

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

OCTOBER 25, 2017

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Warren Gay. In attendance were Board members Josh Rolfe, Leslie Haynes, Bill Kitchen, and Paula Johnson-Rolfe; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Public Works Director Mike Schoppee; Animal Control Officer Bob Sealie, Transfer Station Director Dalton Farley; Ed Pellon, David Clark, Mary Angarola.

### 1. BOARD MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2017 Board meeting as presented.

### 2. MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board  
VOTED:

To approve municipal warrant #32 in the amount of \$17,170.99; to approve municipal warrant #33 in the amount of \$717,066.99; to approve municipal warrant #34 in the amount of \$15,448.06; and to approve municipal warrant #35 in the amount of \$47,667.90 .

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board  
VOTED:

To approve school warrant #11 in the amount of \$204,863.20 .

### 3. TRANSFER STATION BURN PILE - BRUSH DIAMETER

Transfer Station Director Dalton Farley recommended to the Board that the allowable brush diameter that is accepted at the transfer station be reduced from four inches to three inches. Mr. Dalton and Mr. Schoppee noted that people are sneaking larger pieces of wood into the burn pile with the end result being that the wood is not burning.

On a motion by Bill Kitchen, seconded by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, the Board  
VOTED:

To reduce the diameter of brush accepted at the Bay Area Transfer Station from four inches down to a diameter of three inches effective immediately.

### 4. LOCATION OF TREE AT FARMER'S MARKET LOCATION

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that funds allocated from the Canopy project allow for the planting of an ornamental tree in the farmer's market area. The members of the Board approved the plan to plant the tree as outlined by the Town Manager.

## 5. REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXCISE TAX

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that Mr. Christopher Abbandonato, living at 116 O'Brien Avenue in Machias, is requesting the reimbursement of excise taxes (\$92.89.) on a motor vehicle registered at the Machias Town Office. The Board reviewed an October 12th letter from Mr. Abbandonato explaining his reasons for the request. Mr. Rolfe noted that he had a telephone conversation with a supervisor at the State Department of Motor Vehicles and Registration in which he was advised that a person working under a work visa is required to register their motor vehicle within thirty days and that proof of title of the vehicle can readily be obtained from the customs office. Ms. Therrien confirmed that she will respond to the request as per Mr. Rolfe's information.

## 6. PURCHASE OF HALLOWEEN CANDY FOR MAIN STREET TRICK OR TREAT

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board  
VOTED:

To allocate \$250. from the contingency account for the purchase of Halloween candy.

## 7. INFORMATION - IN-TOWN DEER POPULATION

Mr. Gay advised the Board that he discussed the status of the deer herd in the Machias area with the warden's service. He was advised that the State has issued fifty permits in Zone #27 this year (includes Machias). It was suggested that the Town contact a state biologist to conduct an accurate count of the deer living in Machias and make suggestions if there should be some type of intervention.

## 8. REVISED BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. Therrien noted that she suggests scheduling Board meetings in November on November 1st and November 15th and, in December on December 6th and December 20th.

## 9. COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE - DISSOLVE

Ms. Therrien noted that Mr. Don Ficker who initially came to the Board to discuss the concept of a community center is now directing his efforts towards development of an open-air building for walking. Ms. Therrien explained that she received an e-mail from Mr. Ficker advising that he is looking at pursuing a different project. The Town Manager suggested that the Board may want to dissolve this committee at the present time, put the project off until a later time, and instead focus on current projects.

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board  
VOTED:

To dissolve the community center committee at the present time.

## 10. RESPONSE FROM MDOT ON COURT STREET

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that the MDOT has made revisions to the speed limits on Court Street:

50 MPH = starting at the Whitneyville/Marshfield town line and extending southeast to a point 0.46 miles southeast of the Marshfield/Machias town line, a total distance of 0.80 miles

35 MPH = starting at point 0.46 miles southeast of the Marshfield/Machias town line and extending southeast to a point 0.27 miles west of Bull Dog Lane, the driveway to the Machias public school, a total of 1.22 mile

25 MPH = starting at a point 0.27 miles west of Bull Dog Lane, the driveway to the Machias public school, and extending northeast to the intersection of US Route 1 Main Street, a total distance of 1.18 miles

Ms. Therrien noted that the MDOT conducted a traffic study on Court Street looking at traffic patterns and the entrances/exits off the road. Mr. Schoppee advised the Board that the new speed limit signs were placed today.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Therrien noted that a \$30,000. grant from the emergency management agency was awarded to locate a siren warning system to warn citizens of possible hazardous material leaks. The warning system is located at Maine Wild Blueberry.

B. Ms. Therrien noted that she provided the Board with the list of 2017 state valuations for comparison to the 2018 data. Mr. Rolfe observed that the state valuation of Machias increased six million dollars.

C. Ms. Therrien noted that an unsolicited sealed bid was received for the purchase of 24 Gardner Avenue. A Board member opened the bid: Jessie Frazier bid \$8000. to purchase the property. The Board discussed the offer. Ms. Therrien noted that approximately \$10,000. is owed for sewer/taxes on the property/\$27,000. in total costs.

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board

VOTED:

To advise the bidder that the Town would consider a counteroffer in the amount of all outstanding taxes and sewer fees owed on the property.

Ms. Therrien noted that she will look at advertising all foreclosed properties and she will consult with the town's attorney as to the town's ability to do this legally.

D. Mr. Pellon asked if crosswalk warnings could be placed in front of the post office. Mr. Schoppee said he would try placing the warnings out of the way of getting hit by vehicles; he pointed out that cameras located at the county complex might assist in

identifying vehicles hitting the signs.

Ms. Therrien noted that the Town might want to petition the State for location of a speed bump by the post office to slow vehicles. Mr. Schoppee explained that there are temporary speed bumps that can be easily moved around.

E. Mr. Gay requested from the Chief of Police provide the Board with a detailed police report showing data on arrests, tickets, and activity of the Machias Police Department (anything that results in a summons).

Mr. Gay noted his concern for vehicles speeding in the areas of the school complex and hospital.

F. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that she has an invoice in the amount of \$947.92 for the Machias Police Department for its share of costs for software for local police agencies.

G. Mr. Schoppee informed the Board that the winter sand pile was put up this week and that the dead pine trees in front of the transfer station were removed.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.