

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 28, 2014

PUBLIC HEARING
SEWER RATE INCREASE

Chairman Aubrey Carter called a public hearing to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Carter explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to review a proposed sewer rate increase for sewer users. Town Manager Chris Loughlin reviewed the need to increase the sewer rate to cover existing operations. He noted that the proposed 2014-2015 budget for the sewer department totals \$491,212. with income of \$380,000. from sewer users leaving a shortfall of \$111,212. Mr. Loughlin said that an increase of 29.3% would need to be instituted in the sewer rate to cover the actual costs of the sewer system; he noted that the proposed rate increase is 15% and will not cover the expenses of the sewer system. Mr. Loughlin observed that, historically, it is the town's taxpayers who make up the difference in the operational costs and actual revenues. He added that the plan is to continue to increase the sewer rate yearly until the fees do cover the actual costs of the system. Mr. Carter asked for comments from the public. Mr. Pellon asked about the status of outstanding sewer bills and Mr. Loughlin explained the Town's on-going collection activities on overdue accounts. Mr. Manchester pointed out that the sewer department budget provides for basic operating costs; he pointed out that the State mandates what operations will be conducted at the sewer plant. Mr. Loughlin pointed out that the requirements for testing have increased dramatically with a major portion of operating costs allocated for this purpose. Mr. Upton noted that the State stipulates what testing will be done to evaluate the sewer system and the municipality must perform the testing as directed. Mr. Pellon advocated that the costs of the sewer system should be borne by all the taxpayers because the system is owned by the Town. Mr. Loughlin pointed out that the non-users provide the additional money needed to cover the costs of the sewer system as well as the costs of grants. Mr. Carter closed the public hearing at 6:17 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED SIGN ORDINANCE & DRIVEWAY ORDINANCE

Chairman Carter called a public hearing to order at 6:17 PM. He explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to review a proposed sign ordinance and a driveway ordinance which will be voted on at annual town meeting on June 11th. Mr. Pellon asked how the driveway ordinance was drafted. Mr. Loughlin responded that initially it was thought to combine the driveway ordinance with the sidewalk ordinance but it was decided to deal with a separate driveway ordinance. Upon questioning by Mr. Pellon, Mr. Loughlin advised that the State is allowing towns to police driveways on public roads if there is an existing ordinance. Mr. Carter closed the public hearing at 6:20 PM.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:20 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, Kevin Millay, Scott Porter.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 14, 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 #98 in the amount of \$11,571.61; to approve municipal warrant #99 in the amount of \$89,764.10; to approve municipal warrant #100 in the amount of \$25,667.02; and, to approve municipal warrant #101 in the amount of \$52,064.54 .

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

VOTED:

To approve school warrant #48 in the amount of \$185,046.88 .

Mr. Manchester pointed out that the \$8900. bill for street sweeping appeared on the last municipal warrant. He commented that the result of the sweeping "was not a good job". Other members of the Board agreed with this observation. Mr. Carter added that for \$8900. the Town could afford to own its own sweeper instead of paying for a contractor to complete the work.

3. LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION - AMERICAN LESGION POST #9

Mr. Loughlin reviewed a liquor license application submitted by the American Legion Post #9 - amount for food on application was \$0.00 and amount for liquor on application was \$81,732.00 . He noted that the application was for a "club on premises".

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

VOTED:

To approve a liquor license renewal for the American Legion Post #9.

4. BUSH HOGGING BIDS - MACHIAS VALLEY AIRPORT

Members of the Board opened the two bids received for bush hogging at the Machias Valley Airport.

Bids: Paul Holmes - \$2900.

Henessey Brothers - \$4500.

The Board discussed the bids received. Mr. Manchester commented that the bids were very high for the amount of work that needs to be done. Other members of the Board agreed.

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

VOTED:

To reject the bids received for bush hogging at the Machias Valley Airport.

5. SEWER RATE DECISION

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

To raise the sewer rate by 15% effective next quarter.

6. ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE - SCOTT PORTER

Superintendent of Schools Scott Porter noted out that Machias is allocating the majority share of adult education monies this year providing \$30,000 in funding. He explained that the school committee would like to contract with Axiom to provide adult education offerings using technology. Mr. Porter said that the hope is to eventually develop expanded services and course offerings using technology. He advised the Board of Selectmen that the Machias School Committee would like to enter into a contractual agreement with Axiom starting 7/1/14; the contract would be for one year. Mr. Porter told the Board that there is the potential to expand the program throughout Washington County. Mr. Carter advised Mr. Porter that the Board of Selectmen would like to review the contract; Mr. Porter said that he would provide this to the Board.

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

Upon review of the contract, to allow the Machias School Committee to enter into a one year contract with
Axiom to provide adult education services effective 7/1/14.

7. STATION 1898 UPDATE

Mr. Loughlin reviewed Chamber of Commerce plans to show movies over the summer outside Station 1898.

Mr. Loughlin reviewed on-going renovations to Station 1898.

8. PURCHASING POLICY

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the Town's current purchasing policy does not meet state guidelines and he recommended reviewing the policy for improvements.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that he would like to close the town office on 7/1/14 for end-of-year closeouts.

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

To authorize closure of the Machias Town Office on 7/1/14 to enable personnel to perform end-of-year closeouts.

B. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board of a flood risk review meeting on 6/10/14.

C. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the Public Works Director is requesting that Norm Robert be designated as leadman of the Public Works Department.

D. The Board discussed installing "School Zone" signs. Mr. Upton noted that

the School Zone sign located on Gardner Avenue needs attention.

E. Mr. Loughlin reported an interest in the .purchase of the telebusiness center.

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