

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

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, James Whalen, Leslie Haynes, and Josh Rolfe; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; David Rasco, Bob Berta, Johanna Billings, Bill Burke, Edward Pellon.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by James Whalen, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2015 Board meeting with a correction to a duplicate listing on the attendance roster.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #36 in the amount of \$11,579.81 to approve municipal warrant #37 in the amount of \$86,224.49; to approve municipal warrant #38 in the amount of \$10,868.06; to approve municipal warrant #39 in the amount of \$15,092.40; and, to approve municipal warrant #40 in the amount of \$558,193.18 .

3. APPOINTMENT PAPERS FOR BOARD SIGNATURES

The Board signed appointment papers for municipal appointments made at their October 28th meeting.

4. DISCUSSION OF SCRAP METAL BID WITH DAVE RASCO

Mr. David Rasco, owner of Port Road Recycling, advised the Board that he is "getting nothing at this time for scrap metal"; he noted that scrap metal is currently selling for \$30. per ton. Mr. Rasco proposed that his company be allowed to store scrap metal obtained from the transfer station until the price goes up to an "acceptable level"; he noted that it may take up to a year for the price to rebound to an "acceptable level". Mr. Rasco proposed that he and the Town will keep track of the tonnage being stored during the interim. He noted that his cut-off point for the sale of the metal is \$100. per ton. Mr. Carter pointed out that the Town cannot wait a year's time to dispose of the scrap metal at the transfer station since the metal pile continues to build. The other members of the Board agreed. Mr. Carter pointed out that this agreement will have to be outlined in writing with all parties signing the agreement. Mr. Rasco said that he would sign the agreement.

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

To draw up an agreement between the Town of Machias and Port Road Recycling for disposal of scrap metal; the metal to be stored until the price for the scrap metal reaches \$100. per ton with the Town of Machias being paid \$50. per ton; the metal to be picked up as soon as possible and weighed as it is being taken out of the transfer station.

Mr. Rasco asked if it would be possible to load the metal when the transfer station is closed since there is a safety issue with the loading process while the public is utilizing the transfer station. Mr. Carter agreed this is a definite concern; he noted that Ms. Therrien can coordinate the activity with the contractor. The Board of Selectmen agreed to proceed with the safe removal of the metal at a time when the public is not using the facility.

5. NEW YEAR CELEBRATION - PRESENTATION BY BILL BURKE

Mr. Bill Burke, owner of Pat's Pizza, shared plans to hold a New Year's celebration this year in Machias. He told the Board that he has extensive experience with fundraising; he commented that there are not many activities for people in the Machias area and therefore he came up with the idea for doing a New Year's event. Mr. Burke said that he had contacted downtown businesses for their support; he has booked entertainment for the event; Axiom has donated a web page for the celebration; a UMM social media class is involved with a Facebook page; shows will be held at UMM's performing arts center; there will be a bonfire; and, a lobster will be dropped at midnight from the top of Pat's Pizza on New Year's Eve. Mr. Burke told the Board that this is a chance to bring the community together within a community event which can grow into a big event for the Town of Machias. Mr. Burke advised the Board that his biggest concern had been liability insurance;

he noted that the Machias Rotary has offered to cover the event under its insurance umbrella. He told the Board that he is asking for help from the town's police (traffic control) and fire departments (bonfire across the road from Pat's Pizza on New Year's Eve). Mr. Carter asked about the use of alcoholic beverages at the celebration and Mr. Burke stated that this is not being advertised as an alcoholic event. Mr. Carter commented that there should be some form of security to prevent alcohol use since the possibility of people drinking at such an event is always possible. Mr. Carter told Mr. Burke that the Town will assist in any way possible. He asked that Mr. Burke stay in contact with the Town Manager who will keep the Board updated.

6. DISCUSSION ON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that the Town has no functioning board of assessment review at the present time. She asked the Board for direction, either in advertising for interested citizens willing to serve on such a committee or developing a warrant article for the annual town warrant designating the county commissioners as the responsible party regarding assessment disputes.

7. RESIGNATION FROM PLANNING BOARD/REVITILIZATION COMMITTEE

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

To accept Jermar Inman's resignation as Co-Chair and member
of the Downtown Revitalization
Committee with thanks for her service to the Town.

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

VOTED:

To accept Jermar Inman's resignation as Chair and member of the Machias Planning Board with thanks for her service to the Town.

The Board asked that Ms. Therrien place an ad in local newspapers soliciting interest in the open position on the Planning Board. The Board requested that an ad soliciting interest in serving on a Board of Assessment Review be published at the same time to see if there is any response.

8. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER POSITION

Mr. Carter pointed out that the Board has had time to consider the two options for animal control presented to them at their last meeting. Mr.

Rolfe pointed out that for anyone to house animals they must be licensed by the State. Mr. Carter also pointed out that by State law, the Town needs to have a holding facility for animals. It was decided to ask that Mr. Manchester and Mr. Seeley be invited to another Board meeting to discuss the specifics covered in their presentations.

9. AIRPORT UPDATE

Mr. Whalen updated the members of the Board on activities at the airport: the inside of the airport building has been cleaned, the building has a new roof, the old trailer on the grounds has been removed, there is flooring to be put down in the airport building, and the tall grass will be mowed. Mr. Whalen explained that members of the airport committee have gone through the donated lighting and have found that transformers will need to be purchased to enable use of the lights.

Mr. Whalen noted that the airport committee will be meeting with Stantec regarding the tree removal project.

10. STATUS OF LEFT-OVER HALLOWEEN CANDY

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

VOTED:

To donate the excess Halloween candy to the American Legion Post's Christmas party.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Board discussed purchasing a stand-by heating generator system for the town office building using funds remaining from the purchase of heat pumps.

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

VOTED:

To schedule a special town meeting on 11/25/15 at 6:00 PM at the Machias Town Office.

12. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. The Board discussed selling a 5.8 acre piece of town-owned property located on Gardner Avenue. It was noted that the property has been advertised for sale to the highest bidder twice with no bids submitted.

Mr. Carter noted that a person has expressed an interest in purchasing the land which is assessed at \$12,500. and has \$1402.11 in outstanding property taxes. The Board discussed re-advertising the land or selling it to the interested buyer. Ms. Therrien reviewed the article in the annual town warrant authorizing the Board of Selectmen to sell tax-acquired property at their discretion.

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

VOTED:

To contact the party interested in purchasing the land and offering it to this person for the purchase price of \$2000.

Vote On Motion: 4 to 1

Motion Passed

B. The Board discussed the disposition of a 0.96 acre piece of property owned by the Town that is adjacent to the school complex. It was noted that the property has been advertised for sale to the highest bidder but there was no interest shown. Ms. Therrien noted that the property is assessed at \$9,600. and that there is \$977.72 in outstanding property taxes. The Board discussed if the school department would be interested in the land and this brought up the question as to who technically owns the school property - the taxpayers or the school department. Ms. Therrien said that she would check on ownership of the school land for the Board.

C. Ms. Therrien asked the Board if they wished to advertise in the Paper Talks magazine this year. She noted that an ad in the publication will cost \$222.

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

VOTED:

To pay \$222. for an ad in Paper Talks to be paid out of the contingency account.

D. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that when she was discussing the town's web page with Mr. Ouellette of Axiom Technologies, Mr. Ouellette informed her that the layout for the web page did not include a Calendar of Events and that to include a calendar would incur an additional cost of \$100. The Board and Ms. Therrien discussed the need to include a Calendar of Events.

On a motion by James Whalen, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board

VOTED:

To pay the additional cost of \$100. to be funded out of the contingency account for the inclusion of a Calendar of Events on the town's web page.

Vote On Motion: 4 to 1

Motion Passed

E. The Board discussed the purchasing of a back-up generator for the town office building. The budget will be reviewed for possible funding of this purchase.

F. Ms. Therrien reported on progress with the instillation of snow jacks on the town office building.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Les Haynes, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM.