

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JANUARY 27, 2021

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order via the Zoom platform at 6:00 PM by Chairman Josh Rolfe (Mr. Rolfe noted that he started recording the meeting at 6:04 PM). In attendance were Board members Paula Johnson-Rolfe, James Jackson, and Leslie Haynes; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Police Chief Todd Hand; Mary Angarola, Sarah Dedmond Craighead.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by James Jackson, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #60 in the amount of \$10,704.38; to approve municipal warrant #61 in the amount of \$26,237.55; to approve municipal warrant #62 in the amount of \$19,924.48; and, to approve municipal warrant #63 (amount pending).

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

To approve school warrant #122921 in the amount of \$525,694.08 .

3. MUNICIPAL CONTRACT - BOARD SIGNATURES

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that Roque Bluffs returned their signed contract for ambulance services.

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

To approve the ambulance service contract with the Town of Roque Bluffs.

4. BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that Carol Porcher contacted her regarding interest in being appointed to the municipal budget committee. The members of the Board discussed interest in the budget committee and decided to place this item on the Board's next agenda for action to allow sufficient opportunity for citizens to respond to the public notice placed by the Town Manager.

5. PAWNBROKER'S LICENSE RENEWAL

The Board reviewed an application for a pawnbroker's license renewal submitted by Main Street Discount. Ms. Therrien noted that the licensing of pawnbrokers is regulated under Maine Title 30A and she explained that even though Main Street Discount no longer exists the owner maintains their license.

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

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

6. DONATION OF LAND - DOWN EAST CREDIT UNION

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she was contacted by a representative of Down East Credit Union about the donation of a piece of property located at 2 Elm Street to the Town. Ms. Therrien explained that the remains of a demolished house had been removed from the lot; she explained that the property borders Bad Little Falls Park and would be advantageous for the Town to own; she also noted that town utility lines cross the property. She recommended that the Board accept the donation.

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

To accept the donation of land located at 2 Elm Street from Down East Credit Union.

Mr. Rolfe thanked Down East Credit Union for the donation of land. Ms. Therrien suggested that the Town pay the legal fees to complete the transfer of ownership. The members of the Board agreed that the Town would be responsible for any legal fees involved in the transfer of ownership.

7. MACHIAS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she was contacted by the principal of the high school regarding his intention to sell the high school's greenhouse. Ms. Therrien informed the Board of her conversation with the principal highlighting her comments that the greenhouse is municipal property and must therefore be sold by a sealed bid process. Both Mr. Rolfe and Ms. Johnson-Rolfe pointed out that guidelines must be followed as approved by voters in disposing of municipal property.

8. MACHIAS PLANNING BOARD OPENINGS

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she has received communication from several people interested in serving on the Machias Planning Board; she listed Rich Rolfe (resident), Joey Dennison (non-resident), Harry Flowers (resident), and Bob Berta (non-resident) as those indicating interest in serving. Ms. Therrien noted that two full-time members and one alternate member are needed to make a full board. The Board discussed the appointment of non-residents to the planning board. Mr. Rolfe reviewed the candidates with the Board and he recommended the appointment of Rich Rolfe and Harry Flowers as full-time members and the appointment of Joey Dennison as an alternate member. The Board discussed the candidates.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by James Jackson, the Board
VOTED:

To appoint Rich Rolfe and Harry Flowers to the Machias Planning Board and to appoint Joey Dennison as an alternate member.

Vote on Motion: 3 to 0; Ms. Johnson-Rolfe abstained in the vote.

9. SHELLFISH ORDINANCE REVIEW - FEE SCHEDULE INFORMATION

The Board discussed addressing age and resident stipulations in the town's shellfish ordinance. Mr. Rolfe suggested that people over the age of sixty and under the age of fifteen be given free licenses. Mr. Jackson also suggested looking at delineating commercial versus recreational licenses. After further discussion, Ms. Therrien suggested the following categories of licenses be utilized:

- \$25.00 for resident personal license
- \$50.00 for resident commercial license
- \$35.00 for non-resident personal license
- \$70.00 for non-resident commercial license

The members of the Board agreed to the charges for licenses as discussed. Ms. Therrien asked Chief Hand for his input. Chief Hand commented that he thought the list of license types was "pretty straight forward" and appropriate.

10. BERRY AVENUE LAND DONATION UPDATE

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that there are current taxes due (approximately \$300.) on the Berry Avenue property the owner is interested in giving to the Town. She told the Board that she did discuss the current property taxes owed on the piece of property with the owner. Mr. Rolfe commented that he would not want to discourage the donation of land over such a small amount of money since the benefit of the town owning the property outweighs the small amount of taxes due on the land. He suggested that the Town Manager make the property owner aware that the Board is agreeable to discussing the taxes owed on the property. The Board agreed to discuss the current status of taxes with the property owner. Ms. Therrien advised that she will talk with the property owner regarding the Board's wishes to discuss the taxes on the property. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that there would be an approximate cost of \$300. for legal paperwork to transfer the property to municipal ownership.

11. AIRPORT SCOPING MEETING UPDATE

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that the airport scoping meeting was held to discuss fuel farm specifications. Ms. Therrien noted that it is the intention to stay on schedule with plans to put out to bid construction of the fuel farm. She reviewed the the proposed location of the fuel pumps at the airport. Mr. Rolfe noted that the members of the Board defer to the Machias Airport Committee on their knowledge and expertise. Ms. Therrien advised the Board the timeline for the project construction is 2022.

12. RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA POLICY

The Board will continue to review the proposed recreational marijuana policy. Mr. Rolfe asked that this item be left on the Board's agenda.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Therrien informed the Board that interviews were conducted for two candidates who applied for the half-time public works/half-time transfer station opening. She noted that she, the Public Works Supervisor, and the Transfer Station Director interviewed the applicants and agreed to recommend a candidate for hiring (Mr. James Helm).

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

Based on the recommendation of the Town Manager, to hire a candidate for the shared public works/transfer station position provided that the applicant's name be given to the Board's secretary (Mr. James Helm) with the stipulation that the employee will abide with the standard provisions on new personnel hires.

B. Ms. Therrien informed the Board that Sergeant Wade Walker is on a National Guard duty assignment until mid-March.

C. Ms. Therrien informed the Board that she showed lease space at the telebusiness center to a potential occupant.

D. Ms. Therrien reviewed the discussions at the recent transfer station meeting with the contract towns. She informed the Board that the group agreed to open the transfer station on April 1st to all users, to eliminate the \$3.00 scale fee, and to start charging per pound disposal fees and eliminate the garbage bag fee. Ms. Therrien explained that the towns hope to increase

participation at the transfer station. She told the Board that the town bags will be used until they are gone and after that fees will be based on garbage weight.

E. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she is looking at fundraising activities and applying for grants for the purchase of playground equipment.

F. Chief Hand advised the Board of a fundraising effort for an employee.

G. Ms. Angarola commented on efforts at hiring a full complement of police officers for the Town. Members of the Board pointed out that the police department is consistently staffed with qualified officers. Chief Hand noted that entities will always experience a problem with finding police officers due to the salary paid for law enforcement. Mr. Jackson suggested that salary be discussed in conjunction with budget development. Mr. Rolfe noted that there is no incentive in the current political climate to encourage law enforcement careers. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe pointed out that she has tried to address salary issues during union negotiation discussions. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that there is not a large pool of interested people who want to work in law enforcement in rural Maine.

Ms. Therrien also pointed out that there are some other areas of municipal employees who are underpaid. She noted that she is trying to pull information on wage scales; she added that towns must balance the ability of taxpayers to withstand tax increases to pay for wage increases. Ms. Therrien said that she is looking at coming up with a long term plan to become more competitive with wages. Mr. Rolfe commented that the Town needs real evaluation of wages.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by James Jackson, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM.