

Note: Before beginning the meeting, those assembled stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JANUARY 25, 2023

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chairman Paula Johnson-Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Leslie Haynes, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher, and Jake Patryn (by Zoom); Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Police Chief Keith Mercier.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2022 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board
VOTED:

To approve municipal payroll warrant #54 in the amount of \$27,947.15; to approve municipal payroll warrant #56 in the amount of \$14,686.34; to approve municipal payroll warrant #58 in the amount of \$22,237.03; and, to approve municipal payroll warrant #60 in the amount of \$13,910.64 .

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

To approve municipal accounts payable warrant #55 in the amount of \$155,138.05; to approve accounts payable warrant #57 in the amount of \$537,518.82; to approve accounts payable warrant #59 in the amount of \$47,634.07; and, to approve accounts payable warrant #61 in the amount of \$56,887.38 .

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board
VOTED:

To approve school warrant #123022 in the amount of \$324,565.70 and to approve school warrant #011323 in the amount of \$276,341.29 .

3. VERSANT EASEMENT - ELM STREET

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that Versant is asking for an easement for a pole located on town-owned property located on Elm Street. He told the Board that Versant is installing a three-phase electrical line on Elm Street, one of the changes from the removal of an electrical sub-station previously located by Bad Little Falls Park. Mr. Kitchen explained that he has looked at the location of the pole as well as the Public Works Department examining the site.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To approve and sign an easement for Versant for a pole located on Elm Street to the location of the last new pole on the street owned by the Town.

4. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Kitchen advised the members of the Board that he is in the process of setting up the agenda for a special town meeting. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that this item would be tabled until the Town Manager brings it back to the Board.

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Mercier updated the Board on police department activities. Chief Mercier informed the Board that the department has been busy over the last month with seventy-seven calls for service.

6. BAD LITTLE BREWERY UCC FILING

Mr. Kitchen reported that as a result of due diligence that it is clear that the Town is not liable for any financial responsibility from the Community Development Block Grant awarded to Bad Little Brewery LLC. Mr. Kitchen noted that he consulted various agencies and that he has a letter from the program manager of the CDBG program noting that the Town of Machias is not liable in any way. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that the UCC filing protected the Town from financial liability.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

To sign and approve the release of a UCC filing with Bad Little Brewery LLC filed on 10/27/21 (#20211027109000297).

Ms. Johnson-Rolfe thanked Mr. Kitchen for his diligent work in this matter.

7. FOLLOW-UP ON SMITH PROPERTY - DUBLIN STREET

Mr. Kitchen reported that he had made the Board's counter-offer on the Smith property located on Dublin Street for that amount (approximately \$38,000.) owed to the Town for all outstanding taxes and charges. He noted that the Smiths had countered by offering to sell the property to the Town for \$59,000. The Board discussed how to proceed.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

That the Town offers to purchase the Smith property for the amount owed to the Town for all outstanding taxes.

8. AMBULANCE SERVICE - PURCHASE OF STRETCHER

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that the Machias Ambulance Service needs to replace a stretcher. Mr. Kitchen noted that this is a specialized piece of equipment with an approximate cost of \$15,000. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that bids will be solicited from companies specializing in medical equipment and will be financed with funds from the ambulance department's enterprise account.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

To go out for bid on a stretcher for the Machias Ambulance Service.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. The Board reviewed an application for a pawnbroker's license submitted by Main Street Discount. Mr. Mercier noted that he has had no problems with the business.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To approve a pawnbroker's license for Main Street Discount.

B. Mr. Kitchen informed the members of the Board that the transfer station director has resigned effective immediately.

Mr. Kitchen suggested that this would be an opportune time to look at the program and review it for any changes the Board would like to make. He suggested that a small committee could be appointed to examine the program and make recommendations to improve the program. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe agreed this would be a good opportunity to examine the program. Mr. Kitchen

noted that the Public Works Director had worked extensively with the transfer station director. He advised the Board that he will start the development of such a committee.

C. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that the town's fireworks contractor had recently contacted him regarding this year's scheduling of the Independence Day fireworks display. Mr. Kitchen explained that the company had inquired if fireworks were to be held on July 4th (Tuesday, this year). Ms. Sinford noted that the 4th of July Committee had really wanted the display on July 4th. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the 2023 fireworks would be scheduled on July 4th.

D. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that he had met and had lunch with Senator Susan Collins. Mr. Kitchen also informed the Board that he had the opportunity to speak to state legislators meeting at the University of Maine at Machias with the Chancellor of the University of Maine system also in attendance.

E. Ms. Porcher complimented the vet-to-go program that had recently provided services to animal owners in the Machias area. Mr. Kitchen noted that the next scheduled date for services will be February 8th. It was the consensus of the Board that the vet-to-go program was a phenomenal success.

10. MACHIAS VALLEY AIRPORT FUEL FARM - PAYMENT TO CONTRACTOR

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that Justin King Construction is awaiting payment for work on the construction of the fuel farm at the airport. Mr. Kitchen noted that the amount will be reimbursed to the Town by the FAA.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board
VOTED:

To pay Justin King Construction the sum of \$7790.47 for their work on the fuel farm at the airport with the sum to be reimbursed to the Town by the FAA.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, second by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To adjourn to executive session as allowed by MRSA Title 36 Chapter 105 Subchapter 8 Subsection 841(2) to discuss an abatement request at 6:56 PM.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to adjourn the executive session at 7:13 PM.

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To deny the request for a tax abatement.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To adjourn into executive session to discuss unions negotiations as allowed under MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Subsection 405 Paragraph 6D at 7:15 PM.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to adjourn the executive session at 7:30 PM.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM.