

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

JULY 8, 2020

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:15 PM by Chairman Josh Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Bill Kitchen (participating via Zoom), Paula Johnson-Rolfe, James Whalen, and James Jackson; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Ed Pellon, Bruce Smith, Richard Smith.

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 June 24, 2020 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 #107 in the amount of \$360,396.65; to approve municipal warrant #108 in the amount of \$16,599.04; to approve municipal warrant #109 in the amount of \$15,397.78; and, to approve municipal warrant #1 in the amount of \$626,177.04 .

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

To approve school warrant #1 in the amount of \$203,737.65 .

3. TELEBUSINESS CENTER ROOF ISSUE

Ms. Therrien reported that a small portion of the plywood roof on the tele-business center "popped up" and shifted. She noted that the repair was immediately addressed and the cost of the repair was \$500.

4. AIRPLANE DAMAGE AT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Ms. Therrien reported that a pilot of a plane utilizing the airport hit a tie-down which caused some damage to the plane's propeller. Ms. Therrien noted that it appears that the plane was driven over the tie-down causing the damage to the plane; she noted that the pilot claimed that the tie-down was not marked. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that the tie-downs are clearly marked and that the grass had recently been mowed allowing good visuals of the tie-downs. She advised the Board that the town's insurance carrier has been notified of the situation.

5. MAINE COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM UPDATE

The Board discussed opting into the Maine Community Solar Program. Ms. Therrien noted that the program maintains that there will be an energy cost savings to municipalities that participate. Mr. Rolfe noted that there is no obligation by the town other than to sign up to participate. It was the consensus of the Board that Machias will move forward with signing up to participate in the program at no cost.

6. REVISION ENERGY - SOLAR LANDFILL PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that Revision Energy has suggested that the landfill property would be a better, most cost effective site for placement of solar energy collection panels. Mr. Rolfe noted that since the covered landfill cannot be used for any other purposes that the location of solar panels is appropriate. Ms. Therrien told the Board that she would send the members of the Board a copy of the company's formal proposal. Ms. Therrien said that she would request that a representative of Revision Energy participate in a discussion via Zoom at the 7/22 Board meeting since the Board has some questions about the project (lifespan of the project, cost of dismantling when project is concluded, assurance that Town is not responsible for repair costs or the costs of dismantling, etc.).

7. UPDATE ON RECREATION PROJECT

Ms. Therrien discussed the type of ground covering for the playground area with the members of the Board. She noted that she investigated the cost of purchase (\$16,000. to \$17,000.) and installation of the matting (\$20,000.) for the area; she noted that specialty companies provide and install the matting. Mr. Rolfe asked if there is any other product that meets the necessary safety requirements yet is more cost effective. Ms. Therrien said that it is difficult to find an alternative material to use. She informed the Board that this matting must be replaced every ten years. Mr. Rolfe questioned the advisability of using this matting which costs \$37,000. to purchase and install and must be replaced every ten years. The use of wood chips as an alternative for the base material was then discussed. After much discussion, the Board decided to look into the cost of wood chips for the base material.

Ms. Therrien also discussed the type of material to be used for the playground equipment and she suggested purchasing equipment made of cedar; she noted that she will be contacting a playground equipment company which uses cedar for prices. Ms. Therrien said that she thought she would start with purchasing a centerpiece for the playground and proceeding from there depending on the costs of the pieces of equipment. Mr. Rolfe suggested looking into sponsors for the playground equipment, even having businesses sponsor benches. Ms. Therrien said that she will continue to look into prices and update the Board when she has more information.

8. LETTER ON TRANSFER STATION SCALE FEE

Ms. Therrien told the Board that she had received two letters complaining about the scale fee at the transfer station. The Board discussed the issue. Ms. Therrien noted that she could discuss the issue with the contract towns to get their opinions. The Board asked the Town Manager to follow up with the contract towns.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Therrien shared a thank-you card from Mr. Leslie Haynes.

B. The Board discussed Mr. Whalen's letter for the annual town report. Mr. Rolfe commented that he appreciated Mr. Whalen's point of view. With the Board's

permission, Ms. Therrien said that she would perform some re-wording and editing to the piece for the Board's review.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by James Whalen, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.