

SELECT BOARD - TOWN OF MACHIAS

APRIL 24, 2024

A meeting of the Machias Select Board was called to order at 6:05PM by Chairman Jacob Patryn. In attendance were Board members Carole Porcher, Sandra Sinford, and Ben Edwards; Town Manager Bill Kitchen, Interim Secretary Sarah Craighead Dedmon, Town Clerk Sandra Clifton, Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker, and Ambulance Assistant Chief Stephen Simmons. In attendance via Zoom were Tim Markley, Inez, John, and Luna Lovegood.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

The board determined not to approve the minutes of April 10, 2024, pending a correction.

2. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM BOARD SECRETARY

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board
VOTED:

To appoint Sarah Craighead Dedmon as Interim Board Secretary during the absence of Machias Board Secretary Catherine Lord.

3. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

No warrants required approval.

4. EMERGENCY AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT RECALL AND PURCHASE

Chief Maker explained that Maine EMS requires paramedic-level ambulances to carry IV Infusion Pumps, which handle precision IV medication dosing. The unit currently owned by Machias Ambulance is at its end of life, and the units borrowed from the Down East Community Hospital have been recalled. Chief Maker was able to locate three units for a price of just over \$6,000. A credit of \$2,000 will be issued for the return of a previous unit purchased by Machias Ambulance.

On a motion by Carole Porcher and seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board
VOTED:

To authorize a payment to Bound Tree Emergency Medical Supplies and Equipment of up to \$6,681.28 subject to a \$2,000 credit for the return of a previous unit.

5. CANNABIS DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

Mr. Kitchen said the town's proposed draft Adult Use and Medical Cannabis Ordinance was placed on the town website for comment. Mr. Patryn shared feedback that the proposed draft ordinance's requirement that all shops be in "permanent non-movable structures" could be viewed as unfair to the one business which is located in a movable structure. Mr. Patryn shared feedback critical of the draft ordinance's language prohibiting applicants from the same family or domicile owning storefronts. Mr. Edwards shared feedback that revoking a license due to numerous complaints from adjoining property owners should be changed to "substantiated complaints."

The board concluded that it would alter the ordinance to:

1. Grandfather existing businesses which are located in non-permanent structures.
2. Remove the prohibition on family members owning marijuana businesses at the same time.
3. Insert language in section A7, line 4 and 5, to change from numerous complaints" to "numerous substantiated complaints."

The board agreed to schedule a public hearing on Monday, May 6, at 6 p.m. to discuss the proposed Adult Use and Medical Cannabis Ordinance and to discuss using three months of the 2023-24 fiscal year budget in order to fund the town until the new delayed town meeting date in September. Ms. Clifton will confirm that one of the Machias school gyms are available.

The board agreed to hold a special town meeting on Monday, May 20, at 6 p.m. to vote on the proposed cannabis ordinance and to ask the voters to approve the use of the 2023-24 budget numbers to fund town spending for three additional months until the new budget is voted on in September.

6. 7 COURT STREET

Mr. Kitchen informed the board that the town's insurance company will not release funds to repair 17 Court Street, \$60,000, until after the building is repaired. He suggested the town advertise the project, including the work that needs to be done and the funds available to complete it, as with an Federal Aviation Administration bid book, or Department of Transportation Bid Book.

Mr. Kitchen said that any outside mitigation funds to waterproof the building would have to come through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He said that the insurance company wants the town to complete repairs quickly, and at Mr. Edwards' request, Mr. Kitchen said he would find out the timeframe.

Mr. Edwards asked that a bid to waterproof the building be included in the town's request for proposal so the board can understand the costs.

7. 17 STACKPOLE DRIVE

Mr. Kitchen said that Ms. Clifton's office was recently relocated within the building and that it seems to be better for public service and for Ms. Clifton. Ms. Porcher asked if the improvement was enough to make 17 Stackpole Drive a suitable replacement for 7 Court Street. Ms. Clifton said she no longer has a preference.

Ms. Porcher said she thinks the ultimate goal is to construct a large municipal complex. Mr. Kitchen said he will explore possible Congressionally Directed Spending grants when the town is ready to do so.

8. AMBULANCE UPDATE

Chief Maker said they are working to prepare the Ambulance Service's budget early this year, and revising the Service's 10-year plan to make the annual budget sustainable. The Deputy Director of Maine EMS called Chief Maker to say he had heard good things about the Machias Ambulance Service and to invite them to apply for a \$250,000 grant which would be used over five years to fund a community paramedicine program. Only five Maine services have been chosen to apply. The program would allow Machias EMS workers to, on a physician's orders, make house visits to check on patients or offer services like vaccines and wound care. Mr. Kitchen said he is emphatically in support of providing community paramedicine in Machias. Mr. Patryn commended Chief Maker for the honor of the Machias Ambulance Service being chosen.

Chief Maker said he has an application for an ambulance driver from Lindsey Redimarker, and recommended she be hired based on her experience and good references. Once hired she will get her ambulance operator license within six months.

On a motion by Ms. Sinford and seconded by Mr. Edwards the board

VOTED:

To hire Lindsey Redimarker for the position of ambulance driver then operator.

9. SUNRISE TRAIL REPAIR UPDATE

Mr. Kitchen said bids have opened for the repairs of the Down East Sunrise Trail, and that bids will close May 8. He is optimistic that work will begin shortly after. Mr. Patryn congratulated Mr. Kitchen on his work to move the project along quickly, noting how important the Sunrise Trail is to Machias.

10. 115 DUBLIN STREET

The board discussed a request to abate two years of taxes on an abandoned trailer located at 115 Dublin Street. The owner of the land is working to have the trailer removed, as it was abandoned by its owner, and requested the tax abatement to improve its chances of being sold.

On a motion by Ms. Porcher and seconded by Mr. Edwards the Board

VOTED:

To abate \$477.80 in taxes to Matthew Rodge for the trailer located at 115 Dublin Street.

11. SCHOOL BUDGET

Ms. Clifton said the school budget must still be approved by June 30 even though the town budget will not be addressed until September.

Mr. Edwards said he would be meeting with the school to learn about the budget in advance of the budget committee meetings. Recently, Mr. Edwards and Ms. Porcher met with the Ambulance Chief and Deputy Chief to understand their budget. Mr. Edwards said he hoped the board would meet early with all departments to inform their knowledge of the budget before town meeting.

12. BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

On a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Porcher the Board

VOTED:

To appoint Timothy Markley to the Machias Budget Committee.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Kitchen said a Route 1 repaving project will begin shortly in Machias, running from the Jeremiah O'Brien Memorial Bridge to Helen's Restaurant.

B. Mr. Edwards said he would like the town to move forward with creating a comprehensive plan before it considers what to do with 7 Court Street.

C. At Ms. Sinford's request, Mr. Kitchen reported that the Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner was a success, and suggested that representatives of the town make plans to attend in 2025.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Porcher, the Board

VOTED:

To adjourn into executive session at 7:53PM to discuss an employment matter as allowed under MRSA Title 1 Ch. 13, SS405 Paragraph 6A.

NOTE: Chief Maker and Mr. Simmons attended the executive session.

The Board voted to adjourn the executive session at 8:30PM and return to open session.

13. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE SIGNING OF CONSENT AGREEMENT

On a motion by Ms. Porcher and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the board

VOTED:

To authorize Chief Maker to sign a consent agreement with Maine Emergency Medical Services as allowed under MRSA Title 32 Ch. 2B, SS88 Paragraph 3 Section 90-A Paragraph 4.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Porcher the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM.