

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 8, 2013

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, Cony Upton, and Glenn Davis; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Secretary Cathy Lord; Finance Director Meghan Dennison; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Police Chief Grady Dwelley; Sharon Mack, Hillary Savage, Ben Redman.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to approve the revised minutes of the April 24, 2013 Board meeting with the following correction:

Page 1, Item #2, the motion on the approval of the school warrant should read:

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

VOTED:

To approve school warrant #42 in the amount of \$223,644.48 ."

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

VOTED:

To approve municipal warrant #94 in the amount of \$19,071.73;; to approve municipal warrant #95 in the amount of \$32,984.68; to approve municipal warrant #96 in the amount of \$10,837.10; and, to approve municipal warrant #97 in the amount of \$20,435.30 .

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

VOTED:

To approve school warrant #44 in the amount of \$192,304.57 .

3. APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMITS FOR CATERING PRIVILEGES

Mr. Loughlin informed the Board of three applications for off premises catering privileges. The Board reviewed each application separately and took action on each request.

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

VOTED:

To approve a special permit for catering privileges to Bluebird Ranch Restaurant for catering at the Lee Pellon Center on May 18, 2013.

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

VOTED:

To approve a special permit for catering privileges to Bluebird Ranch Restaurant for catering at Machias Savings Bank on May 20, 2013,

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

VOTED:

To approve a special permit for catering privileges to Bluebird Ranch Restaurant for catering at the Lee Pellon Center on June 1, 2013.

4. COMMITMENT OF SEWER USER RATES

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board
VOTED:
To accept the quarterly sewer user rates.

5. REPORT ON WATERLINE BREAKS

A. Town Clerk Sandra Clifton advised the Board of a waterline break at a private residence. Mr. Carter asked if the homeowner had submitted a request to reduce their sewer billing because of the waterline break. Ms. Clifton informed the Board that the homeowner had asked verbally if a reduction to the bill would be considered but has not submitted the request in writing.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board
VOTED:
To table this item until the Board has a written request from the homeowner.

B. Mr. Ben Redman told the members of the Board that a water pipe had broken in the laundry room at his vacant rental property located at 15 Bedford Street resulting in a quarterly sewer bill totaling \$543.00 . He explained that the water from the pipe had run out of the apartment unit onto the ground and had not been noticed. Mr. Redman requested that an adjustment be made to his bill; he asked the Board if they would accept \$150.00 .

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board
VOTED:
To reduce the sewer bill for the 15 Bedford Street property from \$543.88 to \$150.00 due to a water break.

6. APPLICATION FOR ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES

Mr. Loughlin distributed information regarding an application for a poverty abatement of property taxes. Mr. Carter requested that the hearing for the abatement be scheduled for the Board's next meeting and he requested that the applicant be in attendance to speak on their request.

7. FINALIZATION OF TOWN MEETING DATE

Ms. Clifton discussed suggested dates for upcoming municipal activities. The Board decided that elections would be held on June 25th, annual town meeting will be held on June 26th, and school voting will be scheduled for May 28th. Ms. Clifton advised the Board that advertisements will be placed in local newspapers announcing that copies of the school budget are available at the school department, at the town office, through the mail, or can be e-mailed/faxed.

8. QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR TAX-ACQUIRED PROPERTY

Mr. Loughlin informed the Board that he had sold the trailer acquired by the Town due to non-payment of taxes for the sum of \$400. as he was directed by

the Board at their last meeting Mr. Loughlin said that he had called the previous owner in order to advise her that she needed to remove personal property from the trailer; he added that the previous owner did not respond.

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

To sign a quit claim deed for Jason & Rebecca Vane for the purchase of a trailer from the Town of Machias.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT MEMBER

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

To appoint Cassie Nevala as an EMT-B on the Machias Ambulance Service.

10. CDBG - EASTSIDE PROJECT DECISION

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the Town was not funded with a CDBG this year for the eastside sewer project. He noted that another application can be submitted to apply for funding of the project next year.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Police Chief Grady Dwelley reviewed an agreement he signed on 4/20/13 between the Washington County: One Community A Healthy Maine Partnership and the Machias Police Department. He advised the Board that the agreement is a cooperative effort for a multi-jurisdictional police task force to address underage drinking. The agreement is in effect from 4/1/13 through 9/30/13 and includes the Washington County Sheriff's Department, the Eastport Police Department, the Pleasant Point Police Department, the Indian Township Police Department, the Calais Police Department, the Baileyville Police Department, the Milbridge Police Department, and the Machias Police Department. Chief Dwelley explained that the grant will pay for police officer wages and associated costs; he said that he would like full-time police officers to be paid at their time and a half rate and reserve police officers would be paid \$20. per hour when they are working for the task force.

Mr. Carter commented that he would have preferred that the Board had been given more time to consider this agreement before the agreement was actually signed by the police chief. Chief Dwelley said that the timeline had been very tight and that he needed to act on the agreement before he could talk to the Board of Selectmen. Finance Director Meghan Dennison noted that she needed more clarification on what she will pay the officers when they are working on the task force. She pointed out that the task force is funded with \$7000. in grant money. The Board discussed the components of the agreement.

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

To sign the memorandum of understanding with Washington County One Community for the joint agreement with seven other Washington County police departments.

Mr. Manchester pointed out that the members of the Board should be notified when the police cruiser is sent out of town for task force business. Mrs. Dennison asked for guidelines as to the hourly rate for the reserve officers working on the task force. Chief Dwelley argued that the amount of pay should not be a huge sticking point. Mrs. Dennison explained that she needed direction from the Board as to how to correctly compensate officers'

timecards and that officers' hourly wages for task force work need to be correctly documented and established by the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Dennison advised the Board that after the hourly wage is set she can figure out the total cost in addition to the hourly compensation that will need to be charged to the task force. The Board discussed the hourly wage compensation for task force work.

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

VOTED:

To set an hourly rate of \$18.00 for reserve police officers for task force work only.

Members of the Board expressed concern that officers would prefer to work for the task force and not want to fulfill normal obligations for routine patrols at the existing pay rate. Chief Dwelley assured the members of the Board that this type of situation would not occur and that officers would be required to continue to work their normal hours before being assigned task force work.

B. Mr. Loughlin informed the Board of a sewer blockage on Elm Street. He advised that the sewer will be excavated and that responsibility for the damage will be assigned pending results.

C. Mr. Manchester pointed out that the public works budget is very close to being overspent. Mr. Loughlin said that he would caution Mr. Gooch about the status of this budget.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board

VOTED:

To adjourn into executive session at 6:45 PM in order to discuss a personnel matter with Police Chief

Grady Dwelley as permitted under Title 1, M.R.S.A. s/s 405. 6.A.(1).

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

VOTED:

To adjourn the executive session at 8:00 PM and reconvene into open session.

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

VOTED:

To hire Timothy Mace as a temporary full-time police officer pending successful completion of a polygraph and psychological testing within thirty (30) days.

Vote on Motion: 5 to 0

On a motion by Cony Upton, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board

VOTED:

To hire Kevin Nelson as a temporary full-time police officer pending successful completion of a polygraph and psychological testing within thirty (30) days.

Vote on Motion: 4 to 1; Mr. Carter, Mr. Gay, Mr. Davis, & Mr. Upton voted in favor of the motion

Mr. Manchester opposed the motion

Motion was Passed

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM.