

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 24, 2017

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice Chairman Warren Gay. In attendance were Board members James Whalen, Leslie Haynes, and Josh Rolfe; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Ed Pellon, Bill Kitchen, Mary Angarola, Dalton Farley.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by James Whalen, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #96 in the amount of \$10,209.88; to approve municipal warrant #97 in the amount of \$255,505.81; to approve municipal warrant #98 in the amount of \$21,100.38; and, to approve municipal warrant #99 in the amount of \$187,667.34 .

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

To approve school warrant #48 in the amount of \$243,038.79 .

3. DISCUSSION OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Mr. Rolfe noted that he had asked that a discussion of the need for a social media policy be placed on the Board's agenda and he asked the other members of the Board for their opinions as to the need for the Town of Machias to have a formal social media policy. Mr. Rolfe stated his concern about a recent posting on the social media internet site Facebook which he found to be very insulting. Mr. Gay pointed out that there was also an article in the local newspaper as well as much discussion going on around town regarding comments posted by a selectman on Facebook. Mr. Gay said that he was upset about the misconceptions attributed to the town office in regards to the fire department budget and he read aloud portions of a Facebook posting dated 5/19/17 that alarmed him.

Mr. Rolfe commented that the members of the Board had "bounced" ideas off each other and the Town Manager at meetings and had suggested/discussed ways to achieve cost savings in the municipal budget. Mr. Gay added that some of the suggestions centered around cost savings in the fire department which were discussed only as options; he noted that the Board is not eliminating fire dispatching from the fire department budget. Mr. Gay pointed out that the Facebook posting states that elimination of dispatching from the fire department budget is a "done deal" and he noted that this is not

true. Ms. Therrien reported that the Board was looking at potential cost savings in all areas of the municipal budget and that before the Board made any major changes in operations they would place these questions before the citizens at annual town meeting; she added that it would be the members of the community would have the final say in any major changes. Mr. Whalen commented that the procedure and process will play out on June 14th at the annual town meeting. Mr. Rolfe commented that he realizes a social media policy would not fix the problem since there is no enforcement action able to be taken.

4. MACHIAS WATER COMPANY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

Mr. Gay reported that he received notice of a Machias Water Company shareholders meeting scheduled on Tuesday June 13th at 10:00 AM at water company offices located on West Street. He noted that he hopes to attend the meeting.

5. RECYCLING CENTER LIGHTING REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Ms. Therrien noted that the Town has been working on replacing lighting at town facilities with cost-savings and efficiency in mind. She explained that lighting will be updated at the recycling building at a cost of \$2,580. and that with an estimated Efficiency Maine rebate of \$1,060. the final cost will be \$1,520. with Border Electric doing the installation. The Town Manager estimated a cost savings on monthly bills of 30% to 40% for the recycling building with these updates.

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

To authorize the replacement of lighting at the recycling building with energy efficient LED lighting at a cost of \$1,520. (\$2580. for labor/equipment/material with a rebate from Efficiency Maine of \$1,060. resulting in the final cost of \$1,520. for the project).

6. BLUEBERRY FORD STATUS

Ms. Therrien noted that Blueberry Ford has closed its doors; she added that she reached out to an ATV/snowmobile dealership in Ellsworth to encourage interest in locating a business in Machias. The Board discussed the impact of the shuttering of businesses in Machias.

7. ENTERPRISE ACCOUNTS

Ms. Therrien explained that she did some research into the creation of an ambulance enterprise account for the Machias Ambulance Service. She noted that the ambulance service was established in 1972 but that she could not find documentation as to specifics on an enterprise account. Ms. Therrien recommended that the Board not use funds from the ambulance enterprise account to offset taxes; she noted that the ambulance service

can be charged a 40% share of the operational costs of the public safety building, which would include dispatching costs. Mr. Pellon suggested looking at a fifty/fifty share on dispatching costs. The Board discussed sharing the costs of dispatching. Ms. Therrien commented that the Board cannot arbitrarily take funds out of the ambulance account at its discretion and that funds from this enterprise account can only be used for ambulance costs and equipment purchases for the ambulance department.

The Board discussed the minimum amount that needs to be maintained in the ambulance enterprise account. Ms. Therrien noted that she knows of no policy regarding the amount of funds to be maintained in this account. Mr. Whalen suggested getting advice from the Finance Director on the amount of money needed in the ambulance account. Mr. Gay suggested asking Mrs. Dennison how much needs to be left in the ambulance account for three months of operation.

8. GARDNER AVENUE PROPERTIES

Ms. Therrien noted receipt of a sealed bid for the purchase of property located at 22 Gardner Avenue (Map 14 Lot 36). A member of the Board opened the bid received.

Bid: Yi Yu He - \$5000.

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

VOTED:

To accept a bid in the amount of \$5000. from Yi Yu He for the purchase of property located at 22 Gardner Avenue (Map 14 Lot 36) with the purchase price to be paid within thirty days from today unless other arrangements are made.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Therrien reported on a response from Washington Academy regarding receptiveness to collaboration. It was suggested that a meeting with the Machias School Committee would be the appropriate next step.

B. Ms. Therrien reported that the new ambulance will be delivered soon. She noted that there is a balance of \$45,000. outstanding on the purchase of the last ambulance. It was the consensus of the Board that this outstanding balance be paid.

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

VOTED:

To approve and sign the sewer bond loan documents provided by Pierce Atwood.

D. Ms. Therrien advised the Board of a hearing at the state house in Augusta tomorrow on the closing of the Downeast Correctional Facility.

E. Ms. Therrien told the Board that she has been following up on the used police vehicles in Brownville and will be notified when the vehicles are put out to bid. She noted that the Board should look at the 2014 vehicle with 30,000 miles.

F. Ms. Therrien advised the Board of interest in leasing the upper floor of the telebusiness center.

G. Ms. Therrien suggested looking into replacing the windows in the town office. She told the Board that she would obtain some prices for the Board to look at.

10. TOWN CLEAN-UP WEEKEND DISCUSSION

Mr. Farley discussed a plan to schedule a town clean-up weekend with the Board. Mr. Farley suggested that there be a separate weekend scheduled for Machias residents and a separate weekend scheduled for contract towns. He suggested that selectmen from the contract towns be invited to attend a meeting to discuss such an event. Mr. Farley recommended that contract towns pay for their dumping costs.

Mr. Farley discussed regulating outside trash coming into the transfer station on the clean-up weekend. He suggested using vouchers at the gate and that residents of Whitneyville and Marshfield obtain their vouchers by signing for them at the Machias Town Office. Mr. Rolfe commented that enforcement can be difficult. Ms. Therrien said that she would have a discussion on a weekend clean-up with representatives of contract towns and report back to the Board.

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM.