

PUBLIC HEARING - FEBRUARY 24, 2016

APPLICATION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FOR SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Machias Board of Selectmen Chairman Aubrey Carter called a public hearing to order at 6:00 PM to receive and listen to public comments, questions, and concerns regarding the Town of Machias's application to the State of Maine Community Development Block Grant Program for a Public Infrastructure Grant to conduct sewer improvements in the Elm Street area and to perform work to the siphon chamber.

Attending the hearing in addition to Chairman Carter were Board members Warren Gay, James Whalen, Josh Rolfe, and Leslie Haynes; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Finance Director Meghan Dennison; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Joey Dennison, Bill Kitchen, Ed Pellon, Judy East, Crystal Hitchings, Elaine Cale, Johanna Billings, Bill Burke, Robert Atwood, Deborah Atwood.

Town Manager Christina Therrien explained that funding for this project will depend upon the availability of monies; she noted that the scope of the project will be the installation of a pump station and sewer line replacement on Elm Street. Ms. Therrien noted that this funding will be matched with funds from the USDA.

In answer to a question from a resident of Elm Street, Mr. Robert Atwood, Ms. Therrien confirmed that the work on the sewer lines would be limited to Elm Street. Mr. Pellon noted that there has been a problem with a sewer that runs under a house on Elm Street and he suggested that this line be looked at; Ms. Therrien commented that she is aware of this problem and the problem is being looked at.

Hearing no further comments or questions from the public, Mr. Carter closed this public hearing at 6:08 PM.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:08 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; Finance Director Meghan Dennison, Joey Dennison, Bill Kitchen, Ed Pellon, Judy East, Crystal Hitchings, Cony Upton, Elaine Cale, Johanna Billings, Bill Burke..

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Board meeting with the following correction:

Page 1, Paragraph #2 under the discussion should be corrected to read: "A few of the firefighters went with the Chief to Island Falls to inspect the truck. The vehicle is in good shape with no rust. It has one generator and is piped for water but doesn't have any tanks on the vehicle. The Fire Chief explained that no town in this area has a ladder truck. The closest one is in Calais."

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2016 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #67 in the amount of \$15,302.80; to approve municipal warrant #68 in the amount of \$55,294.70; to approve municipal warrant #69 in the amount of \$16,195.03; and, to approve municipal warrant #40 in the amount of \$45,719.97 .

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

To amend the motion to approve municipal warrants as follows: "To approve municipal warrant #67 in the amount of \$15,302.80; to approve municipal warrant #68 in the amount of \$16,195.03; to approve municipal warrant #69 in the amount of \$16,195.03; and to approve municipal warrant #70 in the amount of \$45,719.97 ."

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

To approve school warrant #34 in the amount of \$185,022.80 .

3. FIRE AND AMBULANCE CONTRACTS - BOARD SIGNATURES

The members of the Board of Selectmen signed fire and ambulance contracts returned by contract towns.

4. SUMMER CELEBRATION PROPOSAL BY MR. BILL BURKE

Mr. Burke advised the Board of plans to hold a Machias Summer Festival on July 15-17, 2016. He noted that the festival will be a community event for families that will include rides in a hot air balloon, a medieval reenactment, an antique and remote control plane fly-in, music and entertainment, as well as a seafood barbecue, craft artisans, and commercial vendors. Mr. Burke distributed an informational sheet describing the event.

He noted that the New Year's celebration held this year was very successful. Mr. Burke explained that much research went into scheduling this event so it would not conflict with other area celebrations. Mr. Burke informed the Board that the celebration will make use of Down East Conservancy property and other areas in Machias such as the old Ford garage site, the Machias Valley Airport, and the Lee Pellon building parking area. As to the provision of liability insurance, Mr. Burke explained that this celebration will also be going through the Machias Rotary for insurance coverage. He noted that the cost to hold the celebration will be approximately \$30,000.; he advised the Board that he would be soliciting area businesses for donations. Mr. Burke added that there will be some fundraising activities between now and the event to raise funds for the celebration.

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

VOTED:

To accept Mr. Burke's proposal for a Machias Summer Festival and offer support for the celebration,

Ms. Therrien suggested that organizers reach out to the sheriff's department for assistance with police coverage since the Machias Police Department may be understaffed at that time due to officer training scheduling. Mr. Burke asked if the fire department volunteers would be willing to assist with the seafood barbecue.

5. CONTRACT WITH STANTEC FOR AIRPORT OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

Ms. Therrien pointed out that the members of the Board have copies of a professional services agreement with Stantec Consulting Services for their review.

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

VOTED:

To authorize the Town Manager to sign the Town's contract with Stantec Consulting Services.

6. WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Ms. Judy East advised the Board that the Washington County Council of Governments has initiated a Maine DOT regional planning work plan task proposal to develop a viable action plan to help the community address identified safety and mobility issues. Ms. East introduced Crystal Hitchings who will be working on the project to the Board. Ms. East noted that the project has a \$7500. budget. Ms. Therrien thanked Ms. East for her assistance with funding this project.

7. REQUEST TO USE ATUSVILLE CEMETERY

Ms. Therrien advised the members of the Board of a request from UMM teacher Marcus LiBrizzi asking for permission to utilize the Atusville cemetery for a UMM activity on March 19, 2016.

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

VOTED:

To allow Mr. LiBrizzi to use the Atusville cemetery for a UMM activity on March 19, 2016.

8. SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST

The Board reviewed a sewer abatement request from Richard Richards on charges to a mobile home located at 5 Gardner Avenue. The Board reviewed the documentation accompanying the request.

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

To abate a sewer bill for charges at 5 Gardner Avenue to the average of the last three sewer bills.

9. SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST

Ms. Elaine Cale told the Board that two leaks were found at JD Lane at the Dublin Street Trailer Park and have been repaired. She asked the Board to consider abating sewer charges for Oct-Nov-Dec 2015 due to these leaks. The Board reviewed the documentation provided by Ms. Cale.

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

VOTED:

To abate a sewer bill for charges at the Dublin Street Trailer Park to the average usage of the last three sewer bills.

10. REQUEST FROM THE TOWNS OF WHITNEYVILLE AND JONESBORO

The Board reviewed a request from the Town of Jonesboro and the Town of Whitneyville asking that the Town of Machias collect excise taxes for them from April 1st thru April 13th due to vacationing personnel.

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

To collect excise taxes for the Town of Jonesboro and the Town of Whitneyville from April 1 to April 13, 2016

11. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ms. Therrien updated the Board on progress with construction of the town's webpage.

B. Ms. Therrien pointed out there was a question at the Board's last meeting as to the whereabouts of a generator owned by the Town. She noted that the generator was actually sold as surplus property by the Board. Ms. Therrien provided a copy of the Board's minutes from their 10/24/12 meeting which documented that the Board had sold the generator.

C. Ms. Therrien noted that she has provided the Board with a copy of the 2016 Washington County tax assessments listed by municipality.

D. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that they have a monthly operations report for the wastewater treatment plant from Oliver Associates.

E. The Town Manager reminded the Board of an AOS budget meeting on March 1st at 6:00 PM at the Elm Street School in East Machias.

F. Ms. Therrien told the Board that she had received an e-mail from MDOT offering free solar powered crosswalk beacon signals to municipalities. She noted that she will submit a request for two of the signals which would be maintained and installed by the Town. Ms. Therrien suggested placement of a beacon on top of college hill and in the vicinity of Station 1898. Mr. Pellon suggested that the Board look into changing the location of the college hill crosswalk since that crosswalk is very difficult to see where it is presently located.

G. Mr. Gay asked if there was a need to obtain written permission from the MDOT authorizing the Town to patrol the dike/causeway area. The Board thoroughly discussed this issue. It was the consensus of the Board that no permission is needed for the Town's police department to address law-breaking activities on the dike. Mr. Upton commented that there are laws which give the police the right to deal with problems occurring on the dike. Members of the Board agreed and saw no need to obtain any kind of permission in writing from the MDOT.

On a motion by Warren Gay, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM.