

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

DECEMBER 11, 2013

PUBLIC HEARING
GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

Chairman Aubrey Carter called a public hearing on the General Assistance Ordinance to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Loughlin explained that there have been a number of changes to the general assistance program since September 2000; he noted that the September 2013 ordinance condenses the policy so that it is in line with the state guidelines for general assistance. Mr. Carter asked for comments from the public regarding the adoption of the updated ordinance. There were no comments from the public in attendance. Mr. Carter closed the hearing at 6:03 PM.

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A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:03 PM by Chairman Aubrey Carter. In attendance were Board members Warren Gay, Danny Manchester, and Cony Upton; Town Manager Christopher Loughlin; Secretary Cathy Lord; Police Chief Grady Dwelley, Fire Chief Joey Dennison, Public Works Director Mike Gooch, Hillary Savage, Elaine Cale, Bonnie Fortini, Ed Pellon, Bob Berta, Nancy Manchester.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 27, 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 #46 in the amount of \$13,336.83; to approve municipal warrant #47 in the amount of \$38,293.51; to approve municipal warrant #48 in the amount of \$18,366.67; and, to approve municipal warrant #49 in the amount of \$890,928.04 .

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board VOTED:
To approve school warrant #24 in the amount of \$279,358.92 .

3. LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION - HING GARDEN RESTAURANT

Mr. Loughlin reviewed an application for a liquor license application submitted by Hing Garden Restaurant. He noted that the application is for a Class 1 Restaurant and meets the guidelines for that classification with the amount of meals and liquor sales.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Cony Upton, the Board VOTED:
To approve a liquor license application submitted by Hing Garden Restaurant.

4. DECISION ON GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

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

To accept the revised 2013 general assistance ordinance.

5. BID OPENING - BASE STATION RADIO - MACHIAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Loughlin reported that there were two bids submitted in response to the request for bids for the purchase of a base station radio for the Machias Fire Department; he added that one supplier, Active Communications, declined to place a bid.

The members of the Board opened the bids received.

Bids: Whittien's Two-Way - \$7,312.
Brown's Communication Inc. - \$9,537.

Fire Chief Joey Dennison reviewed the bids received.

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

To accept the bid for the base station radio from Whittien's Two-Way in the amount of \$7,312.

Mr. Dennison reported that \$7,000. was budgeted for the purchase; he noted that the additional \$312. of the total cost would be taken from the supplies line of the fire department budget.

6. PROPOSAL FOR ADULT EDUACTION - BONNIE FORTINI

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

To take the discussion of adult education off the table.

Ms. Fortini reviewed progress with developing a county-wide adult education program. Mr. Loughlin explained that there is a concern that Machias is providing the largest share of the adult education budget (\$30,000.) but use of the program by Machias residents is only 48%. He added that other towns together only contribute \$10,000. to support the program. Mr. Loughlin commented that other participating towns need to step up their funding support. Ms. Fortini said that she wants to discuss funding with representatives of these other eleven towns. Mr. Carter suggested that Machias could host such a meeting. Ms. Fortini pointed out that state personnel feel a county-wide format for adult education would provide the best programming options. She added that she has discussed the topic with the Washington County Commissioners at a meeting. Mr. Carter and Mr. Manchester cautioned that many towns hold their annual town meetings early in the spring and these towns would need information as to adult education costs prior to their town meetings. Ms. Fortini lamented the meager space she is allotted at the school department for the program. Mr. Carter suggested using a small office at the telebusiness center for adult education on a temporary basis and the other members of the Board supported the temporary use of a room at the facility. The members of the Board asked that Mr. Loughlin work with Ms. Fortini on working out use of the space.

7. SEWER BILLING - ELAINE CALE

Elaine Cale, owner of the Dublin Street Mobile Home Park, discussed the status of her sewer bills with the Board. She reviewed a listing of meter readings with the Board and told the Board that there are two meters at the trailer park, one for the Kennebec Road side of the park and one for the NAPA side of the park. Mrs. Cale told the Board that she is current in her property taxes and sewer charges except for the last three sewer billings. She advised the Board that she has been addressing leaks to the sewer system at the trailer park with assistance from local contractors such as Mr. Pellon. Mr. Carter noted that it appears from a comparison of the usage figures that a lot of water going through the system is going into the ground. Mrs. Cale noted that the sewer bills for the last three quarters were \$2,466.74 for April, \$3,207.34 for July, and \$4,243.66 for October. Mrs. Cale asked the Board for an adjustment to the sewer bills. The Board discussed the problem and compared the meter readings. Mr. Carter asked that Mr. Loughlin make adjustments and bring the suggested adjustments back to the Board for review and approval. Mrs. Cale thanked the Board for their consideration.

8. LOCAL TRAFFIC SIGN GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Loughlin advised the members of the Board that he is recommending that the town participate in the local traffic sign grant program which provides 90% funding for certain new traffic signs with the town being responsible for the remaining 10% cost. Mr. Loughlin told the Board that he will develop a list of needed road signs for their review.

9. PROPERTY TAX ISSUE - E. PELLON COMPANY

The Board reviewed a letter from Mr. Ed Pellon regarding a property tax issue. Mr. Pellon explained that he has issues with the amount of property taxes being assessed to properties he owns. Mr. Carter pointed out that the Board can only go back three years to refund over-charges. Mr. Pellon said that he would like to make an appeal to the municipal appeals board but he pointed out that this board does not exist. Mr. Loughlin noted that there is no appeals board because he cannot get citizens to serve on it. Mr. Manchester suggested that Mr. Loughlin contact the Maine Municipal Association and get some direction. Mr. Loughlin agreed that he can ask MMA what course of action the Town can take. Mr. Carter advised Mr. Pellon that the Board will not have any kind of answer until January.

10. POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT - WASHINGTON COUNTY ONE COMMUNITY FOR 2014

Police Chief Grady Dwelley advised the Board that he has applied for a highway safety grant in the amount of \$5000. for OUI enforcement.

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

To authorize the Police Chief and the Town Manger to sign the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles Safety Grant.

11. BELVEDERE FUND FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

Mr. Loughlin reported that the application for an historic preservation grant submitted by Sharon Mack has been granted in the amount of \$13,000. for repairs and renovations to the railroad station. Mr. Pellon advised the Board

that he has been assured of a gift in the form of building materials from a donor to repair the east corner of the station if the Board would be willing to accept the gift. The members of the Board agreed the Town would be willing to accept such a gift.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

A. The Board agreed to elect Mr. Loughlin and Mr. Carter as the town's representatives to the Washington County Council of Governments.

B. Fire Chief Joey Dennison told the Board that the department's Jaws of Life was recently damaged and consequently the volunteers would like to raise \$15,000. for updating equipment. He added that the volunteers would like to hold an open house to show the public what is needed and to hold other community events to inform the public of needs. Mr. Dennison said that the Town would open a separate account for these funds. Mr. Carter asked that the Board be kept informed of fund-raising activities.

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

To allow the fire department volunteers to raise funds to update current equipment.

C. Mr. Loughlin advised the Board that union negotiations will be scheduled in January/February. Mr. Carter suggested that the entire board act as negotiators during the process.

On a motion by Danny Manchester, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.