

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

AUGUST 8, 2018

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Josh Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Paula Johnson-Rolfe and James Whalen; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Transfer Station Director Dalton Farley; Ed Pellon, David Clark, Mary Angarola, Dallas Ward, Sally Ward, Magenta Johnson.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by James Whalen, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2018 and the July 26, 2018 Board meetings.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #9 in the amount of \$13,585.18; to approve municipal warrant #10 in the amount of \$432,104.64; to approve municipal warrant #11 in the amount of \$10,052.83; and, to approve municipal warrant #12 in the amount of \$272,158.61 .

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

To approve school warrant #5 in the amount of \$342,874.60 .

3. SODEXO AMERICA, LLC - LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

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

To approve a liquor license renewal for Sodexo America, LLC.

4. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

The Board reviewed an interlocal agreement with the Town of Northfield authorizing the Machias Town Office to process that town's vehicle registrations. Mr. Pellon asked what Machias was being paid to do this work for another municipality. Ms. Therrien responded that Machias has a contract with Northfield that pays a contract fee of \$1576., plus agent fees, and the fees for new registrations. She noted that contract monies and fees are allocated to administration revenues to offset taxation after the Town pays fifty cents extra per hour to town office personnel for the additional responsibility of performing this work. Mr. Rolfe explained that Machias gets the agent fee from the State of Maine and that these monies are not delineated separately. Ms. Therrien noted that agent fees are paid twice a year. Mr. Pellon asked how many registrations are completed for Northfield;

Ms. Therrien noted that she can provide this information after she talks with Town Clerk Sandra Clifton. Mr. Whalen suggested asking Machias employees their opinion as to the extra burden it gives them to perform work for another town. Ms. Therrien said that Ms. Clifton and Ms. Foss have expressed no concerns to her about the additional work. Mr. Whalen said that it would be good information for the Board to know how many Northfield registrations were completed initially and how many registrations are currently being processed in the Machias Town Office.

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

To sign the interlocal agreement to provide vehicle registration services to the Town of Northfield.

5. REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF MARIJUANA LICENSING AND ORDINANCE

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

To table a review and discussion of proposed marijuana licensing and an ordinance until other Board members are in attendance.

6. DISCUSSION OF LARGE SIGN FOR TOWN OFFICE

Mr. Rolfe noted that he has done further research into costs of an electronic sign for the town office; he advised the other members of the Board that the cost of the sign would be approximately \$5000. Mr. Pellon suggested looking into the type of sign that Cherryfield and East Holden have erected. Members of the Board suggested further research into sponsorship of a sign. Mr. Rolfe commented that the Board will continue to look into types of signs and costs.

7. TAX-ACQUIRED PROPERTY POLICY ON SALES

Ms. Therrien asked the Board for direction regarding the piece of tax-acquired property located at 54 Water Street for which no bids were received when recently advertised for sale along with other tax-acquired properties. Mr. Rolfe noted that the property should remain posted on the town's website noting that the Board would entertain offers to sell the property.

Ms. Therrien reviewed the content of the tax-acquired property policy the Board discussed and developed at their last meeting. She pointed out that the policy includes allowing the former property owner to purchase the property before the formal public advertisement of the property. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she will bring the policy back to the Board when finished for action.

8. TRANSFER STATION COMPACTOR

Ms. Therrien reported to the Board that the transfer station compactor has broken; she pointed out that this piece of equipment is over thirty years old. She advised the Board

that one estimate to repair the compactor is for \$14,000. Ms. Therrien told the Board that a new compactor would cost approximately \$29,000. Mr. Farley advised the Board that the facility needs a 3 1/2 yard compactor. Ms. Therrien told the Board that a new compactor would cost between \$20,000. to \$22,000. with added costs for installation and shipping costs. She advised the Board that she has contacted other companies for prices but has received no responses yet.

Mr. Whalen pointed out that the additional costs of freight and installation fees need to be factored into the actual cost. Mr. Farley commented that the Town has a very good relationship with the company that provided the quote on a replacement compactor. Ms. Therrien warned the Board that due to the absence of a compactor revenue has been greatly impacted since there has to be an extra trip weekly to move refuse to the contract facility. Mr. Whalen suggested starting an account for funding depreciation on equipment. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Town Manager and the Transfer Station Director to move forward with the purchase of a new compactor to enable the Board to make a decision on a purchase at their next scheduled meeting. Mr. Farley noted the great working relationship he has had with the company which supplied the repair and purchase estimates and he noted that this company's bid is good for a period of thirty days.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. The Board reviewed a proposed communication facility ordinance developed by the Machias Planning Board. The members of the Board gave their support for the ordinance to be presented to voters for passage. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that there is a September 30th deadline on the cell tower moratorium.

B. Ms. Therrien noted that she obtained quotes for the repair of sidewalks on Center Street, Court Street, and Broadway as directed by the Board.

Quotes: Center Street - \$27,500. for 1000 feet

Court Street - \$27,500. for 1000 feet

Broadway - \$24,000. for 800 feet

Total Quote: \$79,000.

Ms. Therrien noted that there is \$15,500. in the town budget for sidewalks which means that there is only enough to repair 500 feet. Mr. Whalen commented that many, many more Machias citizens use the sidewalks than use the airport yet Machias is spending two million dollars on the airport runway. He added that no Machias citizen owns an airplane and he believes that the citizens deserve adequate sidewalks which would mean more to them. Mr. Whalen suggested that the Board leave the decision of making all the repairs up to the citizens at a special town meeting. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe agreed that the town's voters should decide about the repairs. Mr. Rolfe asked if the Public Works Department could help with some of the work.

C. Mr. Whalen suggested re-establishing a recreation advisory committee.

D. Ms. Therrien noted that the Board has copies of a letter from the Maine Department of Transportation regarding a bridge surface replacement project.

E. Ms. Therrien noted that the Board has copies of recent advertisements placed in local newspapers (cat spaying, job opening, recreation area grant application, office space rental).

F. Ms. Therrien advised the Board that the Town received the grant for the sign trailer.

G. Ms. Therrien reported that tax bills were mailed today; she noted that the property tax rate for 2018-2019 increased by \$0.60/thousand of valuation.

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

Based on the recommendation of the Tax Assessor, to establish the 2018-2019 mil rate at \$21.70 per thousand of valuation.

10. CITIZEN CONCERNS

A. Ms. Magenta Johnson addressed the Board describing a recent incident she witnessed while walking her dog near Colonial Way. She told the Board that she saw a man smash a pregnant cat to the ground with excessive force and that she actually heard the cat hit the pavement. Ms. Johnson noted that she called the police and that Chief Dwelley responded, saw the cat, and commented that the cat appeared to be fine. Ms. Johnson said that she contacted the town's Animal Control Officer who offered little help with the situation. The members of the Board discussed the incident. Mr. Rolfe asked that the Town Manager reach out to the Police Chief and the Animal Control Officer to see what transpired; he commented that the incident may need to be addressed as a cruelty to an animal incident.

B. Sally and Dallas Ward, residents living on the Kennebec Road, told the Board of concerns they have regarding a marijuana business located adjacent to their property. The Wards advised the Board that the smells, the noise, and the lights on all night in the greenhouse are negatively impacting the quality of their lives. Mr. Ward commented that he has experienced things that he did not know would happen when he and his wife moved to Machias to live on the Kennebec Road. He encouraged the Board to develop new ordinances that actually address problems adjacent property owners encounter with these types of businesses.

On a motion by James Whalen, seconded by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM.