

Note: Before beginning the meeting, those assembled stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

OCTOBER 26, 2022

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:06 PM by Chairman Paula Johnson-Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Leslie Haynes, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher, and Jake Patryn; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Police Chief Keith Mercier; Officer Tim Mace, Officer Wade Walker, Ambulance Service Director Lois Libby, Airport Committee Chairman Michael Radika, Sally Taylor, Guy Rouelle.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2022 Board meeting with the following corrections:

Item #6: The propane bid was awarded to R.H. Foster with the knowledge that the rack price fluctuates and the delivery price remains the same. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that the Board also considered which company owns the propane tanks used at town facilities.

Item #8, Paragraph #2 should read: "Chief Mercier advised the Board that he would like to send one of the police vehicles on the Wreaths Across America convoy of escort vehicles. He noted that the cost would be \$800 and is scheduled to take place December 11th-17th."

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Jake Patryn, the Board
VOTED:

To approve municipal payroll warrant #26 in the amount of \$19,790.04; to approve municipal payroll warrant #28 in the amount of \$18,081.12; to approve municipal payroll warrant #30 in the amount of \$12,107.01; and, to approve municipal payroll warrant #32 in the amount of \$19,520.97.

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

To approve municipal accounts payable warrant #27 in the amount of \$57,143.00; to approve accounts payable warrant #29 in the amount of \$585,401.23; to approve accounts payable warrant #31 in the amount of \$45,619.38; and, to approve accounts payable warrant #33 in the amount of \$325,942.34 .

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

To approve school warrant #100722 in the amount of \$301,500.05 and to approve school warrant #102122 in the amount of \$605,382.31 .

3. MACHIAS VALLEY AIRPORT - PLANNING UPDATE FROM TOWN'S CONSULTANT

The Town's airport consultant, Mr. Guy Rouelle, with Dubois & King Consultants, outlined developments at the municipal airport such as the construction of the new fuel farm and the design/construction of the proposed taxiway. Mr. Rouelle advised the Board that he is working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on a twenty year forecast for the airport and work towards the construction of a taxiway along with the proposed construction of hangers. Mr. Rouelle told the Board that the Town is seeking a 1.2 million grant; he cautioned the Board that

the FAA has talked about cutting the grant in half. He advised the Board that he would continue to update the Board on developments with the project.

Mr. Kitchen noted that Mr. Radika and the Public Works Department have helped enormously with the airport project and he commended their efforts for the Town.

Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that there is a need for a larger airport with a longer runway to accommodate larger planes for the area. Mr. Kitchen added that air traffic would definitely increase and provide increased opportunity for access to the area.

4. AMBULANCE SERVICE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Kitchen explained that the Town has been discussing how to attract personnel to town employment; he noted that one area of concern has been keeping and attraction ambulance personnel. Ms. Lois Libbey and Ms. Sally Taylor talked to the board about a new apprenticeship program for the ambulance service. Ms. Taylor told the Board that volunteers have kept the ambulance service operating and the ambulance service has developed an apprenticeship program to attract and retain members. She noted that this program is an effort to strengthen the ambulance roster. Ms. Taylor described aspects of the program with the goal of students getting hands-on experience as well as free classes and materials.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF NEW FIRE RESCUE TRUCK

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

To approve the purchase of a 2001 heavy duty rescue truck from the Town of Wyndom in the amount of \$60,120.

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that the truck will be at a dealer for two weeks getting outfitted. He told the Board that getting the rescue truck equipped could consume the remainder of the \$180,000. budgeted for the purchase.

6. EXCISE TAX REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board of a request from a Water Street resident for a veteran's refund for excise taxes on a motor vehicle registration. The Board reviewed the request. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that the request meets the criteria and should be honored.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board
VOTED:

To reimburse Clinton Bills in the amount of \$407.14 since the request meets the criteria.

7. SIDEWALKS ON ROUTE 1A - UPDATE

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board the the MDOT (Maine Department of Transportation) is willing to make improvements to the sidewalks going up Steel Hill to Bruce Street. He noted that the cost of the project will be between \$250,000. - \$300,000. for 0.26 miles of sidewalk with Machias's share of the project projected to be \$30,000. Mr. Kitchen explained that there are funds in the municipal budget for the project and he noted that citizens had approved a warrant article at annual town meeting allowing the Board to use their discretion in using capital improvement funds for needed capital improvements.

8. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Mercier updated the Board on upcoming events.

Chief Mercier recommended that Officer Wade Walker be promoted to the position of Sergeant in the police department. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that he supports the Chief's recommendation.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board
VOTED:

Based on the Chief's recommendation, to promote Officer Wade Walker to the position of Sergeant in the Machias Police Department.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that he had rented four offices for a one month period in the telebusiness center. He added that there is the possibility of renting office space on the ground floor of the building.

B. Mr. Kitchen reported that the Town has received paperwork from the state regarding meeting employment requirements for the Bad Little Brewing Company's CDBG grant.

C. Mr. Kitchen reported that the Town is now receiving UMM's corrugated cardboard at the recycling center.

D. Mr. Kitchen reported that Sharon Mack has retired from the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by Jake Patryn, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM.