

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MARCH 27, 2024

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:03 PM by Chairman Jacob Patryn. In attendance were Board members Carole Porcher, Sandra Sinford, Ben Edwards, and Michael Hinerman; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Police Chief Keith Mercier; Officer Tim Mace; Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker; Fire Chief Joey Dennison; Stephen Simmons, Josh Rolfe, Paula Johnson Rolfe, Bob Berta.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Ben Edwards, seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board voted (Ms. Porcher abstained) to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024 Board meeting with the following correction:

Item #3, Paragraph 1 should be corrected to read: "Mr. Kitchen advised the Board of a resignation by Mr. Taylor LeBlanc from the Machias Police Department effective March 30, 2024. Mr. Kitchen asked Mr. LeBlanc for the reason for his resignation but Mr. LeBlanc chose not to answer the question. Mr. Kitchen asked Mr. LeBlanc why he was resigning after having agreed to stay for a period of two years when he was hired? Mr. LeBlanc chose not to answer the question. Officer LeBlanc then left the meeting. Ms. Sinford asked where Mr. LeBlanc was going when she observed him leaving the room. There was no response from Officer LeBlanc. Mr. Kitchen noted that Mr. LeBlanc has refused to answer questions about his resignation."

Mr. Kitchen pointed out that Officer LeBlanc was not ordered by the Police Chief to attend the Board meeting. Chief Mercier confirmed this.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve payroll warrant #71 in the amount of \$34,096.00; to approve payroll warrant #73 in the amount of \$18,849.26; to approve payroll warrant #75 in the amount of \$40,112.28; to approve payroll warrant #77 in the amount of \$16,446.64; to approve payroll warrant #79 in the amount of \$21,661.04; to approve accounts payable warrant #72 in the amount of \$139,742.62; to approve accounts payable warrant #74 in the amount of \$34,393.50; to approve accounts payable warrant #76 in the amount of \$439,757.31; to approve accounts payable warrant #78 in the amount of \$1,384,588.43; and, to approve accounts payable warrant #80 in the amount of \$194,661.18 .

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

To approve school warrant #022324 in the amount of \$278,992.97; to approve school warrant #030824 in the amount of \$315,262.84; and, to approve school warrant #011224 in the amount of \$349,066.68 .

3. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL - THE ANCHOR

The members of the Board reviewed an application for a liquor lien renewal for The Anchor (located on Main Street).

On a motion by Ben Edwards, seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board VOTED:

To approve a liquor license renewal for The Anchor.

4. BIDS - PUBLIC WORKS DUMP BODY LOAN

Mr. Kitchen explained that citizens at the annual town meeting had approved a \$60,000. loan to be repaid over three years for the purchase of a dump truck body. The members of the Board opened the three bids received.

Bids:

Machias Savins Bank - Interest rate of 5.21% either paid back monthly or annually (no bond council)

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust - Interest rate of 6.52% with annual payments (no bond council)

Camden National Bank - Interest rate of 5.4% with town deposits or interest rate of 5.67% without deposits (no bond council)

On a motion by Michael Hinerman, seconded by Ben Edwards, the Board

VOTED:

To award the bid to finance the purchase of a dump truck body for the Public Works Department to Machias Savings Bank for a three year \$60,000. loan at an annual interest rate of 5.21%.

The Board decided to leave the decision to repay the loan either by monthly or annual payments to the Finance Director.

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT WAGE SCALE ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Patryn explained that he had reviewed the wage scale adjustments suggested at the Board's last meeting; in light of the new wage negotiations set to begin shortly and the cost of living adjustment (COLA) which will become part of the new wage scale that he would suggest that the Board table any action until that time. Chief Mercier agreed with Mr. Patryn's suggestion since the wage renegotiations will begin shortly. Mr. Patryn noted that newly hired officers would be placed on the wage scale with the approval of the Town Manager. Mr. Kitchen suggested that new applicants be advised on the upcoming wage adjustments when enacted by the Board.

Mr. Edwards advised that he had researched police officer wages and found that Machias has the best pay scale in Washington County. He noted that it is difficult to compare wages to those of larger cities such as Bangor. Mr. Edwards suggested thinking about reducing the number of steps on the wage scale from ten steps down to six steps. Mr. Patryn recommended that in the interim the Town proceed with advertising for full-time police officers. In summary, Mr. Patryn noted that the wage scale adjustment would be revisited when negotiations commence and that the Town would advertise for full-time police officers. Chief Mercier agreed to proceed as suggested.

6. 7 COURT STREET

Mr. Kitchen advised the members of the Board that the insurance report was received today; he noted that the report is very specific and detailed as to repairs. He explained that MMA has to approve the report as an initial step in the process. Both Mr. Patryn and Mr. Edwards commented that it has been a struggle to do nothing about the needed repairs.

7. 17 STACKPOLE ROAD

Mr. Kitchen reported on modifications made to the front offices in the tele-business center to improve access and services to the public. He noted that the town office would be closed on the following day to allow the movement of personnel and equipment to the new location.

Mr. Kitchen noted that plans are proceeding to apply for a CDS grant for the construction of a town office/police department complex to be located on town-owned land on Dublin Street. Ms.

Clifton questioned the Town being able to utilize grant funds to address the flooding problem on Court Street.

8. SUNRISE TRAIL REPAIRS

Mr. Kitchen informed the Board of the development of bid specifications by the Maine Department of Transportation to address the repairs needed for the Sunrise Trail. He noted that the bid for repairs will be awarded swiftly to initiate the necessary repairs since the economic viability of various businesses depend on the trail. Mr. Kitchen pointed out that it is hoped that the trail would be opened Memorial Day.

Mr. Kitchen outlined the detour to be used while the Sunrise Trail is being repaired utilizing the Scott's Hill Road. Ms. Sinford suggested that this detour be posted.

9. MACHIAS POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Mercier reported on citizen calls to the police department for assistance, marijuana training on illegal growths, and use of the yellow flag law. He noted that he is hoping to receive a positive response when advertising to hire new police officers.

10. MACHIAS AMBULANCE SERVICE UPDATE

Ambulance Chief Ryan Maker reported on calls for assistance; he noted that he has begun budget development with Ms. Porcher's assistance. He pointed out that the ambulance service has lost one employee resulting in the service having to turn down some transfers. He asked the Board to consider hiring drivers. Ms. Porcher recommended acting on recruitment of ambulance drivers. Mr. Patryn suggested that the Board discuss recruitment efforts when hiring ambulance drivers at the Board's next meeting.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board

VOTED:

To adjourn into executive session at 7:11 PM to discuss a personnel matter as allowed under MRSA Title 1 Ch. 13 SS404-A (an individual's right to privacy).

Note: Mr. Maker and Mr. Stephen Simmons attended the executive session.

The Board voted to adjourn the executive session at 8:39 PM and return to open session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by Michael Hinerman, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.