

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JANUARY 28, 2015

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:10 PM by Vice Chairman Warren Gay. In attendance were Board members Danny Manchester, Glenn Davis, and James Whalen; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Sewer Department Director Bob Bialotta; Edward Pellon, Annalise Hafford, Bill Olver.

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 14, 2015 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board VOTED:
To approve municipal warrant #61 in the amount of \$15,762.47 to approve municipal warrant #62 in the amount of \$66,354.96; to approve municipal warrant #63 in the amount of \$17,095.29; and, to approve municipal warrant #64 in the amount of \$36,744.67 .

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board VOTED:
To approve school warrant #30 in the amount of \$173,659.45.

3. POLICE CRUISER DECISION

The members of the Board discussed how to proceed with the purchase of a new police vehicle. The Board asked that Mr. Loughlin develop a set of specifications for the vehicle.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Danny Manchester, the Board VOTED:
To authorize the Town Manager to proceed with soliciting a bank loan in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.
for the purchase of a new police cruiser.

4. BECKMAN PROPERTY PROPOSAL - WEST KENNEBEC ROAD

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that relatives of Sally Beckman are asking if the Town of Machias would like to purchase a piece of property located on the West Kennebec Road from them. The Board discussed the location of the property and any advantages to holding ownership of the property. It was the decision of the Board of Selectmen not to pursue ownership of this piece of property.

5. REQUEST FOR EXCISE TAX COLLECTION - JONESBORO/WHITNEYVILLE

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the Towns of Jonesboro and Whitneyville are asking that the Town of Machias collect excise taxes for them from 4/3 to 4/16.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:

To collect excise taxes for Jonesboro and Whitneyville from
April 3rd to April 16th.

6. ACTION ON PROPOSED PURCHASING POLICY

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:

To approve the proposed municipal purchasing policy as
written.

7. NOREEN/GATTO TAX ISSUE

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that a property tax bill was sent to the wrong person on a piece of land located on the Kennebec Crossroads. He added that even though the town's tax assessor was notified twice of the change by the former owner Mr. Guy did not correct the ownership information so that a tax bill could be sent to the correct person. Mr. Loughlin noted that the improperly billed person (Noreen) is requesting abatement of taxes and interest in the amount of \$209.91. The Board discussed how to proceed with this matter. Mr. Whalen pointed out that the problem appears to be the responsibility of the town's assessor since he did not correct the ownership information allowing the tax bill to be sent to the responsible property owner. Mr. Davis commented that it should be the assessor who should shoulder complete responsibility since he neglected to change necessary information to ensure that the actual owner of the property received the tax bill. The Board debated how to proceed. Both Mr. Whalen and Mr. Davis offered to pay the taxes and interest to settle the issue.

On a motion by Glenn Davis, seconded by James Whelan, the Board
VOTED:

To abate the taxes and interest in the amount of \$209.91.

8. MANAGER'S REPORT/OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Loughlin noted that Governor LePage is looking towards eliminating municipal revenue sharing completely because it is his opinion that towns need to share more services. He noted that Machias is already sharing ambulance, fire coverage, and transfer station services. Mr. Loughlin added that Machias is participating in other cooperative cost sharing activities such as salt purchase, street sweeping, grants, town office support, and state fuel contract.

B. Mr. Loughlin distributed a budget meeting schedule for the Board's review. He noted that at the present time most towns are unsure of the municipal revenue sharing and state monies. Mr. Manchester suggested revising the schedule in some way to expedite the budget process.

C. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that bids for rug installation in the town office will be opened at their next scheduled meeting.

D. Mr. Pellon noted that the Machias Budget Committee should be involved in looking at the costs of purchasing a new police vehicle.

9. OLVER ASSOCIATES OPERATION OF SEWER SYSTEM

Mr. Loughlin asked that the Board discuss operation of the Machias wastewater treatment system with Olver Associates in executive session.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:
To adjourn to executive session at 6:30 PM in order to discuss
a matter as permitted under Title 1,
M.R.S.A. s/s 405 Chapter 13(C).

On a motion by Glenn Davis, seconded by James Whalen, the Board
VOTED:
To adjourn the executive session at 7:10 PM and reconvene into
open session.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:
To open the Machias Wastewater Treatment Plant and its
operations to Olver Associates who will audit
the facility and operations in order to be able to discuss the
possibility of providing contract operations
services for the Town of Machias.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.