

PUBLIC HEARING - MARCH 9, 2016

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

WHOLE LIFE NATURAL MARKET, INC

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 a liquor license application submitted by the Whole Life Natural Market, Inc.

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; Bill Kitchen, Ed Pellon, Sharon Mack, Nancy Lewis, Ellen Farnsworth.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the liquor license application. Sharon Mack asked if this application meant that the business would be serving liquor in its cafe? Mr. Carter noted that liquor would be served in the Whole Life Market's cafe.

Hearing no further comments or questions from the public, Mr. Carter closed this public hearing at 6:04 PM.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MARCH 9, 2016

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:04 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, Bill Kitchen, Ed Pellon, Nancy Manchester, Sharon Mack, Nancy Lewis, Ellen Farnsworth.

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 24, 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 #71 in the amount of \$14,747.51; to approve municipal warrant #72 in the amount of \$325,766.45; to approve municipal warrant #73 in the amount of \$10,975.00; and, to approve municipal warrant #74 in the amount of \$42,426.70 .

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

VOTED:

To approve school warrant #36 in the amount of \$227,277.24 .

3. ACTION ON LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION - WHOLE LIFE NATURAL MARKET

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

VOTED:

To approve a liquor license for the Whole Life Natural Market, Inc.

4. UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT MACHIAS AMBULANCE CONTRACT

Ms. Therrien noted that the ambulance contract with the University of Maine at Machias has been returned to the Town of Machias signed.

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

VOTED:

To approve the ambulance contract as signed and returned by the University of Maine at Machias.

5. CORRECTION OF SEWER USER COMMITMENT

Mrs. Dennison informed the Board that Town Clerk Sandra Clifton found a discrepancy in a recent audit of the sewer user commitment figures and asked that the Board complete a new commitment form correcting this mistake.

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

VOTED:

To sign a correction of the certificate of commitment of sewer user rates from 10/1/14 through 12/31/14.

6. REPORT FROM BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Ellen Farnsworth and Nancy Lewis, co-chairs of the Machias Wild Blueberry Festival, reported on plans for this year's festival in August. Ms. Farnsworth noted that the Board has a written report for their review outlining the activities the committee is pursuing. She noted that the committee is working closely with the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce in planning this year's two day event. Ms. Dennison commented that there was very good feedback on the relocation of the port-a-potties last year. Ms. Farnsworth advised the Board that the committee is asking for the Board's approval to offer a change in parking for the convenience of some of the church vendors. She noted that the committee is proposing to offer diagonal parking near the church's green space for vendors in order to allow the vendors to more easily access their supply vehicles. The Board discussed the advisability of using diagonal parking in this area.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Ms. Therrien suggested that the situation be looked at more closely and some measurements of the area be taken before the Board makes a decision. She noted that she can place this item back on the Board's next meeting agenda. The Board agreed with this suggestion in order to facilitate an informed decision. Members of the Board thanked Ms. Farnsworth and Ms. Lewis for their work.

7. CREATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Whalen noted this concern that the Town needs to encourage economic growth to the greatest extent possible. He suggested developing a nine person economic development committee (composed of two at-large people, two business owners, one builder, the president of UMM, a restaurant owner, a person from the financial field, and a representative of Town government) to look into and encourage economic growth in Machias.

Mr. Pellon suggested doing what New York is doing for new businesses - allowing new businesses a three year break on property taxes and sewer charges. Several members of the Board agreed that this type of incentive could work to attract new businesses to Machias. Ms. Therrien pointed out that there are existing loan programs that target start-up businesses. Mr. Whalen advised that he will be soliciting for participation on this committee.

8. RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICER

The Board reviewed a 2/16/16 letter of resignation from the Machias Police Department from Officer Timothy Mace. Ms. Therrien pointed out that the sheriff's department will need to reimburse Machias for a portion of Officer Mace's training costs.

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

VOTED:

To accept a letter of resignation from Timothy Mace effective 3/19/16 from his position as a full-time police officer with the Machias Police Department and to retain Mr. Mace as a part-time officer.

9. TELEBUSINESS CENTER - REPAIRS OR AUCTION?

Ms. Therrien asked the Board for guidance as to what direction the Town wants to go regarding the telebusiness center - either to look at making repairs to the building or taking actions to sell the property. The Board discussed selling the building. Mrs. Dennison pointed out that there is a clause in the deed outlining that selling the building must be approved by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Carter suggested following up on auctioning the building. The Board requested that an auctioneer be asked to attend the Board's next meeting in order to discuss the matter.

10. TOWN OFFICE CLOSURE FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that Town Clerk Sandra Clifton has recommended that the Machias Town Office be closed on general election day (11/8/16) due to the need to focus on election procedures. The Board discussed the request.

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

VOTED:

To close the Machias Town Office on 11/8/16 to regular business in order to facilitate elections.

11. DISCUSSION OF MACHIAS WATER COMPANY STOCK

The Board discussed selling the Town's share of Machias Water Company stock. It was noted that Machias currently owns 46.5% of the company's stock which is valued at \$487,258. After the discussion, it was suggested that the Board solicit information as to procedures from the auctioneer being invited to attend a Board meeting on another matter.

12. DISCUSSION OF CREATION OF TOWN LIBRARY

Mr. Whalen stated his concerns that the Porter Memorial Library is not a functioning library that meets the needs of its citizens. He suggested contacting the state librarian to investigate the funding of a new town library. Ms. Therrien commented that she actually likes the Porter building but she noted that there are some problems such as accessibility problems and problems with dampness. Ms. Therrien suggested approaching UMM about citizen use of their library to see how closely UMM would be willing to work with the Town on library services. Mr. Bill Kitchen commented that there is no communication between local school libraries which is a tremendous lost opportunity to share resources.

13. UMM LIGHTED CROSSWALK SIGNS

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that she had contacted the MDOT about obtaining two rapid flashing beacons for Machias. She noted that she was advised that the beacons have been allocated to other entities. Ms. Therrien noted that she requested that Machias be placed on a waiting list for the availability of beacons in the future.

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she performed some research into the cost of solar motion lights. She suggested looking into placement of a solar motion detector light near the UMM crosswalk and painting this crosswalk with reflective paint. The Board asked Ms. Therrien to proceed with her suggestions. Ms. Therrien said that she will ask UMM about placement of a pole for a motion light and repainting the crosswalk.

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

VOTED:

To request that the Town Manager proceed with her suggestions on the UMM crosswalk.

DISCUSSION OF ROQUE BLUFFS TRANSFER STATION BILL

Ms. Therrien noted a letter from Roque Bluffs selectmen dated 1/28/16. She informed the Board that she had calculated the Roque Bluffs transfer station charges from September 1, 2015 to January 16, 2016 and found that Roque Bluffs owed \$7,240.86 for this time period. Ms. Therrien noted that the selectmen of Roque Bluffs are disagreeing with the amount of the invoice but have sent a check in the amount of \$6,742.50 instead (a difference of \$498.). The members of the Board discussed the bill and the response from Roque Bluffs selectmen. The Board decided to cash the check and proceed forward with the Board remembering what has transpired.

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

VOTED:

To accept and cash a check in the amount of \$6742.50 from Roque Bluffs for use of the Bay Area Transfer Station from September 1, 2015 to January 16, 2016.

Ms. Therrien noted that she disagreed with the insinuation that efforts were not made to schedule a meeting with Roque Bluffs selectmen; she documented her efforts to arrange a mutually agreed upon time to meet.

15. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ms. Therrien noted that two properties have been taken by the Town due to nonpayment of property taxes. The Board discussed the two properties in question and how to proceed with disposing of the properties.

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

VOTED:

To place the properties located at 38 West Street and 24 Gardner Avenue for sale to the highest sealed bid with bids to cover all taxes and charges owed on the properties along with the cost of all administrative fees. In addition, thirty days will be designated as the time allowed for the former owners to remove all personal possessions from the properties.

B. Ms. Therrien reminded the Board that a small piece of tax-acquired property located at Map#13 Lot 15C was given to the school department. She asked the Board if they would write off the property taxes owed on this piece of land.

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

VOTED:

To write off all the principal, interest, and fees owed on a piece of land located at Map #13, Lot 15C as of this date.

C. Ms. Therrien noted a March 1st letter from Aramark notifying the Town of Machias of the company's closing of operations at UMM.

D. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that they have a copy of a March 6th memo from Police Chief Grady Dwelley regarding the recovery of a former animal control officer's equipment.

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Warren Gay, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.