

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

AUGUST 28, 2013

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; Bob Bialotta; Hillary Savage, Sharon Mack, Tim Cox.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Glenn Davis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2013 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #15 in the amount of \$16,622.51; to approve municipal warrant #16 in the amount of \$37,228.27; to approve municipal warrant #17 in the amount of \$14,949.33; and, to approve municipal warrant #18 in the amount of \$10,328.41 .

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

To approve school warrant #8 in the amount of \$173,673.60 .

3. WINTER SAND BIDS

The members of the Board opened the bids received on the purchase of 1200 cubic yards of winter sand.

Bids:

By Us Company - \$7.70 per cubic yard

Elmer's - \$8.35 per cubic yard

Hanscom Construction Company - \$8.75 per cubic yard

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

To award the bid for the purchase of 1200 cubic yards of winter sand to By Us Company for \$7.70 per cubic yard.

4. CUTLER NAVY BASE POWER PROPOSAL

Mr. Loughlin informed the Board that the United States Navy is pursuing a project to change the primary fuel source for the very low frequency transmitter (VLF) power plant at the former Cutler Navy Base from diesel fuel to commercial power due to a requirement for a constant reliable supply of power for the VLF transmitter and an executive order requiring the Navy to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. He noted that the plan is to install a subsea cable across Machias Bay from a Bangor Hydro Electric Company substation in Bucks Harbor to the VLF transmitter power plant; plans are to install the cable from April 10th to November 7th, 2014. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the Navy is looking to recoup its cost in 6.6 years. He

encouraged the Board to attend the presentations going on at the University of Maine at Machias scheduled to inform citizens of the Navy's plans.

#### 5. DISPOSITION OF AMBULANCE

Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the Pleasant River Ambulance Service will hold a board meeting on September 12th to discuss the purchase of an ambulance from the Town of Machias. He told the Board that the borrowed ambulance is now back in Machias.

#### 6. SEWER PLANT UPDATE

Mr. Loughlin discussed the sewer inflow areas that have been shown to create problems to the wastewater treatment plant. He noted that according to the data, there is significant water still coming from the University. Mr. Bialotta described efforts to discover answers as to why the equipment failed at the plant during the June 12th incident. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that as soon as he has more data he will provide the Board with the report for their review.

#### 7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Sharon Mack requested that a public hearing be scheduled for a license to hold a wine tasting event at the train station during the fall harvest festival.

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

VOTED:

To schedule a public hearing on September 11, 2013 at 6:00 PM to consider a liquor license for a wine tasting event at the train station during the fall harvest festival.

B. Ms. Mack advised the Board that she is applying for a community development grant in the amount of \$6500. for the painting of the train station.

C. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the Town received a letter from Rev. Thomas Neal requesting that the Board forgive sewer charges in the amount of \$731.60 billed to the Shekinah house ministry located at 20 Cooper Street because of a water leak. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that the normal sewer bill for this address is \$16.74 . The members of the Board discussed the request. The Board asked that Mr. Loughlin check with the water company to see if the water bill was actually forgiven. Mr. Loughlin said that he could provide this information to the Board at their next meeting.

D. The Board reviewed a request for wastewater treatment personnel to attend the annual wastewater convention in Sugarloaf.

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

VOTED:

To allow two wastewater treatment plant personnel to attend the annual wastewater convention in Sugarloaf.

E. Mr. Gay expressed his concern that the Machias Police Department is being called out of town to back up the Washington County Sheriff's Department too much of the time without the County providing reciprocal assistance. Mr.

Upton added that the county officers often call for back-up from the Machias Police Department even before they get to the scene. Mr. Gay said that his fear is that the Machias police will not be available to Machias residents when they are needed; he added that Machias residents pay the property taxes to make sure that there is a police presence in the Town of Machias and that the Machias officers should not be responding to calls to neighboring towns who choose not to pay for a police department. Mr. Loughlin suggested that the Board discuss the situation with the Chief of Police at a future board meeting.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM.