

**TOWN OF MACHIAS
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2024**

Chairman Jake Patryn called a meeting of the Machias Select Board to order at 6 PM. Also present were Vice Chairman Ben Edwards and Board members Carole Porcher and Sandra Sinford; Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker, Assistant Ambulance Chief Stephen Simmons, and Board Secretary Sarah Craighead Dedmon.

1. AMBULANCE POLICY UPDATE

Mr. Patryn updated the Board that the Town is very close to finalizing updates to the Ambulance Service Employment Policy.

Mr. Edwards said that conversations with the Town's legal counsel have been helpful and he feels confident that the Town is following the standards of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Chief Maker updated the Board that the Ambulance Service is currently enjoying adequate staffing levels. He and Assistant Chief Simmons thanked the Board for holding a special meeting to move the policy update along.

Chairman Patryn said he hopes to finalize the policy at the next Board meeting.

2. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

At Christine Therrien's suggestion, she will be employed at the rate of \$43.41 per hour for work performed for the Town. Ms. Therrien agreed she would not include her travel time as billable hours, and that the town will reimburse her mileage at the current reimbursement rate of 46 cents per mile.

Mr. Patryn said he felt this agreement was generous of Ms. Therrien, and that she is maintaining strict lines between her work for Machias and her work for the City of Waterville.

Mr. Edwards told the Board that Ms. Therrien had been very clear that she wanted to help Machias after the death of Bill Kitchen because she cares about the Town, and that in addition to asking for a fair wage, she is not billing the town for lodging during the nights she stays in Machias to work.

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

VOTED:

To approve Christina Therrien's employment agreement as proposed.

3. OTHER BUSINESS - MACHIAS AIRPORT

With the return of Ms. Therrien, the Board determined to appoint her as the airport manager and thanked Finance Director Meghan Dennison for serving as interim airport manager.

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

To remove Meghan Dennison as the Machias Valley Airport Manager, and to appoint Christina Therrien as the Machias Valley Airport Manager.

Mr. Edwards updated the Board that a portion of Federal airport funding designated for Machias expired at the start of the new Federal fiscal year on Oct. 1, but that a call with Sen. Collins office made clear the money would remain available to the Machias airport project.

He also said that Ms. Therrien signed the awarding of the bid for the airport's tarmac extension to allow for hangar construction. The bid was awarded to Hanscom Construction.

On Monday, Oct. 7, there will be a meeting between the Town, the FAA, and Maine's Congressional delegation to discuss further progress toward the construction of an alternate runway that could be 4,300 feet long, sufficient to receive LifeFlight's fixed-wing aircraft.

Chief Maker said that an increase in LifeFlight calls would translate into additional ambulance calls, so the Town should be prepared to respond when that goes into place.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ben Edwards and seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to adjourn at 6:24 PM.