

PUBLIC HEARING - SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

PROPOSED 2019-2020 GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE APPENDICES A-D & APPENDIX H UPDATES

Machias Board of Selectmen Chairman Josh Rolfe called a public hearing to order at 6:00 PM for the purpose of receiving and listening to public comments, questions, and concerns regarding the proposed 2019-2020 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D & Appendix H updates.

Attending the hearing in addition to Chairman Rolfe were Board members Paula Johnson-Rolfe, James Whalen, and James Jackson; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; David Clark, Mary Angarola, Bruce Smith, Ed Pellon, Scott Porter, Brian Leavitt, Cara Cirillo.

Mr. Rolfe asked for comments and/or questions from the audience. There were none. Hearing no comments or questions from the audience, Mr. Rolfe closed the public hearing at 6:04 PM.

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chairman Josh Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Bill Kitchen, and James Jackson; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; David Clark, Mary Angarola, Bruce Smith, Lynette Bubar-Smith, Ed Pellon, Scott Porter, Brian Leavitt, Cara Cirillo.

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 September 11, 2019 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 #24 in the amount of \$11,019.01; to approve municipal warrant #25 in the amount of \$255,465.26; to approve municipal warrant #26 in the amount of \$15,785.65; and to approve municipal warrant #27 in the amount of \$66,752.14 .

3. BOARD ACTION ON GENERAL ASSISTANCE APPENDICES

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

To approve the 2019-2020 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D & Appendix H updates as presented.

4. WHITNEYVILLE SOLID WASTE AGREEMENT

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

To sign a solid waste agreement with the Town of Whitneyville.

Ms. Therrien explained that the charges for solid waste are based on a town's population.

5. CREDIT ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENTS - BOARD SIGNATURES

The Board signed the credit enhancement agreements with Machias Savings Bank and Justin King.

6. DISCUSSION OF SCHOLARSHIPS AT MACHIAS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Whalen explained that he had received citizen concerns regarding the status of applications for the Deshon scholarship; he noted that concern was expressed that more students from Washington Academy were applying for available scholarship funds than were Machias Memorial High School students. Mr. Whalen commented that the DeShon Scholarship was specifically established for MMHS students who major in engineering and science at a college in the UMaine system and that he and others are concerned over the scholarship funds not being awarded. He added that Marge Ahlin and Nicole Ball have volunteered to serve on a scholarship committee.

Ms. Therrien reported on funding of the Deshon scholarship. She noted that in 2014 Machias received approximately \$600,000.; approximately \$561,000. in 2015; and, approximately \$12,000. in 2018/2019. Ms. Therrien advised that the current balance of the scholarship fund is \$1,237,286.64. She reported that in 2019 there were no eligible applicants for the scholarship funds. Mr. Whalen said that he is asking for an accounting by student name with the amount being requested. Mr. Whalen said that he had sent a letter requesting this information from the school department; he explained that he is looking for accountability and he commented that "it is the town's responsibility to see that monies are spent well". Superintendent of Schools Scott Porter responded that the school department can provide a list as requested; he added that there is some regard for confidentiality in this matter but that he could release some of the information being requested.

Mr. Whalen stated that there were thirty-five Machias Memorial High School graduates this year and not one graduate qualified for the scholarship. He expressed concern over the future of the scholarship fund if MMHS and Washington Academy were to merge. Mr. Whalen also questioned why there is no advertisement of the availability of the scholarship to Machias students.

Machias High School Guidance Counselor Cara Cirillo explained the process followed to stimulate interest in applying for scholarship funds at the high school; she noted that much effort is made to make students and parents aware of scholarship programs. Mr.

Porter encouraged anyone who has questions to come to the school department with their questions. Ms. Cirillo explained that if scholarships funds are available it is her goal to get the funds into the hands of qualified applicants. Ms. Therrien pointed out that the school department can also access the accumulated interest from the Deshon Scholarship not spent in previous years when no students qualified for the funding.

7. UPDATE ON BALLFIELDS

Mr. Whalen explained that at a previous meeting discussing improvements to the ballfields a group of parents had promised \$50,000. in services for the work needed. He reviewed that the school field needs drainage and the Southside Field needs lighting. Mr. Whalen said that quotes had been obtained for the lighting and he reviewed the benefits of lighting the field. Mr. Whalen commented that athletics are an important activity to youth.

Mr. Porter explained that CES has looked at the elevations of the school field and that completion of an engineering plan was quoted at a price of \$8000. to \$9000. Mr. Porter commented that there needs to be a definite plan in place before proceeding with fundraising. Mr. Porter asked if the Town would be open to allowing a major donor the right to name the field? The Board discussed this question.

Ms. Therrien noted that since the Town owns Southside Field that some work could begin such as the town's public works department digging trenches for the electrical to tie into the current electrical system. She noted that the costs for this work would be for the labor, wire, and lighting fixtures.

Mr. Porter reiterated that there needs to be a definite plan for the work at the school's field and there needs to be someone who is the coordinator for the project. Mr. Porter added that there are volunteers with necessary equipment but there is a cost of materials to factor in. He commented that potential donors want to see a plan in place before they make a monetary commitment. Mr. Whalen said that he was personally against contracting with CES for the engineering plan; he commented that he wants to be able to call a contractor who is readily available with his questions. Mr. Whalen said that he knew of a local contractor willing to develop an engineering plan.

Mr. Whalen suggested the creation of a sports authority aimed at coordination of efforts. Mr. Jackson suggested looking to the revitalization committee for project management assistance and fulfilling the role of an economic development person(s). Ms. Therrien noted the need to develop a joint municipal/school project committee that is focused on these specific projects. Mr. Rolfe agreed that everyone should start looking at the creation of a joint committee. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe suggested clarifying the composition of such a committee (residents/non-residents??). Mr. Rolfe pointed out that people want to see these projects happen. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to give its blessing for the formation of a committee to work on the projects. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Porter asked again about the naming of the school field and the members of the Board approved that a major donor could name the field if the major contributor makes this request.

8. FUEL OIL BID OPENING - READVERTISED

Ms. Therrien explained that the fuel oil request for bid submissions was readvertised outlining that bids were to be based on the Searsport, Maine rack price on September 24th. Members of the Board opened the bids submitted in response to these specifications.

<u>Bids:</u>	<u>Rack Price</u>	<u>Firm Differential</u>	<u>Net Delivered Price</u>
R.H. Foster	\$2.249	0.25	\$2.499
J.&K.Fuel	\$2.1154	0.2205	\$2.33445
Fraser Energy Solutions	\$2.08	0.30	\$2.38

Members of the Board discussed the terms of the bid specifications and the submitted bids.

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

To award the bid for fuel oil to J & K Fuel as the lowest bidder.

9. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE FOR MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

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

To appoint the Town Manager as the town's delegate for the Maine Municipal Association business meeting.

10. CIVIL WAR SOLDIER STATUE REPAIR

Ms. Therrien reviewed some researched history on the town's Civil War statue located in front of Porter Memorial Library. The members of the Board discussed cleaning the statue and repairing the base of the statue. Mr. Rolfe suggested contacting towns with similar statues (such as the Town of Freeport) to see how these towns have addressed similar problems.

11. DATE FOR ADULT USE MARIJUANA PUBLIC HEARING/WORKSHOP

The members of the Board discussed setting a date for a workshop and a public hearing on adult use marijuana. Mr. Rolfe recommended coordinating dates with the town's registrar of voters. Ms. Therrien recommended scheduling a workshop to iron out ordinance wording and then schedule a public hearing on the ordinance. The Board discussed scheduling both the workshop and the public hearing. Mr. Rolfe recommended that the dates be adequately advertised to the public once the workshop and public hearing are scheduled.

12. SMOKING POLICY FOR MUNICIPALITY

The Board briefly discussed the development of a municipal smoking policy and decided to continue to consider this topic.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Therrien advised the Board of receipt of a \$24,000. check for reimbursement of training costs for the loss of a police officer to another municipality.

B. Ms. Therrien reviewed recent speeding data gathered on vehicle speeds on Elm Street; she noted that she would be sharing this information with the County's law enforcement agency.

C. Mr. Rolfe commented on the need to resolve the situation of a municipal animal control officer. Ms. Therrien told the Board that she has advertised the position and she has contacted county personnel who have indicated no interest in contracting this service. Ms. Therrien suggested that the Board consider the status of the animal control budget and look at increasing the monthly pay for the position. The Board discussed the financing of the position.

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

To increase the Animal Control Officer pay to \$500. per month plus mileage expenses pending approval by citizens.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.