

Machias Town Board Meeting

March 16, 2026

Present: Stephen Cornwall, Supervisor
Robert Shenk, Council
Tom Reese, Council – via FaceTime (no internet available)
Frank Bork, Council
Nicholas Glasner, Council
Timothy Byroads, Highway Superintendent
Rebecca Grimmelt, Town Clerk
Caleb Henning, Engineer MDA

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag at the Machias Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Council Shenk made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2026, Board Meeting. Council Glasner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Caleb Henning was invited forward to give an update on the engineering report for the Water District. They have a preliminary draft prepared. The highlights are that is a fairly old system that was originated by the County for the Pines Nursing Home. It was turned over to the Town, and a storage tank was built in 1977. There have been several improvement projects over the years with two well houses built on the County property. Recently, there have been some high nitrate violations, but the levels are safe now and being monitored. Do we drill a new well? Do we treat the water from the current wells with new technology to make it better? There is over 27,000 feet of pipe (not including service lines) that is more than 49 years old. Some is asbestos cement pipe and about 26% is cast iron. Over 12,000 feet of pipe is smaller than 6-inch diameter which is the current required standard for fire flow. The working psi is 35; ideal would be between 60 and 80 psi. The pressure drops below 20 psi when using hydrants. Some of our pressures are at the bare minimum, but there is no way to improve those without raising the storage tank. We are currently pumping about 153,000 gallons per day but only billing for 37,000. That is 75% unaccounted for water, be it from leaks, unmetered, or unauthorized usage. Not unusual loss for a system of our age. At 60 psi, a 3/16-inch hole can lose 666,000 gallons in a 3-month period. With new water systems, the goal is to get to a 10-15% water loss. They looked at five different potential well sites. None of them were as good as the current wells. The quality of water we need is not readily available in the Town due to flood plains, salt contamination, wetlands, etc. The cost for a new site is prohibitive. We need to develop treatment at the current sites and upgrade the current well houses. It is estimated to cost \$1,000,000 to update and improve the well houses. A nitrate treatment package that would treat either well is \$150,000. They also recommend building a new water tank. Ours is undersized and we should go to a 200,000-gallon tank which provides 120,000 gallons for fire flow at 1,000 gpm for two hours. It would increase the pressure to 42-85 psi throughout the system. Also need to replace over 12,000 feet of main and 17 hydrants for an estimated cost of \$2.8 million. The entire proposed project is \$8.1 million, including a 30% construction contingency, land acquisition, and legal fees. They are looking at ways to fund the project through WIIA grants, 0% loans, Community Development Grants, etc. There would be a cost to the property owners. Do we want to add the properties around Lime Lake to the Water District? It would provide fire protection to the Lake and improve the Water District feasibility. It would cost about \$6 million additionally. Adding the Lake would never be less expensive than doing it with this project. The deadline for the EFC grant is May 29th. The Board needs to make a decision.

The Supervisor invited Jason Schwab to speak. He introduced the team at Schwab and Legacy Trucking. They want to be open with the Town and be the best neighbors. They are expanding and looking to hire people. But, most of all, they are looking to keep the children of the community safe. After talking with the Town, there will be signs installed at the park to advise people of new parking areas for the park. Please ask children not to ride their bikes through the parking lots and garages for safety purposes. There are many more trucks this year and they come in and out at all hours. Safety is the number one priority.

Supervisor Cornwall asked for petitions or requests from the floor. There were none.

Old business: The Supervisor is continuing to look into a noise ordinance. New Wave Energy's proposal could save the Town about \$3,200 per year on energy costs. They offer plans from one to three years. The Board decided that a one-year trial would be appropriate.

Tim Byroads said that all of the equipment is running well and in good shape. Mother Nature has been giving them a run for their money with flooding and wind damage. There is a meeting on March 30th regarding the salt shed project and moving that forward. There are lots of spring cleanup and park projects to complete. The broom is due to be replaced this year, and he is working on getting quotes for the Board.

Town Clerk had nothing to report.

Council Reese reported for the Sewer District. Everything is well. Zuech took care of the yearly jetting on Hazelmere.

Tim Byroads reported for the cemetery that Rick Duncan should be starting spring cleanup soon and the Highway Department has some trees to take care of.

Justice Denise Richards said that everything is going well with Court. She has her books for the Board to do their annual audit.

Katie Cornwall reported for the Youth Commission. The annual Chicken BBQ will be held on Memorial Day, May 25th. They are hiring REC staff, with lots returning. They are working on updates to the registration process with the Town Clerk and will work with Jason Schwab on changes with the park. GaGa ball and pickleball nets will be installed by the Highway Department.

Supervisor Cornwall said that there is a new appointee for the library Board., Mary Ellen Fuller.

The Assessor's report was provided to the Board.

Supervisor Cornwall made a motion to adjourn to executive session for a legal matter, with Tim Byroads and Rebecca Grimmelt to join them. Council Shenk seconded the motion. All were in favor and it carried. Executive session began at 8:20 pm. The Board returned to the regular meeting at 8:30 pm.

RESOLUTION #22

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT (1) TRUSTEE POSITION WITH STAGGERED TERMS FOR THE BOARD OF THE KING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, AND TO APPOINT THE TRUSTEES OF THE KING MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD

Motion by Council Bork seconded by Council Shenk

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Cornwall, Shenk, Bork, Reese, Glasner

Nays 0

RESOLUTION #23

RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MACHIAS TOWN JUSTICES FROM TWO TOWN JUSTICES TO ONE TOWN JUSTICE

Motion by Council Shenk, seconded by Council Glasner

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Cornwall, Shenk, Bork, Reese, Glasner
Nays 0

RESOLUTION #24

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FIXED RATE UTILITY PRICES WITH NEW WAVE ENERGY

Motion by Council Bork, seconded by Council Shenk

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Cornwall, Shenk, Bork, Reese, Glasner
Nays 0

RESOLUTION #25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT IN THE EMPIRE PUBLIC INVESTMENT COOPERATIVE FUND OF NEW YORK (EPIC FUND NY)

Motion by Council Reese, seconded by Council Glasner

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Cornwall, Shenk, Bork, Reese, Glasner
Nays 0

RESOLUTION #26

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CREDIT CARD USE POLICY FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS

Motion by Council Bork, seconded by Council Shenk

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Cornwall, Shenk, Bork, Reese, Glasner
Nays 0

RESOLUTION #27

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MACHIAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TO SELL FUEL TO THE MACHIAS FIRE DISTRICT

Motion by Council Glasner, seconded by Council Shenk

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Cornwall, Shenk, Bork, Reese, Glasner
Nays 0

RESOLUTION #28

AUDIT OF CLAIMS FOR MARCH 2026

Motion by Council Bork, seconded by Council Glasner

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Cornwall, Shenk, Bork, Reese, Glasner
Nays 0

The Board reviewed the Justice records. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Glasner, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Grimmelt, Town Clerk

March 2026 Vouchers

GENERAL	\$	19,873.58
YOUTH	\$	113.34
HIGHWAY	\$	50,114.18
STREET LIGHTING	\$	2,625.67
WATER	\$	8,359.14
LIME LAKE SEWER DISTRICT	\$	6,982.59