

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 13, 2015

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 James Whalen; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Secretary Cathy Lord; Police Chief Grady Dwelley; Officer Tim Mace; Sharon Mack, Bob Burta.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board  
VOTED:  
To table review and action on the minutes of previous Board meetings.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board  
VOTED:  
To approve municipal warrant #89 in the amount of \$16,628.83; to approve municipal warrant #90 in the amount of \$49,638.82; to approve municipal warrant #91 in the amount of \$12,089.62; to approve municipal warrant #92 in the amount of \$45,601.89; to approve municipal warrant #93 in the amount of \$15,449.19; and, to approve municipal warrant #94 in the amount of \$425,251.13 .

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board  
VOTED:  
To approve school warrant #44 in the amount of \$300,274.95 and to approve school warrant #46 in the amount of \$182,479.59 .

3. LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION - AMERICAN LEGION POST #9

Mr. Loughlin reviewed a liquor license renewal application submitted by the American Legion Post #9. Mr. Loughlin noted that the application states total liquor sales of \$65,608.; he also noted that there have been no adverse comments or negative reports of problems from the police department.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board  
VOTED:  
To grant a liquor license renewal to the American Legion Post #9.

4. REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Sharon Mack explained to the members of the Board that members of the town's revitalization committee are concerned about the appearance

of damage on Main Street; she suggested that a working group be formed to develop a plan of action to address the problem. Ms. Mack noted that the Town always talks about doing something about the appearance of Main Street but this project always seems to get pushed ahead. Ms. Mack added that some type of public forum could examine the problems and look for solutions. Mr. Whalen commented that he would really like to see action sooner than later to address the problem; he noted the need for public input. Ms. Mack pointed out that the first priority the revitalization committee would recommend would be to remove the present parking pattern on Main Street.

Members of the Board encouraged

Ms. Mack to proceed with scheduling a meeting. Ms. Mack asked who should be in charge of setting up a meeting and Mr. Whalen recommended that the Town Manager do this. Mr. Loughlin scheduled this meeting on June 3rd at 7:00 AM at the Bluebird Ranch Restaurant. Mr. Whalen strongly encouraged that something be done this year. Mr. Carter cautioned that timeliness is important but anything that is done needs to be done right. Mr. Loughlin noted that a representative of the MDOT plans to attend the Board's June 24th meeting and this might be an appropriate time to address issues regarding areas of Machias that need attention.

#### 5. VETERAN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. Loughlin reported that the State is seeking to renew the lease on the Maine Veteran's office space in the Machias Town Office building at the rate of \$550. per month for a yearly lease of \$6,600.

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

To enter into a lease agreement with the State of Maine for the Maine Veteran's Services office space at the Machias Town Office at the rate of \$550. per month for one year.

#### 6. QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR WEST KENNEBEC PROPERTY

The Board signed a quit claim deed for a piece of property purchased by Mr. Glen Davis from the Town of Machias.

#### 7. SEWER USER COMMITTEE

Mr. Loughlin reported that the amount for the quarterly sewer rate commitment is \$101,812.

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

To sign the quarterly sewer rate commitment in the amount of \$101,812.

#### 8. SCHOOL BUDGET WARRANT REFERENDUM SIGNATURES

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

To sign the warrant for the school budget validation referendum.

9. POLICE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/FUTURE GRANTS

A.

Police Chief Grady Dwelley explained that there continues to be a considerable drug problem within Washington County and that many police departments are short-handed. He advised the Board that police departments are looking for alternative ways to assist other departments. Chief Dwelley pointed out that there were twenty-seven drug overdoses and five drug-related deaths last year, clearly illustrating that drugs are a major problem in Washington County. He told the Board that police departments need help since addressing the drug problem could potentially drain away all the budget resources of a police department. Chief Dwelley advised the Board that Washington County police departments are looking at entering into a memorandum of understanding as a way to help each other combat the drug problem. He noted that these departments would be offering assistance to each other.

Mr. Whalen commented that the memorandum of understanding appears to be a general agreement with few specifics; he noted that the Board has worked very hard to make sure that the Machias Police Department has adequate personnel and that the Town has adequate police coverage; he added that it worries him that Machias might be giving away its resources with this agreement. Mr. Whalen said that he was concerned that there were few specifics in the agreement. Mr. Davis pointed out that this agreement would be a cooperative agreement since there continues to be an exceptional problem with drugs in Washington County and that the memorandum of understanding would allow other local police departments to assist each other. He commented that it would be impossible to list every specific scenario in such an agreement and that the goal is to apply manpower to a problem whenever assistance is needed.

Mr. Whalen said that he would like to see a time limitation or a specific program included in the agreement. He commented that he has been waiting for someone to really do something about the drug problem. He pointed out that there is also nothing in this agreement specific to drugs. Mr. Carter asked when this agreement would be initiated? Chief Dwelley noted that the departments would like to initiate this program as soon as possible; he explained that the agreement would involve the Woodland Police Department, the Pleasant Point Police Department, the Machias Police Department, and the Maine State Police.

Mr. Manchester stated his worry that judges will not back up police departments trying to combat drugs. Mr. Carter asked if there was the possibility of starting this program on a trial basis?

Chief Dwelley noted that this agreement would be between the towns and police departments and that the agreement can be dissolved at any time.

Mr. Manchester asked if the agreement would involve police vehicles? Mr. Dwelley responded that Machias vehicles would not be leaving Machias; he told the Board that he is looking for the ability to take care of drug problems with the assistance of other police agencies.

Mr. Whalen pointed out that the Board has provided a list of concerns which need to be addressed in the memorandum of understanding. He explained that he fully understands that police need help to control the drug problem but that he is concerned about resources as they pertain to Machias. Chief Dwelley advised the Board that individual

departments will assume their own liability.

Mr. Carter noted

that the Board would like to see the revisions before making a final decision regarding a trial period for the agreement. Mr. Dwelley noted that the MOAs are identical for each department and that the individual departments will be meeting to discuss the agreement. Mr. Loughlin suggested keeping a log showing participation in the program which also would be a good tool for review when the time comes to continue or discontinue the agreement. Mr. Manchester noted that he has some concern regarding legal questions as well as liability issues. Mr. Carter suggested that the Board can ask MMA to review the MOA as to legalities and concerns they may have about such an agreement. Chief Dwelley explained that there would be an MOU between the town departments and the sheriff's department and an MOU between the sheriff's department and the state police. Mr. Dwelley advised the Board that he will try to get the agreement revisions ready for the Board to review at their next meeting,

B. Chief Dwelley advised the Board that he would like to apply for unused grant money unclaimed by the Calais Police Department for the purchase of electronic equipment. He informed the Board that the Machias Police Department will apply for a \$2200. grant as well as the Calais money in the amount of \$8,000. Chief Dwelley explained that Machias will administer the grant monies; he added that there is absolutely no cost to Machias. Chief Dwelley told the Board that he wants to purchase a server, a wireless point, and cables, along with paying for the cost for installation. He noted that he estimates the equipment and installation will cost \$7,060. and that there is \$10,200. in grant money available for the purchase and installation.

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

To authorize the Chief of Police to proceed with applying for a grant to purchase electronics equipment for the Machias Police Department.

#### 10. YEAR-END CLOSING

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

To close the Machias Town Office on 7/1/15 in order to close the town books.

#### 11. SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that Robert Lobbley has applied for a sewer abatement due to a water leak at his property located at 20 Canal Street (off Water Street). The Board discussed the request. Members of the Board noted that there needs to be some kind of proof that there was a water leak and proof that such a leak was repaired.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by James Whalen, the Board  
VOTED:

To deny Robert Lobbley's request for a sewer abatement.

## 12. SEWER DEPARTMENT TRUCK

Mr. Loughlin reported that the town's sewer pick-up truck failed inspection and cannot legally be driven. He advised the Board that he would like to go to the state auctions to find a suitable replacement; he suggested that he and the Public Works Director go to the auction to look at vehicles that are available. Mr. Loughlin explained that personnel at the sewer department are currently utilizing their own vehicles. Mr. Manchester suggested making a phone call to see what is available and the prices for available vehicles. Mr. Carter pointed out that price will depend upon the mileage and the condition of the vehicles. Mr. Loughlin told the Board that he will report his findings to the Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Carter asked if there are enough funds in the contingency account to cover the purchase and Mr. Loughlin noted that there is approximately \$15,000. remaining in the contingency account. The members of the Board discussed how to proceed.

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

To authorize the Town Manager not to exceed \$8000. for the purchase of a vehicle for the sewer department.

Mr. Carter noted that the old vehicle should be sold "where is, as is" to the highest bidder.

## 13. MUNICIPAL AUDIT UPDATE

Mr. Loughlin reported that the municipal audit should be completed by Friday, May 15th. He noted that that the town's auditor will be making recommendations regarding the school accounts.

## 14. AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Whalen told the other members of the Board that he had recently visited the terminal building at the Machias airport and was taken aback by the state of disrepair and generally unkept appearance of the building. He stated his concern that the Town of Machias accepts funding from the FAA for the purpose of running a functioning airport but that this is not the case.

Mr. Loughlin reviewed the membership of the airport advisory committee. Both Ms. Mack and Mr. Whalen said that they would like to be on this committee. Ms. Mack said that she would like the opportunity to do something to aid the airport such as forming an active committee. She also suggested that there are service fraternities at the university looking for community projects.

## 15. PUC UPDATE

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that there was a Public Utilities Commission meeting last week; he noted that the PUC would like to schedule a settlement meeting between the PUC, the Town of Machias, and

the Machias Water Company. Mr. Loughlin explained that the PUC prefers that the meeting be held in Hallowell on 5/26 or on 5/28.

16. DESHON SCHOLARSHIP INVESTMENT

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that MMA has suggested investing the DeShone Scholarship either through a bank or a financial advisor. The Board discussed the costs associated with investments. Mr. Loughlin suggested that he speak with the three local banks as to their recommendations and report back to the Board on the results.

17. MDOT PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALKS UPDATE

Mr. Loughlin reported that an MDOT representative will be attending the Board's June 24th meeting to discuss pedestrian sidewalks.

18. PART TIME DRIVER DISPATCHER/VOLUNTEER

Mr. Loughlin reported that he is hiring Mr. Carnevan as the part time driver dispatcher. He also noted that there are currently twenty-three firefighters and that he will be appointing another volunteer.

19. TOWN REPORT UPDATES

Members of the Board submitted their suggestions and revisions to the annual town report. Mr. Carter asked that Mr. Loughlin proceed with making these revisions.

20. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Mr. Loughlin informed the Board that the sewer treatment plant chief operator is asking to be paid for extra hours he worked after the assistant operator had resigned. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the plant operator wants to be paid for working an additional 5.3 hours over a fifteen week period. Mr. Davis pointed out that this is a salaried position; the other members of the Board agreed.

B. Mr. Manchester recommended paying Tom Briggs for one week of sick leave.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board  
VOTED:  
To pay Tom Briggs for one week of accumulated sick leave.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.