**Town of Machiasport**

**Select Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 27, 2025**

**Select Board: Ryan Sprague, Ryan Maker, Sarah Dedmon**

**Support:** Marcia Hayward / Clerk

**Audience:** Lowell Morse, Paul Sylvain, Robert Arseneau, Rose Arseneau, Mike Hinerman, Dave Nielsen, Frank Rodriquez, Christine DeFalco, Carmine DeFalco, Jeff Huntley, Robert Ingalls, David Cale, Mark Rossetti, Beverly Mouradjian, George Mouradjian, John Polk Sr., John Polk Jr., Bob Berta and Jody Kearney

**Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance: Ryan Maker called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Review Minutes of Previous Meeting**: Sarah Dedmon seconded the motion of Ryan Maker to approve minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**Adjustments to Agenda:** **Dave Nielsen** spoke on the needs of the Fire Department, specifically the need for more volunteers and training. Dave advised that on an 8-person roster, 2 are dependable. Dave advised there should be at least another 8 members added to the department. Ryan Maker advised that for now, as Dave is retiring in June, we will be depending on mutual aid. Ryan Maker stated the problem is visiting departments all across the State, and maybe we will see some consolidation coming. Sarah thanked Dave and Mike Hinerman for “holding down the fort.”

Mike Hinerman advised that regardless of the solution, it is going to be very expensive. The Board thanked Dave for his many years of service.

**Frank Rodriquez** spoke on the happenings at Fort O’Brien, stating there was a lot of community involvement during the 1st half of the year, including ta visit to the Fire Department, and the Christmas party was especially nice. He advised that the public is welcome to attend all events at the school. He also stressed that communication between the school and Town are very important. School Board meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:00 at Fort O’Brien. The biggest concern this year has been the flu.

**Harbor Master’s Report:** David Cale reported an old float got loose and laid- up close to the pier. Mike Murphy moved it. The Harbor Committee met. Ladders and pump need to be replaced. David also inquired about installation of another pilon. Ryan Maker advised the FEMA money has been confirmed. He was asked by the Board to get quotes for the FEMA work.

**Old Business:**

**Truck Turnaround at Pettegrow Beach:** Ryan Maker asked the audience to be respectful and have only one person speak at a time. John Polk began by asking what the problem was

with the proposed turnaround. Ryan Maker explained the opposition with respect to the covenants on the Pettegrow Lot. John asked if the opposition has a solution. George Mouradjian asked why this issue has come up now when he has been her for 8 years. John Polk stated that his son is upset because every time he goes down there, he is being followed. The audience loudly objected. (Mr. Polk Jr. left the meeting.) Beverly Mouradjian stated it was going to become a dumping ground. Jody Kearney asked how the trucks got around the abandoned boat. George Mouradjian stated he objects to commercial use. John Polk stated he tried to find a solution when he first came to the Board. Jeff Huntley stated the lot needs to be cleaned up. Mark Rossetti asked about the audit and why it was a qualified opinion. He explained that an audit is qualified when there is a disclosure issue that needs clarification.

((*After the meeting – our auditor advised that the disclosure missing is that the municipality does not declare our capital assets. This is a practice with many municipalities in Maine because the equipment is old and of little value. This is explained in the body of the audit.)*

Jimmy Clark stated he was forced out in 2018, but the audit has always been qualified.

 Carmine DeFalco asked if drainage easements are being misrepresented as pedestrian egress and that’s the same problem he’s having with his property. Bobby Ingalls explained that the fishermen leave the keys in their vehicles in the event they are in the way, they can be moved. Jimmy Clark asked if There has been any talk of eminent domain. Ryan Maker answered, no. The topic quickly became hostile, and Ryan Maker repeatedly had to admonish the audience that he would have to shut down the meeting. George Mouradjian told him to do it, do it. Accusations were aired on each side of the proposal. Ryan Maker asked what the solution was; the purpose is to prevent trucks from backing-up over the hill. Beverly Mouradjian advised that if the drivers cannot maneuver, they need driving lessons. Jody Kearney asked what the urgency was, they had never seen any accidents. Jeff Huntley asked if all 15 lots agree with the HOA’s position. Jody and Beverly both advised they all agreed. Jeff added that the lot needs to be cleaned up. Jeff Huntley advised we should make the place look like a park. Robert Arseneau asked why the Town purchased the property and how the turn-around would affect the original plan. Ryan Maker advised there are no firm plans for the property. Ryan Maker advised that this is a problem that is not going away and needs a solution. He added that as a Select Board the Town has to consider both sides and, in the end, public safety is what matters. George Mouradjian advised the HOA does not have a problem with the fishermen, but how many times has the Town sat down with the HOA to figure out a solution. Ryan Maker replied that when the Town has an issue, it does not sit down with any other HOA and Jasper Head is no different. Jody Kearney stated they are not bad people, and she read a portion of the covenants on the land. She added that the lot should look clean. Ryan Maker asked if she was willing to clean it up to which she replied, no, it’s Town land, the Town needs to clean it up. Ryan advised that there are legal channels that must be observed when things like (the abandoned boat) happen. Jody continued with the debris that is left on the land is a problem, and she has a problem with the Town not plowing the road. Sarah advised there was a question of ownership of the road. Jeff Huntley advised that he owns the road. When Ryan M. asked what the solution was, George Mouradjian responded that the HOA was ants the Town to sit down with the association with a plan, and they will decide if that is acceptable. Jeff Huntley advised that he owns the R-O-W and the HOA will not tell him what will be done. It is his property, and he will decide. Beverly Mouradjian advised this is their home too, they pay taxes and put their money back into the community. She added that it is sad to have name calling and being told to go back where we came from. Ryan Maker concluded that it was a good discussion although at times became heated, and he felt everyone had a chance to speak*. (Some comments are out of order due to having to replay the tape because multiple people spoke at the same time.)*

**3rd Party Donation Requests:** Clerk advised the Town is beginning to receive requests for donations. Previous Boards felt they should not spend tax dollars on such items and so the office disregarded all requests. However, with a completely new Board, Clerk asked for their feelings on the issue. Ryan Sprague advised he agrees with the former Boards. Sarah advised she would like to consider them. Ryan Maker said he would not be inclined to donate to them. Ryan Maker seconded the motion of Sarah Dedmon to consider the request, not necessarily donating. Ryan M. and Sarah in favor, Ryan S. opposed. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. **Select Board Chair**: Sarah Dedmon explained that the Town has been without a Chair by agreement of former Boards but that she feels it is helpful and would like to reinstate the position and nominates Ryan Maker. Ryan Maker abstained on both issues. Ryan Sprague seconded the motion of Sarah Dedmon that Machiasport Select Board would operate with a Chair. Both in favor, Ryan M. abstained. Sarah Dedmon seconded the motion of Ryan Sprague to nominate Ryan Maker, Chair. Both in favor, Ryan Maker abstained. Motions carried.

**Select Board Report**: Ryan Sprague advised DOT trimmed back some spots but need to follow-up.

**Clerk’s Report:** Clerk asked Board to sign policies discussed during last meeting. (Clerk/ Deputy

 Benefits and Election Day Policy).

**Tax Collector’s Report:** In Binder ( through side conversation, Bob Berta provided with copy of

 Rev/Exp. Summary)

**Executive Session:** Pursuant too 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(C) Use of property**.** Ryan Maker seconded the

 motion of Sarah Dedmon to enter executive session at 6:18 PM. All in favor, motion

 carried. Ryan Sprague seconded the motion of Sarah Dedmon to exit executive

 session at 7:21 PM. All in favor, motion carried – no action taken.

**Adjourn:** Ryan Sprague seconded the motion of Sarah Dedmon to adjourn. All in favor, motion

 Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

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Ryan Maker Ryan Sprague

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Sarah Dedmon Marcia L. Hayward / Clerk