

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JULY 23, 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 Eric Holm; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Secretary Cathy Lord; Edward Pellon, Scott Porter, Cony Upton, Kehben Grier, Mariah Curtis, Kelly Bryand, Susan Corbett, David Whitney.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the July 9, 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 #6 in the amount of \$11,470.47; to approve municipal warrant #7 in the amount of \$29,161.64; to approve municipal warrant #8 in the amount of \$18,666.98; and, to approve municipal warrant #9 in the amount of \$48,289.74 .

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

To approve school warrant #4 in the amount of \$229,687.10 .

3. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION - SKYWALKER'S BAR & GRILL

Mr. Loughlin reviewed a liquor license renewal application submitted by Skywalker's Bar & Grill. He noted that the applicant is applying as a Class II restaurant/lounge and that the application states that food sales are \$104,514. and liquor sales are \$156,771.

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

To approve a liquor license renewal for Skywalker's Bar & Grill.

4. GAME OF CHANCE LICENSE - AMERICAN LEGION POST #9

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

To approve a game of chance (Mr. & Mrs. Pickle) license to the American Legion Post #9.

5. BANK LOAN BIDS

The members of the Board opened the bids received on the five year \$110,000. bank loan for road repairs and paving.

Bids:

Machias Savings Bank - 1.75% fixed rate with no bond required
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust - 1.86% fixed rate with bond required
Bangor Savings Bank - 1.63% fixed rate with bond required

Mr. Carter asked Mr. Loughlin how much the Town would have to pay for the bond since the lowest bid stipulates that a bond will be needed. Mr. Loughlin noted that a bond would add an additional \$3500. to \$8000. to the cost of the loan. The members of the Board discussed the bids received on the loan. Mr. Carter pointed out that Bangor Savings Bank bid the lowest fixed rate (1.63%) but stipulates that a bond be used which would add an additional cost of at least \$3500. to the loan payback and that Machias Savings Bank submitted a bid of 1.75% with no requirement that a bond be provided. The Board discussed how the additional requirement of the bond would add costs to the bid submitted by Bangor Savings Bank. Mr. Pellon suggested performing an actual cost comparison before proceeding.

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

To award the bid for the five year \$110,000. loan for road repairs and paving to Machias Savings Bank at the fixed rate of 1.75% due to the fact that there will be no additional charges from the cost of a bond which was a requirement from Bangor Savings Bank which had submitted a fixed rate bid of 1.63%.

6. PAVING/ROAD REPAIR BIDS

The members of the Board opened bids received for road repairs and paving.

Paving Bids:

County Concrete - Salem Street: \$26,700.
- Water Street: \$22,000.
- Center Street: \$20,600.
- Kennebec Crossroad: \$32,000.
- School Entrance Road: \$19,500.
- School basketball court area: \$3,500.
- High School Road: \$4,600.
- Catch basin area at school: \$1,900.

Road Repairs/Paving Bids:

Jerry Wood - Salem Street: \$16,266.75
Hanscom's Construction - Salem Street: \$8,995.00

Jerry Wood - Kennebec Crossroad: \$26,370.09
Hanscom Construction - Kennebec Crossroad: \$91,895.00

Jerry Wood - School Entrance Road: \$19,690.
- Parking lot: \$1,650.
- Basketball court/gym area: \$5,425.
- French drain at high school: \$1,671.
- Gaffney playground area; \$1,445.

Hanscom's Construction - Bid on school package: \$17,995.

The Board discussed the bids received. Mr. Carter noted that it is hard to make comparisons since some of the bids are not separated as to project area. Mr. Carter asked that Mr. Loughlin dissect the bids to allow a project-to-project comparison.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board
VOTED:
To table the bids for paving and road repairs and take them under advisement.

7. STORM DRAIN BIDS

The members of the Board opened bids received for storm drain repairs.

Bids:

Jerry Wood - Salem Street: \$4,795.
- Center Street: \$29,620.
- High Street: \$13,925.
- High Street cross pipe: \$4,395.
Hanscom's Construction - Salem/High/Center Streets: \$13,790.

Hanscom's Construction - West/Water Streets: \$34,895.
Jerry Wood - West Street: \$13,255.
Jerry Wood - Water Street: \$6,878.
Hanscom's Construction - Water Street: \$4,495.
Hanscom's Construction - Cooper/Center Streets: \$35,395.
Hanscom's Construction - Cooper/Center Streets (alternate pipe): \$35,495.

The Board discussed the bids received. Mr. Carter noted that it was hard to make dollar-to-dollar comparisons since the bids needed to be separated and dissected as to what was actually being bid on. He asked that Mr. Loughlin examine the bids and make an analysis that would enable the Board to see clearly what the contractors were bidding on.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board
VOTED:
To table the bids on storm drains and take them under advisement.

8. MUNICIPAL TAX RATE

Mr. Loughlin reviewed the tax rate calculation submitted by Tax Assessor Doug Guy and he noted that Mr. Guy is recommending a 2014-2015 tax rate of 0.020 (\$20.00 per thousand of assessed value) with an overlay of \$101,062.13 .

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:
Upon the recommendation of the Tax Assessor, to set the 2014-2015 mil rate at 0.020 mils.

9. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board
VOTED:
To change the Board's first meeting in August to August 6, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

10. TOWN OFFICE CLOSURE

Mr. Loughlin asked the Board for permission to close the Machias Town Office on August, 6, 2014 so that town office personnel can prepare 2014-2015 tax bills for mailing.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board

VOTED:

To authorize the closure of the Machias Town Office on August 6, 2014 to enable personnel to prepare and mail 2014-2015 tax bills.

Mr. Carter asked that proper notification be made to the public.

11. MMA LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE VOTE

Mr. Loughlin reviewed a Maine Municipal Association legislative policy ballot for the Board to complete.

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

VOTED:

To cast an MMA legislative policy committee ballot voting for Christopher Loughlin and Harry Fish Jr.

12. MMA ANNUAL ELECTION FOR VICE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

VOTED:

To cast the ballot for the MMA annual election for vice president and executive committee as provided.

13. DISCUSSION OF BLACKFLY BALL

Ms. Kehben Grier, representing the Beehive Collective, advised the Board of Selectmen that the group would like to hold the Blackfly Ball as it has in previous years using Bad Little Falls Park for the event. Mr. Carter pointed out that the Board had been made aware of issues from last year's event which seriously impact the advisability of granting permission to use the park area again this year. Ms. Grier said that she was not contacted by the Chief of Police and was not made aware of issues from last year's event. Mr. Carter explained that after last year's event Chief Dwelley expressed concern about the event. Mr. Upton pointed out that the Fire Chief had also commented on problems at the event. Mr. Gay said that he would like to hear from the Police Chief but Mr. Loughlin pointed out that the Chief is on vacation. Mr. Loughlin explained that most of the issues at last year's event were with the amount of alcohol being transported and used at the chemical-free event. He added that there were problems with forty to fifty people congregating on the park's footbridge at one time resulting in a safety issue. Mr. Loughlin observed that the crowd composition seemed different from events in previous years; he added that prior to last summer's event the yearly celebration has been relatively problem-free.

Mr. David Whitney commented that the Beehive Collective has made Machias its headquarters and the group is willing to negotiate to mitigate problems from last year's event. He added that he thought there would be a public outcry if the Blackfly Ball were to be shut down this year. Mr. Upton asked if an alternate site could be used. Ms. Grier said that no other site would do and there would be no use in having the Blackfly Ball if it could not be staged at Bad Little Falls Park. Kelly Bryand commented that the Blackfly Ball is

very well organized and he suggested that backpacks could be checked for alcohol before allowing entrance to the event. He observed that compared to other events the Blackfly Ball has had very few problems.

Mr. Carter agreed that compared to last year all other years of the event have seen very few problems. Ms. Susan Corbett suggested making the event more family-oriented eliminating the alcohol aspect to counteract the negatives from last year. She also suggested holding a meeting after this year's event to discuss the event and ways to improve it. Mr. Carter suggested holding a meeting with the Beehive Collective and the Chief of Police to discuss the Blackfly Ball. Mr. Whitney commented that the answer is to mitigate the problems and stop the problems before they occur. Ms. Grier said that she would like to meet with the Police Chief to prevent problems. She noted that event posters which provide for funding of the Blackfly Ball have usually been produced by this time and that time is needed in order to produce and sell the posters. Ms. Grier also pointed out that bands have already been lined up for the event and it would be hard to cancel the event at the present time.

The Board decided to hold a meeting on the following night, Thursday July 24th at 6:00 PM, to discuss the Blackfly Ball with Sergeant Wade Walker representing the Machias Police Department, Fire Chief Joey Dennison, the Beehive Collective, and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Carter commented that the Blackfly Ball has been advertised as a chemical-free event and has been successful in the past. Ms. Grier said that she wants the event to be held and be successful as it has been in the past.

14. MANAGER'S REPORT/OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Loughlin reported that the State of Maine Department of Motor Vehicles wants to continue leasing an area of the Machias Telebusiness Center and is seeking a new lease.

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

To grant the State of Maine Department of Motor Vehicles a one year lease for \$325. per month to use an area of the Machias Telebusiness Center.

B. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that he would like to join a conglomerate of schools and municipalities to purchase fuel oil for \$3.00 per gallon from Acadia Oil. Mr. Carter asked that Mr. Loughlin have the agreement in writing for the Board to review. Mr. Manchester brought up the question of what would happen in the event of an emergency oil purchase.

C. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board of a request from the American Legion Post #9 requesting a volunteer toll of Rt.#1. Mr. Carter noted the Board's reluctance to do this in the past.

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

To re-appoint Martin Cook to the Machias Budget Committee for a three year term.

E. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that Machias has been offered the skating ramp at Machias Glassworks if the ramp can be moved. He told the Board that he would like to install the ramp in the area by the basketball/tennis courts. Mr. Gay volunteered to assist with the relocation of the skating ramp.

F. Mr. Loughlin informed the Board that he would like to appoint Matthew Carter as the Animal Control Officer and Wade Carter as alternate. Mr. Loughlin was questioned about equipment given back to the Town from the previous animal control officer. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that he will be sending a letter to Mr. Nelson requesting that the equipment be returned.

G. On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board VOTED:

To accept \$17,032. from the State of Maine local road program.

H. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that he had advertised for an on-call dispatcher and will be hiring Mr. Ty Wagner for the position.

I. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that Fire Chief Joey Dennison would like to appoint Brittney White to the Machias Volunteer Fire Department.

J. Mr. Loughlin told the Board that he is developing a letter to the Maine Public Utilities Commission regarding the flushing of hydrants and reducing rates.

Both Mr. Pellon and Mr. Upton pointed out a recent problem with brown water coming through the water system.

Mr. Pellon suggested soliciting assistance from state legislators in efforts to contact the PUC.

K. The Board and Mr. Loughlin briefly discussed the status of sewer bill collections.

On a motion by Glenn Davis, seconded by Danny Manchester, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.