

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

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

FEBRUARY 22, 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; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Lois Libby, Sally Taylor, Ryan Maker.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2023 Board meeting and the minutes of the February 8, 2023 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Leslie Haynes seconded by Jake Patryn, the Board
VOTED:

To approve municipal payroll warrant #66 in the amount of \$20,112.28 and to approve municipal payroll warrant #68 in the amount of \$15,209.26 .

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

To approve municipal accounts payable warrant #67 in the amount of \$229,142.63 and to approve accounts payable warrant #69 in the amount of \$26,316.26 .

On a motion by Jake Patryn, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

To approve school warrant #021023 in the amount of \$406,061.87 .

3. AMBULANCE CONTRACTS - DISCUSSION OF RATE CHANGES

Mr. Kitchen told the Board the the Town is in the process of sending out this year's ambulance contracts and that this is the final year of the three year cycle of contracts. He noted that the Board may want to adjust service rates to be comparable with current rates. Mr. Kitchen added that he would like to include a letter with the contracts advising contract towns of an increase in rates after the current year. He told the Board that he had asked members of the Machias Ambulance Service (Lois Libby, Sally Taylor, & Ryan Maker) to attend this meeting to discuss the need to increase rates.

Ms. Taylor advised the Board that the ambulance service serves nine entities in the county and needs to look at a per capita rate increase since the cost of all supplies has escalated as well as increasing costs of gasoline and tires. She also noted the costs of paying a medical director and training costs and the need to provide adequate hourly compensation to employees. She noted that the service employs eleven people twenty-four hours, seven days per week. Ms. Porcher suggested that at budget time, the Board needs to see contract numbers and all operational costs to assess what is needed.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the Town Manager draft a letter addressed to the contract towns explaining that the Machias Ambulance Service is forced to increase contract costs in order to survive as an ambulance service and that the MAS is looking at instituting a \$50. per capita increase for the first year of the new contract and increasing the rate to \$80. per capita by the third year of the contract. The Board discussed the need to provide adequate compensation to employees in order to retain qualified employees. The Board discussed increasing ambulance staff in order to return to providing transports which generates income for the ambulance service. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that other ambulance services are struggling and that the area does not want to lose the MAS. Mr. Patryn pointed out that the MAS needs another ambulance to be able to provide transfers, that a rate increase is a "no-brainer", and that there is a definite need for an investment in equipment and personnel. The members of the Board thanked Ms. Libby, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Maker for providing this information to the Board.

4. VERSANT PROPERTY LEASE SWAP

Mr. Kitchen noted the successful lobbying of the removal of the Versant power substation previously located by Bad Little Falls Park. He noted the need for solar farms to be located close to electrical substations which has led to a proposal for a land exchange with Versant Power. The Board reviewed the proposed conveyance of a fifty foot piece of property owned by the Town located on Dublin Street which would allow the company to proceed with their plans to locate a power substation close to a solar farm. Mr. Kitchen reviewed the map depicting the property involved in the transaction and the land the Town would gain in the transaction.

After discussing the proposal, the Board gave their approval of the land exchange and added that the town's attorney should look over the agreement. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that he would notify Versant of the Board's approval of the property lease swap with the understanding that the town's attorney would require time to review the proposal.

5. SEWER ABATEMENTS

Mr. Kitchen told the Board that due to errors in billing input the Board has two abatements to complete.

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

VOTED:

To abate \$77.00 on sewer account #322 due to an error in billing.

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

VOTED:

To abate \$107.80 on sewer account #617 due to an error in billing.

6. BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Kitchen distributed a schedule of budget meetings which the members of the Board reviewed.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Kitchen told the Board that the Town is required by law to appoint a Board of Appeals. He advised the Board that he has asked five people to serve on this board: Ben Edwards (2023), Andrew Mulholland (2023), Carol Christianson (2024), Tora Johnson (2025), and Anne Marie Evans (2025).

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

To appoint Ben Edwards, Andrew Mulholland, Carol Christianson, Tora Johnson, and Anne Marie Evans to the Machias Board of Appeals.

B. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that he has been asked by several business owners for the Town to develop a recreational marijuana ordinance.

C. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that he would like to hire Patricia Anderson to fill the transfer station director position and that he would like to hire Reagan Smith to fill the split position (transfer station/public works). He reviewed the qualifications of the two applicants.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Jake Patryn, the Board
VOTED:

To appoint Reagan Smith to the split position (transfer station/public works department) with the position starting immediately.

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

To appoint Patricia Anderson as Transfer Station Director with the position starting the coming weekend.

D. The Board and Mr. Kitchen discussed harassment training for town employees.

E. Ms. Porcher reminded Mr. Kitchen of the plan to tackle out-of-date municipal ordinances.

F. Ms. Sinford asked that the Public Works Department take down the town's Christmas decorations.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.