

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

FEBRUARY 28, 2024

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman Jacob Patryn. In attendance were Board members Carole Porcher, Sandra Sinford, Ben Edwards, and Michael Hinerman; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Paul Sylvain, Stephen Simmons, Sharon Mack.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Michael Hinerman, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2024 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve payroll warrant #51 in the amount of \$28,397.56; to approve payroll warrant #53 in the amount of \$18,608.56; to approve payroll warrant #55 in the amount of \$40,112.28; to approve payroll warrant #57 in the amount of \$19,640.24; to approve payroll warrant #59 in the amount of \$26,530.77; to approve payroll warrant #61 in the amount of \$19,887.59; to approve payroll warrant #63 in the amount of \$36,206.06; to approve payroll warrant #65 in the amount of \$19,013.85; to approve payroll warrant #67 in the amount of \$24,944.34; and, to approve payroll warrant #69 in the amount of \$17,496.16 .

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board VOTED:

To approve accounts payable warrant #52 in the amount of \$303,406.53; to approve accounts payable warrant #54 in the amount of \$207,321.69; to approve accounts payable warrant #56 in the amount of \$209,884.14; to approve accounts payable warrant #58 in the amount of \$143,670.27; to approve accounts payable warrant #60 in the amount of \$2,444,374.50; to approve accounts payable warrant #62 in the amount of \$27,031.02; to approve accounts payable warrant #64 in the amount of \$612,672.69; to approve accounts payable warrant #66 in the amount of \$161,311.41; to approve accounts payable warrant #68 in the amount of \$588,133.26; and, to approve accounts payable warrant #70 in the amount of \$656,620.21 .

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

To approve school warrant #121523 in the amount of \$226,544.57; to approve school warrant #122923 in the amount of \$326,570.35; to approve school warrant #011224 in the amount of \$276,358.67; to approve school warrant #012624 in the amount of \$574,970.82; and, to approve school warrant #020924 in the amount of \$380,797.66 .

3. STATUS OF 17 STACKPOLE LANE ((TEMPORARY TOWN OFFICE)

Mr. Kitchen informed the members of the Board of developments at the temporary town office location at the tele-business center. He noted that temporary road signs have

been erected outlining the location of offices at the facility and that repairs have been made to the walkway leading into the building. Mr. Kitchen explained that efforts are being made to make the temporary office a better working environment and customer friendly. He told the Board that the two front offices are being combined and there will be a u-shaped counter area to facilitate customer service. Mr. Kitchen advised that internet, phones, and office equipment are being moved to the area. He did note that there was some difficulty finding a contractor to address the conversion but he has been trying to facilitate.

4. PROGRESS WITH REPAIRS AT 7 COURT STREET

Mr. Kitchen noted that the remediation process at 7 Court Street is taking longer than expected; he noted that he reached out to MMA for needed information to get the process facilitated. Mr. Kitchen noted that he did get approval to move things and cleared to pull out carpets. He pointed out that some walls were damaged expensively and some barely touched. Mr. Kitchen noted that Governor Mills made a formal request to FEMA for monetary assistance; he noted plans at hazard mitigation to "build back better" as well as meeting the potential to improve the building for future challenges.

Mr. Edwards said that he would see no advantage to performing repairs to the building in a piecemeal manner and that repair contracts should address the larger project of complete renovation. Ms. Sinford noted that Eastern Maine Mold Remediation was utilized in damage repair at a state building and she explained how that company addressed problems. Mr. Patryn noted concern over temperature swings in while getting work completed. Mr. Kitchen concluded that the Town is anticipating the report from MMA.

5. DISCUSSION OF BUDGET MEETINGS AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Kitchen informed the Board that he is compiling a list of towns which utilize a September town meeting. Mr. Kitchen noted that he has discussed a change with the town's auditor who commented that such a change makes a great deal of sense. Mr. Edwards stated that changing the date makes the budgeting process more meaningful.

6. SUNRISE TRAIL REPAIRS

Mr. Kitchen noted that Machias is taking the lead in getting repairs done to the Sunrise Trail. He pointed out that a \$530,000. grant from FEMA is being pursued which could take months and that an interest-free line of credit to get the repairs started is in the process. Mr. Patryn questioned if there is interest from other towns in assisting somehow with the repairs. Ms. Porcher commented that if necessary a detour may need to be used if the repairs cannot be done in time for the ATV festival.

7. AMBULANCE SERVICE UPDATE

Mr. Simmons noted that the ambulance service answered 304 calls for service since January 1st. He noted that the department is anticipating the budget process.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Porcher noted that she attended a training workshop on planning boards/board of appeals recently.

On a motion by Ben Edwards, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board

VOTED:

That the \$50.00 cost of training be allocated from the surplus account.

(Ms. Porcher recused herself from voting on the motion)

B. Members of the Board reported on recruitment efforts for the budget committee. Several suggestions were put forward from university personnel to business professionals and the downtown business center. Mr. Edwards commented that it would be advantageous to have people with actual financial experience participating on the committee. Members of the Board noted continued efforts at recruitment.

C. The Board approved changing the Board's e-mail account by Mr. Edwards.

D. Mr. Edwards pointed out interest in renewable energy resources; he asked that a presentation will be made at the Board's next scheduled meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Michael Hinerman, seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM.