

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 27, 2015

This

meeting was called to order at 6:10 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; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Finance Director Meghan Dennison; Sharon Mack, Ed Pellon, Mike Karnas, Corey Schwinn, Cat Canna, Burton Hooper, Bill Kitchen, Frank Hallissey, Johanna Billings, Dori McCormick, Brent Hooper, Brian Leavitt.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2015 Board meeting.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2015 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board VOTED:  
To approve municipal warrant #95 in the amount of \$14,118.04; to approve municipal warrant #96 in the amount of \$73,729.88; to approve municipal warrant #97 in the amount of \$20,381.56; and, to approve municipal warrant #98 in the amount of \$83,715.69 .

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board VOTED:  
To approve school warrant #48 in the amount of \$179,678.65 .

3. SALE OF TAX-ACQUIRED PROPERTY

Mr. Loughlin noted that no bids were received on the advertised sale of tax-acquired property. The Board discussed the property that was listed for sale to the highest bidder; Mr. Carter asked if abutting property owners have been contacted for their interest in purchasing the property. Ms. Clifton pointed out that letters were sent to these property owners advising them that adjoining property was being sold by the Town due to non-payment of taxes. Mr. Carter noted that maybe personal contact with these property owners would obtain better results in interest in the property.

4. YOUTH FOOTBALL REQUEST - USE OF SOUTHSIDE FIELD

Mike Karnas and Frank Hallissey discussed developing a youth football league in the Machias area. Mr. Karnas explained that he would like to hold a football camp for youth which would offer kids another

opportunity to play sports in the area. He told the Board that he is asking for the use of the southside ball field as a football league game field. Mr. Karnas advised the Board that he carries liability insurance to conduct football camps. He assured the Board several times during the discussion that no damage will be done to the field by the players and that he would be personally responsible for leaving the field as it was found. Mr. Whalen pointed out that many members of the community have invested much time and effort to maintain and improve this ball field and that a lot of donors have contributed time and funds to provide a venue for children to play on. Mr. Karnas said that he would make sure the field is properly cared for, and he assured the Board that the field would not be harmed.

Brian Leavitt testified that there has been a major effort to completely renovate the southside field and that many people have contributed time and money to make the field better. He commented that it would be a step backwards to allow use of the field as a football field. Mr. Leavitt noted that football play is really hard on a field. Mr. Karnas said that the field would be cared for and he asked if the league could possibly use the field for one or two games.

5. REMINDER - ELECTIONS AND TOWN MEETING DATES

Mr. Loughlin reminded the Board that municipal elections are scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM with the annual town meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 10th at 7:00 PM at the high school gym.

6. AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Whalen shared with the Board that the airport committee met last week to discuss the status of the airport. He advised the Board that the group discussed the importance of the facility and that it would be beneficial to develop a pamphlet touting the advantages of the airport. Mr. Whalen noted that a suggestion was made to ask that the Public Works Department be placed in charge of the lights at the airport.

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

To increase the tie-down fee at the airport to \$30. per month.

Mr. Pellon suggested charging a landing fee as is done at most airports. It was suggested that the airport committee take a look at developing such a policy. The Board discussed designating a chairman for the airport committee. Ms. Mack commented that the airport committee group is very knowledgeable and interested in maintaining and improving the airport. The next meeting of the group will be on June 11th at the town office.

7. AIRPORT MASTER PLAN APPROVAL BY THE FAA

Mr. Loughlin reminded the members of the Board that they have copies of the airport master plan for their review.

8. SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SEWER RATE INCREASE

Mr. Loughlin recommended that a public hearing be scheduled for the Board's second meeting in June to review a sewer rate increase. He noted that the rate needs to be increased in order to cover a thirty-one percent increase in the costs to operate the system.

9. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING IN JUNE

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the PUC meeting will need to be rescheduled for the week of June 15 to 19th or on June 23rd in Hallowell.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT/OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr.

Loughlin noted that the Board has a copy of the proposed memorandum of understanding between the Washington County Sheriff's office and the Machias Police Department for their review. He suggested that the Board discuss the document at their second meeting in June.

B. Mr. Whalen congratulated the Public Works Department on the great job they did cleaning the O'Brien Cemetery.

C. Mr. Loughlin announced to the Board that he is tendering his letter of resignation effective June 5, 2015 based on approval of a severance agreement.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board  
VOTED:  
To accept Mr. Loughlin's letter of resignation effective June 5, 2015.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board  
VOTED:  
To accept Mr. Loughlin's severance package agreement.

11. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

On a motion by Glenn Davis, seconded by Danny Manchester, the Board  
VOTED:  
To appoint Sandra Clifton as Tax Collector and to appoint Meghan Dennison as Treasurer.

Mr. Carter pointed out that Ms. Clifton will also have to take on the responsibility of general assistance applications and eligibility determinations. He noted that with these appointments the Board will work out the responsibilities of the positions as well as providing additional compensation for both the treasurer and the tax collector.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.