

Machias Town Board Meeting

April 20, 2026

Present: Stephen Cornwall, Supervisor
Robert Shenk, Council
Tom Reese, Council – via Zoom videoconference
Frank Bork, Council - via conference call (no video, so not able to vote)
Nicholas Glasner, Council
Scott Ludtka – Code Enforcement
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. Supervisor Cornwall seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Supervisor Cornwall asked for petitions or requests from the floor. Jeff Hernandez of McKinstry Road brought allegations of wrongdoing against the Outdoor Store and the Town. He has submitted a complaint with the Department of State and the ATF.

Caleb Henning of MDA Engineers gave an update on the water district engineering plan. They researched water rates in 35 districts in the area, and the average cost is \$350.00 per year. Some districts have separate assessments on property tax bills for district debt. Several of the districts are actively raising rates each year to catch up with where they feel they should be. There are other communities in Cattaugus County researching similar water district improvement projects. The New York State average for water is \$1,200.00 per year and sewer is \$1,000.00 per year. The proposed project would see an increase of \$250.00 per user per year. The Board has decided not to proceed with the proposed expansion of the water district to include Lime Lake. Kevin Sparks asked about help with funding for the project. Henning said that the Engineering Report is the necessary key for grant funding applications. We cannot move forward without a completed report. Some possible funding sources are WIIA Grants, zero-interest loans, and Community Development Block Grants. Henning said the ongoing operation and maintenance is a big drain on the water district finances. By increasing our capital expense for this project, we will be able to decrease the operation and maintenance costs moving forward.

Supervisor Cornwall made a motion to have MDA Engineering finalize the Machias Water District Engineering Report. Council Reese seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Byroads was unable to attend as he was fighting a structure fire in Machias. Clerk Grimmelt gave his report. The Board was provided with two quotes for replacement for the power broom. The proposed replacement would be able to fulfill multiple needs for the highway department. They are busy doing repairs and clean-up from the tornados and are doing spring clean-up around the Lake. They have started sweeping on Riceville, Krepps, and Zoulko. They have the baseball field ready for the youth league and are preparing to do some projects in the park.

Council Reese said that the Lime Lake Sewer District had done the annual maintenance on Hazelmere Avenue.

Code Enforcement Officer Scott Ludtka said that there are 26 open permits, He has issued two stop work orders and six projects are complete. The proposed glamping project on Route 242 is moving forward. He has been contacted by the Department of State regarding the allegations about the Outdoor Store. He asked Mr. Hernandez for a copy of the final draft of the complaint and Mr. Hernandez refused.

Maple Grove Cemetery – Spring clean-up will be starting soon and there is one spring burial to be scheduled.

Town Clerk had nothing to report.

The Assessor's report was provided to the Board.

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

Katie Cornwall reported for the Youth Commission. The annual Chicken BBQ will be held on Memorial Day, May 25th, at the Machias Fire Hall, with a basket raffle by the Fire Department. There are some changes to the Summer Rec program registration process this year. There will be dates for registration packet pick-ups and then all registrations and fees will need to be turned into the Town Clerk's office before July 6th. All staff is hired; most of them are returning from last year. They are working on a shelter expansion.

Old business: The Supervisor is continuing to look into a noise ordinance.

Former Justice Lounsbury said thank you to the Town Board and Town for the honor of putting his name on the Courthouse. The people elected him for 44 years and he is truly grateful.

Kevin Sparks gave an update from the Planning Committee. The Town Board asked them to prioritize their policy requests. They provided a handout to the Board with what they believe should be the Town's goals. How are other towns attracting businesses? We need to expand. Need to work on zoning policies. What do residents want the Town to look like? Fifty percent of our population is older than 60 years of age. What are we doing for the youth and to keep the youth in the community? Dave Zilker added that cleaning up the Town will attract other businesses.

Jan Fisher, Town Historian, gave a report for the Bicentennial Committee. The 200th anniversary celebration will be held on August 21, 2027. The committee has been meeting for almost a year. They meet on the 3rd Thursday at 6 pm at Events by Jess. All are welcome. The celebration will coincide with the American Legion Car Show and Chicken barbecue. It will be held at the Legion, Fire Hall, Town Park, and Library. There will be historical presentations at the Stone House leading up to the event; they will start in June 2027. There will be a dance at the fire hall, and a vendor show with farm market.

Cheryl Keesler asked the Town to advertise the Cattaraugus County Summer Youth employment program. It is for 14–20-year-olds who are income eligible. The information will be posted on the Town website and Facebook page.

Supervisor Cornwall made a motion to adjourn to executive session for a legal matter, with Scott Ludtka and Rebecca Grimmelt to join them. Council Shenk seconded the motion. All were in favor and it carried. Executive session began at 8:05 pm. The Board returned to the regular meeting at 8:46 pm.

RESOLUTION #29

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THAT MACHIAS TOWN BOARD EXAMINED THE TOWN JUSTICES' 2025 RECORDS

Motion by Supervisor Cornwall seconded by Council Glasner

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Cornwall, Shenk, Reese, Glasner
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Bork

RESOLUTION #30

RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE APPOINTMENTS TO STAFF THE POSITIONS OF PART-TIME LIFEGUARDS AND RECREATION STAFF

Motion by Council Shenk, seconded by Council Reese

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Cornwall, Shenk, Reese, Glasner
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Bork

RESOLUTION #31

AUDIT OF CLAIMS FOR APRIL 2026

Motion by Council Glasner, seconded by Supervisor Cornwall

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Cornwall, Shenk, Reese, Glasner
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Bork

A motion was made by Cornwall, seconded by Glasner, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Grimmelt, Town Clerk

April 2026 Vouchers

GENERAL	\$	13,243.64
HIGHWAY	\$	36,222.12
STREET LIGHTING	\$	2,053.01
WATER	\$	7,342.41
LIME LAKE SEWER DISTRICT	\$	13,374.70