

PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED SEWER RATE INCREASE

A public hearing to obtain public input on a proposed sewer rate increase was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Aubrey Carter. Mr. Carter noted that the Board of Selectmen is proposing a 12% rate increase to sewer users to meet the financial obligations of the sewer system. Mr. Carter asked for any comments from the public on the proposed sewer increase. There were no comments from the public. Hearing no comments, Mr. Carter adjourned the public hearing at 6:03 PM.

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JUNE 24, 2015

This meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Board member Aubrey Carter. In attendance were Board members Warren Gay, James Whalen, Leslie Haynes, and Josh Rolfe; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Finance Director Meghan Dennison; Ed Pellon, David Olsen, James Sparaga, Patrick Adams, Michael St. Louis, Joshua Dickson, Sharon Mack, Annaleis Hafford, Andy Pratt, Bill Olver, Johanna Billings, Betsy Fitzgerald, Jane Blackwood, Michael Radeka, Clement Deveau, Grey Disy, Charles Rudclitch, Ben Edwards, Clem Devae, Matt Smith, Msrl Ouelette, Susan Corbett.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by James Whalen, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2015 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Warren Gay seconded by Aubrey Carter, the Board
VOTED:
To approve municipal warrant #103 in the amount of \$12,163.75;
to approve municipal
warrant #104 in the amount of \$33,936.65; to approve municipal
warrant #105 in the amount of \$17,897.37; to approve municipal
warrant #106 in the amount of \$122.94; and, to approve
municipal warrant #107 in the amount of \$168,896.99 .

On a motion by Warren Gay seconded by James Whalen, the Board
VOTED:
To approve school warrant #52 in the amount of \$234,601.57 .

3. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer Betsy Fitzgerald informed the members of the Board that the University of Maine at Machias has installed a compressed natural gas system. She advised the Board that the system is

located in a secure area behind a locked fence. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Machias Fire Department will be involved in safety training provided at no cost to the Town.

4. MACHIAS REVITILIZATION COMMITTEE - TOWN CLEAN-UP DAY

Machias Revitilization Committee spokesperson Jermar Inman asked the Board if the Town would waive the charges for the trash collected on the town clean-up day scheduled for June 27th. It was noted that Ellsworth Builders Supply donated the bags for the clean-up.

On a motion by Jams Whalen, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board

VOTED:

To waive the garbage bag fees for the downtown clean-up day on June 27th. Mr. Carter asked Ms Inman to advise the transfer station attendant of the fee waiver on the day of the clean-up.

5. AXIOM - ADULT EDUCATION AGREEMENT

Susan Corbett and Jane Blackwood representing Axiom Technologies presented the adult education agreement effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. It was noted that the contract is the same as the previous years except that the title of the program has been changed to the Washington County Adult Education Program.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board

VOTED:

To authorize Chairman Carter to sign the contract on behalf of the Town of Machias.

Ms. Corbet thanked the Board for their support; she noted that the Machias program is being recognized as the fourth adult education hub center in the State of Maine.

6. AXIOM - DISCUSSION OF TOWN WEB SITE

Mark Ouelette of Axion Technologoes discussed a town web site with the Board. Mr. Carter explained the difficulty trying to create a town web site and that the Board is definitely interested in establishing a web site. Mr. Ouelette noted that he would have to know what the Town is looking for in a web site. Mr. Carter explained that the Board would like to hear a proposal on what could be designed for the Town. Mr. Ouelette advised that he would have a proposal for the Board at their July 8th meeting. Mr. Carter asked that the proposal be circulated to the members of the Board before the meeting to allow the Board time to review the proposal.

7. SALE OF TELEBUSINESS CENTER

Greg Disy and Clem Devae representing Aroostock Mental Health Center discussed a proposal to purchase the telebuisness building. Mr. Disy asked about the cost of repairs that need to be done to the

building; Mr. Carter explained that the cost of these repairs would be taken into consideration in the selling price of the building. Mr. Disy commented that he would like to be able to look through the remainder of the building and Mr. Carter said that a tour of the lower floor of the building could be arranged. Mr. Carter pointed out that there are occupants on the first floor who have leases on office space such as the Maine Department of Motor Vehicles. Mr. Disy and Mr. Devae told the Board that Aroostock Mental Health is interested in purchasing the building.

8. AIRPORT COMMITTEE UPDATE

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by James Whalen, the Board

VOTED:

To appoint Michael Radeka as Chairman of the Machias Airport Committee.

Mr. Radeka explained that the Machias Airport Committee is looking for a commitment from the Board of Selectmen for the future. He noted that the Committee needs to know there is support from the Board of Selectmen to move forward with improving the airport. Mr. Carter commented that the Board is receptive to supporting the airport. He noted that the budget for the upcoming year has already been voted on and passed at the annual town meeting. Mr. Carter stated that the airport is a valuable asset to the Town and that the Board does appreciate that the Committee is willing to help the Town.

Mr. Charles Rudclitch of the Sunrise County Economic Council discussed with the Board the economic impact that the airport provides to the area. He noted that the SCEC would be willing to work with Machias to come up with the local matching funds for FAA project improvements. Mr. Carter explained that Machias has given its share of FAA funding to other airports and that Machias would be looking to these other airports for their support when Machias has raised matching funds for proposed projects.

Mr. John Dixon representing Lifeflight explained that he has been watching with interest the developments with the Machias Valley Airport. He outlined Lifeflight's commitment to provide life saving flights and the purchase of a fixed-wing aircraft. Mr. Dixon noted that there needs to be another six hundred feet added to the runway before Lifeflight can utilize the fixed-wing aircraft. Mr. James Sparaga commented that the additional six hundred feet is "doable" since there is a very small amount of wetlands impacted.

Mr. Ben Edwards testified to the importance of the airport to businessmen such as himself who regularly use the airport. He noted that there are two things needed in the area - fast, reliable transportation and high speed internet.

Mr. Carter explained that there are no plans to close the Machias Valley Airport especially in light of the fact of the huge amount of federal money the Town would have to pay back to the FAA.

He noted that the Board would like to see needed improvements at the airport but many things are dependent on funding. Mr. Carter thanked the airport committee for their report.

Mr. Whalen made a motion to appoint Bill Kitchen as the acting airport manager. Mr. Carter noted that before making such an appointment the Board needs to find out if this is possible since the town manager usually is

appointed as airport manager. Mr. Whalen asked about placement of a port-a-potty at the airport as well as the purchase of a rotating beacon and installation of WiFi at the airport. It was noted that funds for the beacon (\$4200.) were approved at annual town meeting.

On a motion by James Whalen, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board

VOTED: To install a port-a-potty at the municipal airport as soon as possible to be serviced by Preston's.

The Board reviewed funding for the purchase of the rotating beacon. Mr. Carter noted that the Board can discuss the purchase at their July 8th meeting. Mr. Sparaga offered to get some prices on the equipment for the Board.

Mr. Whalen asked about having the town's cleaning person clean the airport building. Mr. Carter commented that the cleaning person will be contacted to find out the cost of the service. Mrs. Dennison said that she could get the price for the Board. As to the WiFi service, it was pointed out by Ms. Mack that Axion Technology has offered to provide this service free of charge.

OLVER ASSOCIATES - WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Annaleis Hafford and Bill Olver pf Olver Associates updated the Board on the operation of the Machias Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Hafford reviewed the contents of a written report distributed to the Board on the operations of the treatment facility. She noted that the DEP has requested that the Elm Street line be videoed; she noted that Allen's Environmental has provided a quote of between \$6500. and \$7500. for the work.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board

VOTED: That Olver Associates sub-contract to Allen's Environmental for videoing the Elm Street sewer line at a cost not to exceed \$7500.

On a motion by James Whalen, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board

VOTED: To authorize Olver Associates to temporarily repair a private line on Elm Street that flows under a brook cross-country to an interceptor.

Ms. Hafford reviewed regulatory compliance, process control, regulatory reports, maintenance, housekeeping, and accomplishments with the Board. She noted a problem with the sewer pick-up truck. Mr. Carter pointed out that Mr. Loughlin and the Public Works Director had looked at state surplus vehicles and found none that met the town's needs. He noted that the Board intends to order two new pick-ups, one for the Town and one for the school department with the older pick-up owned by the school department to be given to the the sewer department.

Mr. Carter noted that the Board is working on the details at the present time. Ms. Hafford added that the facility needs a reliable riding lawnmower and that she would like to spend \$1500. to purchase a

mower. Ms. Hafford informed the Board that she would be asking Hanscom's Construction for a quote to raise the manholes on Broadway.

Mr. Carter thanked Ms. Hafford and Mr. Olver for their report.

BLACKFLY BALL - REQUEST TO USE BAD LITTLE FALLS PARK

Mr. Matt Smith representing the Beehive Collective explained plans to hold the 10th annual Blackfly Ball on the evening of August 15th. Mr. Carter pointed out that the use of Bad Little Falls Park is not a given since the Board has to approve use of the park for the Blackfly Ball. Mr. Carter pointed out that there were some problems with substance abuse arrests at the event last year and he noted that the Board hopes that there are no problems this year. Mr. Smith commented that he was not happy with the crossguards at last year's event and he added that he would like to have people who are trained to check for banned substances. Ms. Inman noted safety concerns with too many people standing on the footbridge. Mr. Smith explained that this was addressed last year and that there are never more than ten to fifteen people allowed on the footbridge at one time. He added that this same procedure would be followed this year.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by James Whalen, the Board

VOTED:

To allow the Beehive Collective to hold the Blackfly Ball on the evening of August 15th at Bad Little Falls.

STATE LAND PARKING AREA - CHARLES LIGHTNER

Mr. Charles Lightner noted the problem with mud during the spring on a 92X10 foot strip of land across from the Machias Post Office owned by the State and used for parking. He suggested a letter be written to the MDOT requesting that the strip be tarred. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

ELECTION TRAINING - REQUEST TO CLOSE TOWN OFFICE

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by James Whalen, the Board

VOTED:

To close the Machias Town Office on 9/23/15 to allow the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk to attend the 2015 Elections Conference in Bangor.

FUNDING FOR AIRPORT BEACON

The Board discussed the funding for the purchase of the rotating airport beacon. Mrs. Dennison noted that warrant article #32 in the town meeting warrant authorized the Board of Selectmen to carry forward funds for capital projects. The Board requested that prices for the purchase and installation be obtained.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Whalen reported on the status of sewer bills.

B.

Mr. Whalen advised the Board of his contact with MMA regarding hiring a new town manager. He noted that in a 6/15/15 e-mail MMA outlined the development of a recruitment activity for a new town manager at the cost of \$4900. Mr. Whalen reviewed the steps MMA will take to fill the position. Mr. Carter commented on the great deal of time it takes to conduct a search for a town manager. Mr. Rolfe commented that this is a lot of money to pay to review applications. Mr. Gay, Mr. Haynes, and Mr. Rolfe recommended that the Board review the applications. Mrs. Dennison suggested that a committee be formed to act as a hiring committee with two members of the Board and three members from the community. Mr. Carter recommended the hiring committee include two members of the Board and one member from the community. The Board decided to advertise the town manager's position in the MMA newsletter, in local newspapers, and the Bangor Daily News.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board

VOTED:

That the Town conduct a search for a new town manager with the Board of Selectmen acting as the selection committee.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board

VOTED:

To appoint Josh Rolfe, Warren Gay, and Edward Pellon to the town manager selection committee.

C.

Mr. Whalen reminded the Board of receipt of a March 30th letter from a citizen concerning the budget request for Porter Memorial Library; he noted that the Board never responded to the request to meet to discuss the reduction made to the library's request for funding.

D. Mr. Pellon passed on a recommendation from a citizen regarding the placement of the flower planters on Main Street. He suggested that something be done about the Bad Little Falls signs.

E. Ms. Jermar Inman suggested that it would help the revitalization committee if a member of the Board attended committee meetings.

ASPHALT PAVING - TOWN OFFICE

The Board discussed paving the town office parking area and the area behind the building at a cost of \$4100. by County Concrete.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board

VOTED:

To authorize the expenditure of \$4100. for paving around the Machias Town Office with funding being allocated from this year's contingency account.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Carter noted that the Police Chief should be present to discuss the memorandum of understanding. He noted that the Board had some

concerns about the document and had requested that Chief Dwelley come back to the Board with changes the Board wanted made to the document. Mr. Whalen volunteered to follow-up on the MOU.

17. AUTHORIZATION OF SEWER RATE INCREASE

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board

VOTED:

To institute a 12% sewer rate increase effective July 1, 2015.

18. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - TRUCK PURCHASE

The Board discussed the purchase of a truck for the sewer department. Mr. Carter suggested input from the Public Works Director.

The Board will discuss the purchase of a truck at their July 8th meeting.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.