

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JANUARY 23, 2013

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Aubrey Carter. In attendance were Board members Warren Gay, Danny Manchester, Glenn Davis, and Cony Upton; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Secretary Cathy Lord; Sharon Mack, Cathy Howell, Edward Pellon, Jim Lenke.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013 Board meeting with the following additional information:

Page 2, Item #8A should read - "Mr. Loughlin advised that the Town received a letter from Kay Richmond asking that the Town provide a letter supporting a juvenile justice grant. Mr. Loughlin pointed out that the letter would not commit the Town financially. The Board discussed the request and asked that the Town Manager respond with a letter regretting that the Town of Machias cannot commit any financial resources."

Page 2, Item #10 should read - "Mr. Manchester asked for an update on overdue sewer bills. Mr. Loughlin reported that the Town is at the point in the process in which the small claims court process will be used. He confirmed that delinquent sewer users have been sent notices advising that the Town will be proceeding to this next step on delinquent sewer bills. Mr. Manchester cautioned that there is a time limitation when using the lien process."

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board VOTED:

To approve municipal warrant #60 in the amount of \$213,624.83; to approve municipal warrant #61 in the amount of \$11,074.11; to approve municipal warrant #62 in the amount of \$37,632.58; and to approve municipal warrant #63 in the amount of \$18,035.74 .

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board VOTED:

To approve school warrant #30 in the amount of \$191,053.73 .

3. TOURISM PROPOSAL - MACHIAS BAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR

Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Director Cathy Howell asked the Board for funds to purchase 10,000 copies of a tourism brochure entitled "Visit Coastal Machias Bay Area"; she explained that the cost for the order is \$3085. Mr. Carter questioned if this was actually a third party request that should be considered with other third party requests during the municipal budget process. Ms. Howell explained that the brochures will be needed as soon as possible to allow mailing as tourism requests come in. Mr. Carter asked if other area towns that benefit from tourism dollars will also be asked to contribute. Ms. Howell said that she will be asking other towns such as Jonesport. Mr. Loughlin suggested that Roque Bluffs, East Machias, Machiasport, and Cutler be solicited for contributions towards the purchase.

The Board discussed utilizing the contingency account for funds but several members of the Board pointed out that this account is depleting very quickly. Mr. Gay suggested that Ms. Howell obtain some financial commitment towards the order from other towns and advise the Board of Selectmen of the results of these commitments on funding. Ms. Howell said that she would do so. Mr. Carter told Ms. Howell that the Board appreciates her cause and thanked her for coming to the meeting.

#### 4. MACHIAS WATER COMPANY - PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

Mr. Loughlin reviewed a letter addressed to the Public Utilities Commission petitioning the PUC to reject a proposed 36.78% rate increase by the Machias Water Company. Members of the Board stated opposition to the increase in rates. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that he will be attending the public hearing on the proposed rate increase when it is scheduled. He invited the members of the Board and Mr. Pellon to attend the hearing. Mr. Carter commented that more users arguing against the rate increase at the hearing would be advantageous.

#### 5. STORM DRAIN PROJECT REBID

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that now would be a good time to rebid the storm drain project since this is a slower time of the year for contractors. He noted that bids would be due at the end of February/early March. The members of the Board agreed to solicit new bids on the storm drain project.

#### 6. HEALTHY MAINE STREETS

Mr. Loughlin reminded the Board that the Healthy Main Streets program has awarded a two year grant for \$10,000. per year to the Town of Machias to support health and wellness in the downtown area. He noted that the grant focuses on businesses with less than twenty employees. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the grant specifics will be discussed during the downtown revitalization meeting in February.

#### 7. GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. Loughlin and the Board discussed the governor's proposed suspension of state revenue sharing as a way to balance the state budget. Mr. Loughlin commented that the affect to municipalities and property tax payers will be devastating in light of the fact that the governor also wants to eliminate the homestead exception and require that local towns share in the cost of teacher pensions.

#### 8. SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT & SIDEWALK ORDINANCE

Mr. Loughlin suggested that the Board consider scheduling a public hearing to review the proposed vehicle weight limit and sidewalk ordinance. Mr. Upton stated that he has issues with some of the language in the sidewalk ordinance; specifically, he noted his displeasure with allocating the duty of snow removal located on Main Street to business owners. Mr. Upton said that he could not support language which subjects some residents and businesses to duties that are provided to residents and businesses in other areas of town. He pointed out that residents and businesses are not required to remove snow on Dublin Street sidewalks but residents and businesses located on Main Street would be required to remove snow from sidewalks. Mr. Upton said that this would be very unfair and he cannot recommend passage of the ordinance.

After a short discussion, Mr. Carter noted that it appears that there is still work to be done on this proposed ordinance. The other members of the Board agreed.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board  
VOTED:

To table scheduling of a public hearing on the vehicle weight limit and sidewalk ordinance.

#### 9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Loughlin presented the Board with various contracts for their signatures.

B. Mr. Loughlin reviewed a pawnbroker's renewal license application submitted by the owners of Main Street Discount. He noted that the business owner's current license expires in February.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board  
VOTED:

To grant a renewal of a pawnbroker's license for Main Street Discount.

C. Mr. Carter pointed out that the Water Street municipal parking lot cannot be used as a designated taxi cab stand. He asked that Mr. Loughlin inform the owner of the taxi cab that the parking lot cannot be designated as a cab stand.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM.