

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

NOVEMBER 15, 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; Police Chief Grady Dwelley; Public Works Director Mike Schoppee; Ed Pellon, David Clark, Mary Angarola, Bill Burke, Bob Berta.

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 25, 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 #40 in the amount of \$13,476.52; to approve municipal warrant #41 in the amount of \$661,080.62; to approve municipal warrant #42 in the amount of \$11,276.45; and to approve municipal warrant #43 in the amount of \$264,196.76 .

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

To approve school warrant #17 in the amount of \$215,931.59 .

3. REQUEST TO SPONSOR VISION COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that the Town does not provide vision coverage as an employee benefit. She asked the Board if they would be willing to sponsor the plan for vision care allowing municipal employees to purchase the coverage. It was the consensus of the Board to sponsor the coverage for municipal employees.

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

To sponsor vision coverage for municipal employees with employees being responsible for paying for the cost.

4. REPORT BY POLICE CHIEF ON SUMMONS ACTIVITY

Police Chief Grady Dwelley reviewed police department activity with the Board. Mr. Gay explained that there are many citizen complaints about speeding. Chief Grady noted that much of the department's time is spent on working on criminal cases; he commented that the three man department is working hard but that a fourth officer is needed. The

Chief and the Board discussed how difficult it is to find police officers. Chief Grady pointed out that checking for speeders is difficult in many cases once people become aware of where officers are located watching for speeders. Mr. Gay pointed out that there is a lot of speeding occurring on Court Street. Chief Dwelley said that he can concentrate on speeding if the Board directs him to do this. The Board asked that the police step-up checking for speeding vehicles. Chief Grady said that the officers will try their best to control speeding. A citizen who lives on upper Court Street complained about vehicles speeding on that street and said that he had called the town office several times to complain. Chief Dwelley asked the resident to call the police department directly and gave the department's direct telephone number to the resident.

5. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ms. Therrien suggested that the municipal Christmas party be scheduled for December 18th at 1:00 PM at the Machias Tele-business Center and to close the Machias Town Office for that afternoon to allow personnel the opportunity to attend. The Board agreed with the date and time as suggested with an alternate date of December 19th.

6. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER POSITION

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

To accept the resignation of Bob Seelye as Animal Control Officer.

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she has advertised the position and has received three applications. She noted that she will review the applications with the Police Chief and have a recommendation for the Board of Selectmen.

7. INFORMATION - IN-TOWN DEER POPULATION

Ms. Therrien noted that she is waiting to hear back from the state biologist regarding the in-town deer population.

8. EXCISE TAX REFUND DISCUSSION

Mr. Gay suggested that the Board refund Christopher Abbandonato's excise tax paid on a vehicle registration. Mr. Rolfe objected and noted that he is basing his refusal to refund the excise tax on his call to the State Department of Motor Vehicles and was informed that Mr. Abbandonato was obligated to register his motor vehicle where he was living. Mr. Gay requested that the Town Clerk call the State and ask for a letter of clarification so that the Town can determine if there should be a refund of excise taxes.

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

To table this item pending forthcoming information.

9. AIRPORT PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Therrien updated the Board on the status of the airport project. She explained that when all funding sources are calculated, the project will be \$2000 short; she noted that the Board may need to appropriate this amount from the contingency account. Ms. Therrien noted that \$33,030 has gone towards tree removal and \$7,828 for the project consultant.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Bill Burke reported on the 2018 New Year's Eve community celebration. He reviewed the events scheduled for the event. Mr. Burke said that he would again be asking the Town for placement of trash barrels in the celebration area. He thanked the members of the Board for their support. Mr. Kitchen thanked Mr. Burke for his efforts in organizing this event. Ms. Therrien noted that the event can be advertised on the town's web site.

B. The Board signed the quarterly sewer commitment certificate.

C. Ms. Therrien suggested that the Board schedule a special town meeting on December 6th at 6:00 PM to review the submission of a grant application for a land and conservation fund grant for improvements to the recreation area located on Grove Street (ditching, paving, lighting, playground area). Total project will cost \$203,000. The Board agreed to hold the special town meeting prior to the selectmen's meeting on December 6th.

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

To authorize the Town Manager to sign the grant application and project assurances for a land and conservation fund grant for improvements to the recreation area located on Grove Street.

D. Mr. Pellon expressed concern on the condition of North Street.

E. Mr. Bob Berta handed Chairman Gay a "right to know" request for information. Mr. Gay noted that Mr. Berta is provided the documents that the members of the Board receive at their meetings.

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM.