

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

April 22, 2015

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Aubrey Carter. In attendance were Board members Warren Gay, Danny Manchester, Glenn Davis and James Whalen; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Sewer Department Director Bob Bialotta; Police Chief Grady Dwelley, Ed Pellon and Cat Cannon of the Machias Valley News Observer.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, The Board
VOTED:
To approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, The Board
VOTED:
To approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting.

3. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:
To approve municipal warrant #85 approve municipal warrant #86; to approve municipal warrant #87 and, to approve municipal warrant #88.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:
To approve school warrant #42.

4. TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY

The Town had two pieces of tax acquired property for sale: Map 3 Lot 77, and Map 13 Lot 15B. The Town received only two bids, for Map 3 Lot 77.

The bids were:

John Prior	\$450
Glenn Davis	\$500

Both bids met the minimum bid.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by James Whalen, the Board
VOTED:
To sell Map 3 Lot 77 to Glenn Davis for \$500

Vote: 4-0, Selectman Davis abstained

The Board asked that the lot size be in the advertisement.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board
VOTED:
To readvertise the Gardner Avenue property, Map 13 Lot 15B for sale.

5. OLVER ASSOCIATES PLANT OPERATIONS- START DATE MAY1

The Town Manager discussed the upcoming operations of the plant by Olver Associates, and the final activities associated with the handover of duties to the contractor.

6. MDOT PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALKS

James Whalen gave the Board a narrative of the necessary actions for the Town to take out the "bump-outs" downtown and to construct the sidewalk down the Court Street Hill. His findings reflect the information given to the Board last year. The Town will be responsible for the entire cost of the downtown project, while the Town would be able to have the state pay for the larger share of the project. The Board asked that Mr. Adams, from Maine DOT come to address the Board about sidewalk construction. James Whalen suggested that Public Works be used to remove the "bump-outs" this summer.

7. BUILDING AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL FIELD

The Board of Selectmen discussed the proposal by the Machias Little League and Machias School Department to construct a building at the softball field to house a scorekeeper, concessions, and eventually a bathroom.

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

VOTED:

To give the permission to build the building at the Southside Softball Field.

8. POLICE OFFICER POSITION PAY

Mr. Loughlin brought to the Board a request to have the new police officer start at Step 2 of the Wage Scale instead of Step 0. This is based on the officer's qualifications and experience. The Board asked the difference in wages. The change would be from \$14.55/ hour to \$15.26/ hour. The Police Chief reminded the Board that there is a sidebar agreement to the Union contract that permits this course of action.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded the Board

VOTED:

To bring the new police officer on beginning May 1, 2015 at step 2 of the wage scale for an academy trained officer, \$15.26/ hour.

9. AIRPORT CLOSURE

James Whalen discussed the need to have an active Airport Committee to discuss the future of the Machias Valley Airport. He indicated that there appeared to be little support other than from the Town Manager for an airport in Machias. Selectman Whalen had been calling around to state and federal officials to find how the Town could close the airport. Mr. Loughlin asked that the committee include people who use the facility.

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

VOTED:

To advertise for Airport Committee members.

10. PUC LAWYER ESTIMATE

Mr. Loughlin discussed the estimate provided by Pierce Atwood regarding representing the Town at the PUC hearings regarding the Machias Water Company. The Board debated the value of legal representation on this issue, and concluded it would be in the Town's best interest. The Board discussed expending up to \$20,000 on the issue. The Board also indicated that there would be limited funds available before July 1, 2015.

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

To engage Pierce Atwood for legal counsel regarding the PUC case with the Machias Water Company, with an upper limit of \$20,000 to be expended.

11. DESHON SCHOLARSHIP

James Whalen discussed the advisability of getting an investment counselor regarding the DeShon Scholarship. The monies for that scholarship are significantly more than any other scholarship, and should be protected through a wise investment strategy. The Chairman asked that the Town Manager check with MMA to see if they could advise us regarding investments.

12. DEDICATION OF THE TOWN REPORT

The Town Manager discussed the dedication of the Town Report. There were no obvious candidates for the dedication. Ed Pellon suggested that we dedicated the Report to Clyde Bernhardt for his many years of service to the Fire Department. The Board agreed this would be a good choice. Danny Manchester also mentioned that Wayne Emory died recently, and he had driven a plow truck for Machias many years before. Mr. Loughlin said he would check with members of both families.

13. UPDATE ON DMR MEETING IN EAST MACHIAS

Mr. Loughlin informed the Board on a meeting he attended in East Machias with area Towns and the Department of Marine resources. The meeting discussed the desire to open clam flats further upriver from the current legal clam flats. DMR indicated that this may be possible, but that the federal and state laws may not support that change. The meeting also discussed the CSO events at the Machias Siphon Chamber that was the major contributor to closures of the flats in Machiasport. Overall the meeting was a good place for all sides to discuss the issues.

14. MANAGER'S REPORT/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Loughlin forwarded an inquiry regarding the Town's participation in an advertisement welcoming Helen's Restaurant back. The Board thought that this would be divisive within the

community, and declined the offer.

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