

**MACHIAS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

Chairman Jake Patryn called to order an emergency meeting of the Machias Select Board at 6 PM. Also present were Board members Ben Edwards, Michael Hinerman, Sandra Sinford and Carole Porcher, Police Chief Keith Mercier, Tora Johnson, Paul Sylvain, and Interim Board Secretary Sarah Craighead Dedmon.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board
VOTED:

To enter executive session in accordance with Title 1 Chapter 13 MRSA 405 Paragraph 6A.

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Sandra Sinford the Board voted to adjourn executive session at 6:25 PM.

2. ASSIGNMENT OF TEMPORARY DUTIES

Chairman Patryn said that members of the Town Office staff had agreed to take on some of the duties previously under Town Manager Bill Kitchen's authority.

Finance Director Meghan Dennison offered to take on the responsibilities of Harbormaster, Treasurer, and Airport Manager.

On a motion by Carole Porcher and seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board
VOTED:

To appoint Meghan Dennison as the harbor master of the Town of Machias, as the Airport Manager of the Town of Machias, and Treasurer of the Town of Machias.

Town Clerk Sandra Clifton offered to take on the responsibilities of Tax Collector and General Assistance Administrator.

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board
VOTED:

To appoint Sandra Clifton as tax collector of the Town of Machias and general assistance administrator of the Town of Machias.

Chairman Patryn said that Christina Therrien, a former Machias Town Manager, indicated she would be happy to assist as interim town manager. She is currently serving as the finance director for the city of Waterville.

She says is able to be in town for some period each week.

Chairman Patryn checked with the Maine Municipal Association and learned that it is not legally required to have a town manager at every meeting of the Board, but they did say it would be best to have one at the annual town meeting set for Sept. 25. Ms. Therrien indicated she can attend.

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To appoint Christina Therrien as interim town manager of Machias until the 2024 annual town meeting.

After the town meeting, it will be necessary to reassign all temporary duties.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Tora Johnson of Sunrise County Economic Council said SCEC has received a grant from the Broadreach Fund to help the Town of Machias manage complex challenges and support effective governance.

The grant makes Dr. Johnson's expertise available to the town for ongoing projects, such as the facilitation of the upcoming comprehensive plan, hazard mitigation planning, the Upper Machias Bay Project, and other initiatives that were conceived or begun under Town Manager Bill Kitchen.

Dr. Johnson will be assisted in the effort by James Jutras.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

To adjourn at 7:26 PM.