

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 14, 2014

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 Cony Upton; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Secretary Cathy Lord; Sewer Department Director Bob Bialotta; Nancy Manchester, Edward Pellon.

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 27, 2014 Board meeting.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2014 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #92 in the amount of \$16,276.53; to approve municipal warrant #93 in the amount of \$27,181.00; to approve municipal warrant #94 in the amount of \$12,274.25; to approve municipal warrant #95 in the amount of \$33,869.10; to approve municipal warrant #96 in the amount of \$15,288.18; and, to approve municipal warrant #97 in the amount of \$13,711.99 .

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

To approve school warrant #44 in the amount of \$217,138.44 and to approve school warrant #46 in the amount of \$183,075.89 .

3. APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The members of the Board signed copies of the municipal warrant for the annual town meeting scheduled for June 11, 2014.

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

To accept the municipal warrant for the annual town meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM WARRANT

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

To accept the school budget validation referendum warrant.

Mr. Loughlin reminded the Board that the school warrant meeting will be held on Tuesday May 27th at 6:00 PM at the Gaffney School.

5. CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN

Mr. Loughlin reported that there was very little funding this year allocated by the State for clean water projects. He advised the Board that Olver

Associates did submit a loan proposal to the program in the amount of \$700,000. for work to the siphon chamber. Mr. Loughlin told the Board that the State has offered Machias a loan in the amount of \$630,000. to be repaid over a twenty year period at the rate of 1.25% (no loan forgiveness). The Board discussed the town's options and discussed the scope of work that was to be done to the siphon chamber with the Town Manager.

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

To decline the State's offer of a \$630,000. loan from the clean water state revolving fund.

6. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BID ITEMS - REQUEST APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE

Mr. Loughlin informed the Board that the school department has a variety of equipment it would like to sell such as surplus kitchen and woodworking equipment and is asking permission to sell these items to the highest bidder. The Board discussed the request. Mr. Loughlin explained that the funds from the sale of the items would revert to the town's general fund.

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

To grant the school department permission to sell surplus items.

7. LEGISLATIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE NOMINATION

Mr. Loughlin asked the Board to appoint someone to the legislative planning committee which meets monthly from December through May.

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

To nominate Chris Loughlin to serve on the legislative planning committee.

8. SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING ON SEWER RATE INCREASE

Mr. Loughlin distributed copies of a compilation of municipal sewer rates for the Board to review. He compared Machias's rate to that of local towns and cities such as Calais, Lubec, and Eastport. Mr. Loughlin pointed out that Machias's rate is low compared to most of these communities. Mr. Upton asked if these other cities/towns offer commercial rates. Mr. Loughlin responded that he did not know this and this is not shown on the data sheet. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board of the need to increase the sewer rate in order to cover the expenses of the sewer department; he noted that there is a budget of \$491,212. for the upcoming year which would require a 29.3% increase to cover expenses. Mr. Loughlin noted that the last increase of 21% occurred in 2010.

The Board discussed an increase to sewer rates. Mr. Gay commented that many users will not pay their bills given an increase of 29.3%. Mr. Loughlin commented that it is the sewer users who have to cover the costs of the sewer system; he pointed out that Machias taxpayers do contribute towards the pay-back on the sewer loans so even non-sewer users contribute to the costs of the town's sewer system. Mr. Loughlin reviewed the 2014-2015 sewer budget with the Board.

After a long discussion, the Board decided that there needs to be a sewer rate increase to cover increased costs of sewer operations. It was the consensus of the Board to implement a fifteen percent increase this year with yearly increases thereafter.

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

To schedule a public hearing on May 28, 2014 at 6:00 PM to review a sewer
rate increase.

9. APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH TEAMSTERS LOCAL #340

The members of the Board signed the collective bargaining agreement between
the Town of Machias and Teamsters Local #340 effective 7/1/14 to 6/30/17.

10. SEWER GRIT PUMP

Mr. Bialotta reported that a sewer grit pump needs to be repaired at the
sewer treatment plant. He advised the Board that he obtained three quotes for
repairs from companies back in October and the lowest quote was in the amount
of \$24,300. He noted that there has been an approximate ten percent increase
in prices since that time. Mr. Bialotta said that he would re-contact the
company to get an updated figure for repairs and report back to the Board on
the actual repair costs.

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

To table the repairs to the sewer grit pump pending further information.

11. APPOINTMENT OF AMBULANCE PARAMEDIC

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

To appoint Kaylee Brown to the Machias Ambulance Service as a paramedic.

12. RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF TELEBUSINESS CENTER

Mr. Loughlin advised the members of the Board that the contract for the sale
of the telebusiness center will lapse soon and he asked the Board for
direction. The Board discussed relisting the property. Mr. Loughlin pointed
out that the building is currently listed for \$420,000. The Board decided to
relist the building for \$299,000.

13. REQUEST FOR SEWER BILL REDUCTION

The Board reviewed a request dated 5/6/14 from Vivian Walls-Patten asking for
an adjustment to a sewer bill on a trailer located at 27 Gardner Avenue. Mr.
Loughlin noted that the trailer appears to have had a leak during the winter
which was reflected in an increase in the water and sewer bill. Mr. Upton
suggested that a compromise would be to average the last four sewer bills.

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

To average the amount of the last four quarters as an adjustment to a sewer
bill for a trailer located at
27 Gardner Avenue owned by Vivian Walls-Patten.

14. BUSH-HOGGING - MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Mr. Loughlin reported that bids for bush-hogging at the municipal airport
will be opened at the Board's next meeting on 5/28/14. The Board reviewed a

map showing the areas to be addressed.

15. SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DRIVEWAY AND SIGN ORDINANCES

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

To schedule a public hearing for review of proposed driveway and sign
ordinances on 5/28/14 at 6:00 PM.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Loughlin reported that a meeting between the town's attorney and the
State regarding a response to the Town's sewer fine has been rescheduled to a
later date.

B. Mr. Bialotta reported that a recent low power outage resulted in damage to
equipment at the treatment plant. He advised the Board that he is having the
equipment evaluated. Mr. Carter asked if this was something that should be
discussed with the electric company. Mr. Manchester also suggested notifying
the town's insurance carrier as to the damage.

C. Mr. Gay called the Board's attention to the parking problem in front of
the district attorney's office on Court Street.

D. Mr. Pellon expressed his displeasure with the amount of dirt left on his
property from the town's winter plowing activities.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board voted to
adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM.