

TOWN OF MACHIAS
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2024

A meeting of the Machias Select Board was called to order by Chairman Jake Patryn at 6:01 PM. Also present were Board members Ben Edwards, Carole Porcher, Mike Hinerman, and Sandra Sinford; Planning Board members Andrew Mulholland and James Jackson; Police Chief Keith Mercier and Officer Tim Mace; Comprehensive Committee Chair Ann-Marie Evans, Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker, Deputy Chief Stephen Simmons, Public Works Director Mike Schoppee, Machias Memorial High School Principal Nicole Case, and Board Secretary Sarah Craighead Dedmon. Interim Town Manager Christina Therrien attended via Zoom.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Mike Hinerman and seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to adopt the minutes of the Oct. 9, 2024 meeting.

2. PLANNING BOARD UPDATE, APPOINTMENTS, AND ZONING CONCERNS

Planning Board member Andrew Mulholland said the Planning Board is working through adopting a new state law, LD2003, which impacts housing zoning and density, and said the Planning Board would ultimately like to have the input of the Select Board. The Select Board favored meeting with the Planning Board to discuss their recommendations, when available.

Mr. Mulholland, who filled the temporarily vacant Planning Board seat of Edward Pellon, said that since Mr. Pellon has died, he would like to continue serving out his term, which ends in 2025. He also said that Planning Board Chairman Harry Flower would like to be reappointed for another term.

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

To appoint Andrew Mulholland and Harry Flower to the Machias Planning Board.

3. INTERIM OPERATIONS MANAGER

Mr. Edwards said that the passage of the 2024-2025 Town Budget at the September Town Meeting created the position of Machias Operations Manager, taking the total Town Office staff from four to five positions. The Operations Manager position is designed to create a consistent presence in the Town Office.

He proposed appointing Sarah Craighead Dedmon as interim Operations Manager on a 45-day renewable contract.

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

To appoint Sarah Craighead Dedmon as interim Operations Manager on a 45-day renewable basis.

4. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Comprehensive Plan Committee Members Ann-Marie Evans and James Jackson asked the Board to provide guidance on how to proceed with building the Comprehensive Plan Committee. It was determined that the Comp Plan Committee will make recommendations for members, and the Board will appoint them.

Ms. Evans said she planned to meet with the Sunrise County Economic Council on Friday to determine what work is already completed on the plan that was begun in 2019, and to determine whether any funds were still available to continue work on the plan.

It was determined that all meetings must be publicly announced and open to the public.

Ms. Evans asked what kind of reporting the Board would like to have from the Comp Plan Committee. Mr. Patryn said the Board would appreciate a monthly progress report, and encouraged the Committee to come to the Board as needed with any urgent matters.

It is customary for the Town Manager and one Select Board member to serve on the Comp Plan Committee. Ms. Porcher volunteered to serve.

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

To appoint Carole Porcher to the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

5. HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

Machias Memorial High School Principal Nicole Case told the Board that MMHS Librarian Wendy Schoppee is working on the Washington County Youth Leadership Challenge and that the students might be interested in assisting with the Comprehensive Plan process.

Ms. Case said that the school has been working closely with Chief Mercier to hire a full-time School Resource Officer using funds from a 2023 state grant. Because there is a shortage of police officers and because the requirements to be an SRO exceed those of a regular officer, no SRO has been hired.

In light of this shortage, the state told Ms. Case the school could spend the funds on other projects that improve safety and community relationships.

First, the school will update the locks on the gymnasium to be replaced with electronic access. Also, the school plans to upgrade the gym's fire alarm system which does not currently alert the Fire Department.

Eventually, some teachers may attend safety training. The school has until the end of November 2026 to spend the funds.

6. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Mercier told the Board that he is concerned the mold levels in the police department are worse than initially thought. A quote from Eastern Mold Remediation came in at just under \$11,000. Sarah said she would arrange for a second quote to come from Bouchard Cleaning and Restoration on Monday, Oct. 28. Eastern Mold said they could complete the work by Nov. 10.

Chief Mercier said that Public Law Chapter 415 - LD 670 created Drug-Free Safety Zones in municipally owned parks and recreational areas, and bumps charges for drug activity to an automatic felony. The Police Department would hang signs designating the Drug Free Safety Zone.

Ms. Therrien said the Board may have already adopted a policy in 2015 or 2016. Mr. Patryn suggested we research whether a policy exists, and add this discussion to the agenda for the Nov. 13 Board meeting.

7. AMBULANCE SERVICE UPDATE

Chief Ryan Maker asked the Board to approve the hiring of University of Maine at Machias student Madeleine Sorreano as a per diem EMT. Chief Maker said she is studying pre-med at UMM, has a nationally registered EMT license, and wants to join the Machias Ambulance Service.

She is available for weekend shifts. Finance Director Meghan Dennison has her application.

Chief Maker said the average age of an EMS clinician nationwide is in their 50s, and the average age in Maine is 58, but most of the Machias Ambulance Service is under 40.

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

To approve the hire of Madeleine Sorreano as a per-diem EMT.

8. HALLOWEEN

Mike Schoppee said that he would place orange cones in the parking adjacent to Norm Nelson Park on Thursday, Oct. 31, so that the Machias Ambulance Service, Fire Department, and Police Department can park there for Trick-or-Treat Main Street.

Sarah Craighead Dedmon said she would like the Town Office to have a presence as well. Ms. Porcher said she would assist Ms. Dedmon in distributing candy.

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

To appropriate up to \$500 out of the Board Contingency Fund to purchase candy for the event.

9. TRUCK AND PLOW BID OPENING

The Board opened bids for a new truck with plow and sanding equipment.

Mr. Patryn opened a bid from Freightliner Western Star of Maine for an in-stock 6-wheel truck with two extra tires for \$126,029, and a Viking Gear plowing and sanding package for an additional \$93,599, totaling \$219,628.

Mr. Edwards opened a bid from Colwell Diesel Service for a 6-wheel truck at \$114,500, and a New England Truck Master plow package for \$146,985.90 for a combined total of \$261,485.90.

Ms. Porcher opened a bid from Freightliner Western Star of Maine for a truck at \$167,659. For a Viking Gear snow plow and sanding package, the cost is \$83,995, and for an HP Gear snow plow and sanding package, the price is \$88,939, making the total truck and plow package \$251,654 for the Viking option, and \$256,598 for the HP Gear package.

Ms. Sinford opened a bid from Freightliner Western Star of Maine for a 6-wheel truck with two additional tires for \$123,611. For a Viking Gear snow plow and sanding package, the cost is \$83,995, and for an HP Gear snow plow and sanding package, the price is \$88,939. The total for the Viking package is \$207,606, and for the HP Gear package, it's \$213,550.

Mr. Hinerman opened a bid from Colwell Diesel Service for a 6-wheel truck with two extra tires at \$114,500, and a Viking plow and sand package at \$83,995 for a total of \$198,495.

Ms. Porcher opened a bid from Allegiance Trucks offering a 2026 International HV 507 with a Viking plow and sanding package for a total of \$199,995, or for the same truck with an HP Gear plow package the price would be \$205,939.

Mr. Patryn opened a bid from HP Fairfield for truck gear, no chassis, at \$89,939. For a complete 6-wheel truck bid, with no extra tires, the cost is \$178,440. Full sanding and plowing package installed, \$116,054, for a total price of \$294,494.

Mr. Schoppee will meet with Ms. Therrien on Sunday, Oct. 27, to go over the bids and rank them according to preference, availability, and price performance. Then the Board will meet again on Monday, Oct. 28, to vote on the preferred bid.

10. 1 TON 4WD PICKUP BID OPENING

Mr. Hinerman opened a bid from Varney for a 2025 GMC Sierra 3500 HD for \$57,742. But with a three to five-month lead time.

Ms. Porcher opened a bid from Darling's Commercial Sales, who offers: An in-stock 2024 F350 4x4, SD regular cab 8' box, 1 42" WD SRW XL F3B for \$70,447 or arriving in December, a 2024 F350 4x4 SD for \$65157.

Ms. Sinford opened a bid from O'Connor Motors for a 2025 GMC Sierra 30500 HD 4WD regular cab for \$60,180. Though requested, the bid does not include undercoating or fisher sander wiring.

The Board will also select a 1 Ton Truck bid on Monday, Oct. 28.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Schoppee said he plans to post Closed from Dusk to Dawn signs at Bad Little Falls Park, at the request of Chief Mercier. He will also turn off power for the winter months.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Title 36 MRSA §841 and on a motion by Mike Hinerman and seconded by Carole Porcher the Board voted to enter executive session under at 7:32 PM.

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Mike Hinerman, the Board voted to exit executive session at 8:10 PM.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Mike Hinerman, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:12 PM.