding from Maine DEP to explore what other measures may be taken to mitigate issues associated with the landfill.

#### **5. MILITARY OPERATION POSSIBLY PLANNED**

Mr. Edwards updated the Board about a military training exercise that might take place at Machias Valley Municipal Airport sometime between mid-June and mid-July. Mr. Edwards met with Marine Lt. Col. Wells who said the training operation could last five to seven days and may involve an exercise on refueling Osprey aircraft.

#### **6. 7 COURT STREET UPDATE**

Ms. Dedmon updated the Board that the bid for repairs to the Machias Town Office at 7 Court Street was released with a request to receive all bids back by Wednesday, March 12.

#### **7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Sandra Sinford and seconded by Carole Porcher the Board  
**VOTED:**

To enter executive session at 6:41 PM in accordance with Title 1 Chapter 13 MRSA §405 Paragraph 6A.

On a motion by Michael Hinerman and seconded by Carole Porcher the Board  
**VOTED:**

To exit executive session at 7:40 PM.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Carole Porcher and seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board  
VOTED:

To adjourn at 7:41 PM.