

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JANUARY 13, 2016

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; Joey Dennison, Dalton Farley, Vince Roberts, Lois Libby, Johanna Billings, Bob Berta.

I. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2015 Board meeting with the following correction:

Page 2, Item #8 the motion should read:

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

VOTED:

To accept the resignation of Joey Dennison from his position as driver/dispatcher with the Machias Fire Department with regret effective as of 1/2/16.

Mr. Carter noted that Mr. Dennison had agreed to act as a fill-in driver/dispatcher for the fire department; he asked that the Board make this appointment during tonight's meeting for the record.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

VOTED:

To approve municipal warrant #49 in the amount of \$12,053.35 to approve municipal warrant #50 in the amount of \$65,055.45; to approve municipal warrant #51 in the amount of \$15,348.81; to approve municipal warrant #52 in the amount of \$421,354.04; to approve municipal warrant #53 in the amount of \$15,893.66; to approve municipal warrant #54 in the amount of \$110,995.21; to approve municipal warrant #55 in the amount of \$17,503.19; to approve municipal warrant #56 in the amount of \$35,617.05; to approve municipal warrant #57 in the amount of \$11,885.19; and, to approve municipal warrant #58 in the amount of \$219,509.01.

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

VOTED:

To approve school warrant #26 in the amount of \$188,881.67 and to approve school warrant #28 in the amount of \$185,855.79.

3. CONTRACTS FOR AMBULANCE AND FIRE PROTECTION

The members of the Board signed ambulance and fire protection contracts as presented. Ms. Therrien noted that the contract towns have signed the contracts and returned them to the Town of Machias.

4. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION - HELEN'S RESTAURANT

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board  
VOTED:  
To approve a liquor license renewal for Helen's Restaurant.

5. FLOURIDE IN PUBLIC WATER - PRESENTATION BY VINCE ROBERTS

Mr. Vince Roberts made a presentation to the Board and distributed some information regarding the danger of adding flouride to drinking water. He noted the research that proves that sodium flouride causes cancer in the human body and is very dangerous. Mr. Roberts noted that there is now a big push to remove flouride from drinking water. Mr. Carter asked Mr. Roberts if he had provided the Machias Water Company with copies of this information; Mr. Roberts noted that he has spoken to personnel at the Machias Water Company about his concerns and their response was that they would be glad to remove the flouride from the Machias water supply.

Mr. Whalen explained that he has read much of the research into the use of flouride in drinking water; he noted that there are many pros and cons with using flouride. Mr. Whalen pointed out that, as with many things, there are two sides of the argument, both benefits and dangers associated with flouride use. Mr. Whalen said that this was a decision that should be made by the citizens. Mr. Carter outlined the steps to be followed in voting on the question at the annual town meeting. It was the consensus of the members of the Board of Selectmen that the question of removing flouride from the Machias water supply be placed on the annual town meeting warrant as an article. Mr. Carter thanked Mr. Roberts for bringing this information forward.

6. TRANSFER STATION POSITION - RECOMMENDATION ON HIRING

PERSONNEL

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she and Mr. Farley had conducted interviews and have a recommendation for the position of part-time worker at the transfer station. Ms. Therrien noted that there were four applications for the position and that two applicants were interviewed for the position. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that based on the interviews conducted she and Mr. Farley recommend that William Cronin be hired to fill the part-time position at the transfer station.

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

VOTED:  
Based on the recommendation of the Town Manager and the Transfer Station Director, to hire William Cronin to fill the part-time position (28 hours) at the Bay Area Transfer Station effective 1/17/16 at the hourly rate of \$8.50 .

#### 7. FIRE DEPARTMENT - LIFT ASSIST REQUESTS FROM AGENCIES

Fire Chief Joey Dennison reported to the Board of Selectmen that Downeast Community Hospital and other private facilities are calling the Machias Fire Department for assistance with lifting patients. He asked the Board if the fire department is allowed to bill the hospital and other agencies for lift assist requests. Members of the Board asked Mr. Dennison for clarification on the requests. Mr. Dennison explained that agencies such as the local hospital do not have adequate staff or sufficiently trained staff to lift some patients and instead are calling the fire department for personnel to perform these types of functions. Mr. Dennison noted that he is not concerned with providing this assistance to private citizens, but it appears that some agencies should be providing this service within their facilities instead of calling the fire department.

Mr. Rolfe commented that this topic should definitely be discussed with hospital administration. Mr. Whalen commented that this is an abuse of town personnel; he pointed out that the Town is paying the salary and worker's comp costs for its employees who are being asked to provide services to a private facility that should have its own professionally trained personnel. Mr. Whalen pointed out that the local hospital was recently awarded a ten million dollar grant to improve emergency services. He commented that the hospital needs to purchase the necessary equipment to lift patients and provide training to their personnel to perform lifts. Mr. Whalen added that bills for lift assists should be sent to Medicare/Medicaid. Ambulance Service Captain Lois Libby pointed out that lifts can very easily injure personnel and that she is concerned that fire department/ambulance personnel are risking injury to perform services at private facilities.

Mr. Carter asked the Town Manager to invite hospital and private agency administrators to attend an evening meeting of the Board of Selectmen to discuss lift assist requests; he asked Ms. Thertien to set up a special meeting if people find they cannot attend an evening meeting with the Board.

#### 8. CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Ms Thertien noted that she has provided information to the members of the Board on the choices Machias has regarding solid waste services. She asked the Board to continue to review the information since a decision about the future of solid waste services in Machias will need to be made.

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

VOTED:

Based on a recommendation by the Town Manager, to forego signing an agreement for solid waste services with Fibertight at the present time.

## 9. REQUEST FOR LIGHTING CROSSWALK ON COLLEGE HILL

Ms. Therrien directed the Board's attention to an e-mail requesting that some type of lighting be installed at the crosswalk at the top of college hill due to safety concerns. Members of the Board questioned from whom this request was actually originating from. Mr. Carter commented that this is Route #1 and therefore the Department of Transportation should be involved. Mr. Gay said that he thought UMM should step up and help with funding such a project. Ms. Therrien commented that the Town may be able to work with UMM with lighting.

The members of the Board continued to discuss the installation of lighting or a warning system at this crosswalk. Mr. Carter questioned why there is even a crosswalk at the top of the hill if drivers cannot adequately see people in the crosswalk, especially in the dark. He noted that there are much safer places for people to cross to UMM where motorists can see people crossing the road than at the top of the hill. Ms. Therrien suggested looking at relocating the crosswalk to a safer location. Mr. Carter commented that no matter what the solution is that UMM should be involved in a discussion of what needs to be done as well as sharing any costs. He noted that the MDOT could even place signs warning of a crosswalk on the road to remind motorists of the location of the crosswalk. It was pointed out that even if the crosswalk is relocated there will still be people crossing the road at this location in order to access UMM. Mr. Carter asked Ms. Therrien to contact UMM administration to facilitate this matter.

## 10. ROQUE BLUFFS SOLID WASTE CONTRACT

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that she was alerted that the Town of Roque Bluffs may have backed out of using the Bay Area Transfer Station and that she then attempted to contact Roque Bluffs personnel to substantiate this report. Ms. Therrien said that she talked by telephone to one of the Roque Bluffs selectmen who said that this report was correct and that Roque Bluffs was going to send a letter to the Town of Machias announcing to the Board that as of 1/17/16 the Town of Roque Bluffs will not have a contract for its citizens to use the Bay Area Transfer Station as a member town. She noted that she will bill the Town of Roque Bluffs for services through 1/16/16. Ms. Therrien explained that there will be some cost savings with losing Roque Bluffs as well as there being some shortfall. Ms. Therrien suggested to the Board that providing a recycling service at the transfer station will need to be re-examined since prices for recyclables are down drastically and it is costing more and more to recycle. She suggested taking a close look at recycling during the development of this budget in the Spring. The Board discussed controlling the people accessing the transfer station. Mr. Farley noted that he is usually aware of who is a resident of Roque Bluffs and that as of 1/17/16 these people will be turned away from the facility. It was suggested that the attendant be relocated to the gate of the transfer station but this was rejected since it was pointed out that the attendant needs to be supervising what is being placed in the compactor.

### 11. ON-CALL DRIVER/DISPATCHER APPOINTMENT

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

VOTED:

To hire Joey Dennison as an on-call driver/dispatcher for the Machias Fire

Department.

### 12. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ms. Therrien noted that she has provided the Board with the following:

- notice that a grant of \$50,000. has been received to fund the adult education program
- a letter from Porter Memorial Library thanking the Town for funding
- a CSO report on a by-pass event
- a notice on DMR closure areas
- an Olver Associates special conditions report
- documents on closing the grant for the crack seal project at the airport
- information on an elected officials workshop
- a letter from Maine Service Centers requesting participation

B. Ms. Therrien suggested that the Board consider developing an ordinance that would allow the Town to apply payments to the oldest sewer or property tax bill. Mr. Carter suggested including this as an article in the annual town meeting warrant.

C. Ms. Therrien noted that she has discussed the grant application for the sewer project with Mandy Olver of Olver Associates. Ms. Therrien explained that it may be more feasible to scale back the project from \$3.7 million to \$2.0 million due to financial concerns from the Town's standpoint.

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

VOTED:

To authorize the Town Manager to submit the application to Rural Development in the amount of \$1.0 million for the siphon chamber project.

### 13. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gay suggested that the Machias Airport Committee look into developing a policy on the use of drones.

B. Mr. Whalen explained that he had received a complaint about vehicle speeds on Water Street. The Board discussed the problem. Mr. Rolfe suggested looking into the purchase of mobile speed bumps if such a thing exists.

C. Mr. Haynes expressed concern regarding the maintenance of school department vehicles. Mr. Carter suggested that the Board discuss this with the school superintendent.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM.