

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - TOWN OF MACHIAS

AUGUST 2, 2017

PUBLIC HEARING

MACHIAS LOCAL FOOD AND COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNANCE
ORDINANCE

Chairman of the Machias Board of Selectmen Warren Gay called to order a public hearing at 6:00 PM to review and receive citizen comments and concerns regarding a proposed "Machias Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance". Mr. Gay reviewed the proposed ordinance and confirmed with Town Manager Christina Therrien that the public hearing and the proposed ordinance have been widely publicized throughout the community. Mr. Gay asked for comments and/or concerns from the public. A citizen brought up the possibility of a vendor selling marijuana-edible foods in the downtown dike area. It was noted that this question opens up a whole new area of concern that would need to be addressed. Ms. Therrien explained that the next step after this public hearing will be to present the proposed ordinance before citizens at a special town meeting. The members of the Board decided to schedule a special town meeting at 6:00 PM on August 9, 2017 for citizens to vote on the adoption of the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Gay closed the public hearing at 6:12 PM.

A scheduled meeting of the Machias Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:12 PM by Chairman Warren Gay. In attendance were Board members Josh Rolfe, Bill Kitchen, and Paula Johnson-Rolfe; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Ed Pellon, Bob Berta, Denice Hopkins, Mary Angarola, David Clark.

1. THE MACHIAS LOCAL FOOD AND COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNANCE
ORDINANCE

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

To schedule a special town meeting on August 9, 2017 at 6:00 PM for citizens to consider adopting the Machias Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance.

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

To sign the proposed Machias Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance and to proceed with scheduling the special town meeting to address the proposed ordinance.

Vote On Motion: 3 to 0 in favor to proceed
1 abstaining vote

2. NORTHFIELD INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT

Ms. Therrien reminded the members of the Board of the agreement to provide vehicle registration services to the citizens of Northfields for another year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018). She noted that Northfield will pay the Town of Machias \$1530. for the service with the fees from the registration services divided between personnel in the Machias Town Office.

3. AIRPORT GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

To approve the grant applications for funding of the airport access road and renovations to the airport building and authorizing the Town Manager and the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the grant applications.

4. PUMP STATION/SIPHON CHAMBER LOAN FROM DEP

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that the Department of Environmental Protection is providing a loan to the Town of Machias for construction of a sewer pump station and siphon chamber with a 58.52% rate forgiveness on the loan with the remaining balance to be financed through the Maine Bond Bank (20 to 30 year loan). She noted that the entire project will cost approximately \$1,550,000. Ms. Therrien noted that these plans are subject to voter approval. Mr. Rolfe observed that loans that have been and are being negotiated by the Town of Machias for these projects will definitely be impacting the local municipal budget.

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

To tentatively move forward with arrangements to secure a loan from the Department of Environmental Protection for funding of the sewer pump station and siphon chamber and to proceed with plans to ask for citizen approval of the loan.

5. DISCUSSION OF TOWN OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES DUE TO ANTICIPATED ABSENCE

Ms. Therrien advised the members of the Board that in the past when a situation arose in the Machias Town Office when an employee had to be absent for a prolonged period of time due to medical reasons that person's responsibilities were shifted to the two remaining people in the office. She noted that these two remaining town office personnel were each compensated \$75.00 per week for the additional work that needed to be done and that the additional work was performed during the office workers' day in addition to their regular duties. Ms. Therrien noted that in the past the Board had elected to proceed in this manner due to the fact that having the two remaining personnel perform the duties of the absent employee was more economically feasible and made more sense than bringing on a temporary employee. She requested that the Board consider making this

arrangement again in light of the fact that the Finance Director will need to take medical leave to have her baby.

The members of the Board discussed how to proceed. Mr. Gay noted that this short term arrangement had worked in the past. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe said that she was hesitant about setting another precedent on providing the additional pay to town office personnel working the same amount of hours they normally work to perform their own duties and responsibilities as well as now being asked to perform additional duties during their workday. She explained that her concerns were not of a personal issue but a procedural issue of how to address a short-term situation in the town office. Ms. Therrien explained that the arrangement had worked before and that it would cost much more to have someone else learn how to do the work, if someone could be found who would be interested in such a short-term position. Mr. Rolfe noted his concern on how workers in other municipal departments might look upon this type of situation in the performance of their jobs. It was decided that the members of the Board would reflect on how best to address this situation and discuss this issue again at their next meeting after giving some thought to the problem. Ms. Therrien said that she would place this on the Board's next meeting agenda for discussion and resolution.

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM.