

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

OCTOBER 10, 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, Bill Kitchen, and James Whalen; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Ed Pellon, David Clark, Mary Angarola, James Ackley, Dallas Ward, Bruce Smith, Gordon Beck, Sally Ward, James Jackson, Bob Berta.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by James Whalen, seconded by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2018 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #27 in the amount of \$14,487.30; to approve municipal warrant #28 in the amount of \$665,425.35; to approve municipal warrant #29 in the amount of \$13,556.55; and, to approve municipal warrant #30 in the amount of \$29,608.49 .

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

To approve school warrant #15 in the amount of \$245,768.81 .

3. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AGREEMENT - TOWN OF MARSHFIELD

Ms. Therrien explained that the Town of Marshfield returned their signed contract for solid waste disposal. She noted that the term of the contract is for one year from September to August. The Board signed the two copies of the contract.

4. TOWN MANAGER EVALUATION

Mr. Rolfe noted that the members of the Board have been provided with the copies of the Town Manager's last evaluation as well as samples of other evaluations. Mr. Rolfe said that he was comfortable with utilizing the same evaluation form as previously used. After a short discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to use the same form. Mr. Rolfe requested that the members of the Board take the time to fill out a blank form; he noted that the Board will set a deadline for completion and schedule an executive session to review the finalized evaluation with the Town Manager.

5. VEHICLE CHARGING STATION CONTRACT

Ms. Therrien noted that the Board has been provided with the documents they requested on the electric vehicle charging station as proposed by A Climate to Thrive for their review. She noted that she wanted to clean up some of the language contained in the opt-opt portion of the contract. Mr. Rolfe noted that the agreement is a two year contract during which the Town agrees to keep the charging station operational. He noted that based on the information on electrical costs incurred by other municipalities it would appear that the cost of electricity to Machias would not exceed an annual cost of \$1000. Mr. Whalen explained that he had discussed this issue with a former member of the Board who told him that the deed for the parking lot states that the land is to be used for no other purpose but vehicle parking. Mr. Whalen said that the Town Manager can check the town's deed to see if this is true. Mr. Whalen noted that there could be potential flooding in this area of town which might also be an issue necessitating looking at other sites for the installation. Ms. Therrien pointed out that this area of town is not in the flood plain and there would be more potential for flooding in the area of the town office and chamber of commerce building. Mr. Whalen noted that there is no quote for the trench work which needs to be done; Ms. Therrien explained that the Public Works Department would be providing the trench work. Mr. Whalen pointed out that wind turbine and solar power is used in Bethel to power the charging units; he suggested looking to alternate energy sources to power the units as is done in Bethel. Mr. Gordon Beck, representing A Climate to Thrive, explained that use of alternate energy at the present time costs four times as much as electrical energy and at the present time it is not financially affordable. Mr. Beck said that he agrees in concept with the use of alternate energy but that the costs are prohibitive at the present time. Mr. Whalen asked about the third party liability if there is a calibration issue. Mr. Beck noted that the charging unit is warranted for five years. Mr. Whalen asked about the annual calibration of the unit. Mr. Beck said that the unit is UL inspected and he is unaware of any issues with the chargers. Mr. Whalen asked who would be responsible for vandalism. Mr. Rolfe commented that the town's insurance would cover acts of vandalism.

Mr. Pellon said that he was worried about the loss of gas taxes and that he was not comfortable with paying for "someone else's fuel". He suggested that the town's voters should decide on allowing a charging station. Mr. Rolfe commented that the members of the Board are elected by Machias citizens to make these types of decisions. Mr. Kitchen said that one of the positive aspects of the charging stations is getting more people to stop in town to shop locally and/or eat at a local restaurant.

Mr. Beck told the Board that he would remain in contact with the town and that he was especially interested in gather data on usage and electrical costs. Mr. Beck said that A Climate to Thrive is a not-for-profit entity seeking partnerships/sponsorships to provide vehicle charging stations. Mr. Whalen said that he would like the opportunity to talk to one hundred people and have time to discuss this issue. Mr. Rolfe commented that the Board can't go to the voters on every decision brought before them; he pointed out that Mr. Whalen has had two weeks to perform his research. Mr. Beck noted that in other towns the decision to allow charging stations was voted on by elected boards. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe asked Mr. Beck what the charge mechanism is for use of the stations in these other towns. Mr. Beck noted that in each of the towns with charging stations the

town pays for the costs of electricity. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe pointed out that the biggest obstacle seems to be the cost of the electricity and she suggested looking into charging users. Mr. Beck noted that if the town looks at using a user/pay system the start-up costs are estimated at a minimum cost of \$500. Mr. Whalen suggested that the Town could partner with the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce on the charging station. Mr. Whalen said that he wanted the town's taxpayers to know that the costs for this program will be considered.

On a motion by Bill Kitchen, seconded by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, the Board

VOTED:

To accept the vehicle charging station program as proposed by A Climate to Thrive with the understanding that the Town will seek out partnerships/sponsorships to offset the costs of electricity and that any costs incurred by the Town will be paid out of the contingency account contingent upon there being no deed restrictions on the use of the parking lot.

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that the parking lot is not located in the flood plain. She explained that the UMM and chamber of commerce sites considered for the location of the charging station were deemed inadequate. Ms. Therrien pointed out that based on the costs other towns are incurring she can't envision a major cost for electricity.

6. STREETLIGHT ON OLD COUNTY ROAD

Mr. Rolfe reminded the Board of the Board's discussion regarding a resident request for the location of a streetlight on Old County Road. He noted that the Board agreed to pay for half the cost of the pole if the Town of Marshfield paid half the cost since the pole would be located in Marshfield. Mr. Rolfe noted that the response from Marshfield was that they were not interested in paying half the cost. Mr. Rolfe explained that the resident has since had the streetlight placed there and is paying for the electricity for the pole himself. Mr. Rolfe asked the members of the Board if he could discuss the issue with representatives from Marshfield in order to find out why they are unwilling to pay half the costs. Ms. Therrien commented that it would be setting a dangerous precedent for the Town to pay for the electrical costs for a streetlight placed by a private citizen; she stated that there should be a mutual partnership between the two towns. Ms. Therrien added that during discussion of the request for the streetlight comments were elicited from the police and public works; the police chief did not see the need for the streetlight and the Public Works Director thought the location of a streetlight in that area might be useful. Mr. Rolfe noted that the cost for the electricity would be approximately eight dollars per month. Mr. Whalen said that he supported Mr. Rolfe discussing the issue with Marshfield representatives; the other members of the Board did not see a problem with the Chairman reaching out to Marshfield. Mr. Rolfe said that he would discuss the subject with Marshfield representatives and ask for clarification on the issue.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Therrien noted that the Board will hold a workshop at the Machias Tele-business

Center on October 17th at 6:00 PM.

B. On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board

VOTED:

To authorize the Town Manager to use \$200. from contingency to purchase Halloween candy for the annual downtown children's trick or treat event.

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