

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

## **BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS**

**APRIL 27, 2022**

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:40 PM by Chairman Paula Johnson-Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Leslie Haynes, James Jackson, Sandra Sinford, and Carole Porcher; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Finance Director Meghan Dennison; Police Chief Keith Mercier (Zoom); Ed Pellon, Rebecca Palmer, Sarah Craighead Dedmond, Dean McGuire.

### **1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION**

On a motion by James Jackson, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022 Board meeting.

### **2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION**

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by James Jackson, the Board  
VOTED:

To approve municipal warrant #88 in the amount of \$20,087.98 and to approve municipal warrant #90 in the amount of \$17,718.21 .

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by James Jackson, the Board  
VOTED:

To approve municipal warrant #89 in the amount of \$34,011.95 .

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by James Jackson, the Board  
VOTED:

To approve school warrant #42222 in the amount of \$337,710.89 .

### **3. CAUSEWAY AMENITIES**

Mr. Kitchen advised the members of the Board that he wants to have conversations with MDOT addressing the appearance of the surface area of the dike causeway. He noted that he will have a statement draft to share with the Board sometime in the next few days. Mr. Kitchen said that he will be requesting MDOT assistance in planning and having discussions of the impacts and viability of amenities for the causeway area. He added that he hopes that the Town and MDOT will collectively look at planning for the causeway area.

### **4. TIF CHANGES**

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that two parties are interested in using the TIF in their construction plans and that he is waiting on completed applications.

### **5. FIREWORKS**

Mr. Kitchen explained that he had a follow-up conversation with the fireworks company and as a result the Machias Fireworks have been scheduled on July 4th. It was pointed out that there should be few conflicts with other fireworks displays since July 4th falls on a Monday and most other entities will be having their fireworks displays on Saturday, July 2nd (in the event of inclement weather the display will be re-scheduled for the weekend of the blueberry festival in August).

## **6. TAX-ACQUIRED PROPERTIES**

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that the Town is in the process of advertising the list of properties acquired by the Town for non-payment of property taxes/sewer charges.

## **7. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that Quirk Motors had advised the Police Chief that they have a new police vehicle coming into the dealership in three weeks which could meet the needs of Machias. Purchase cost would be approximately \$39,000. Mr. Kitchen advised that he will provide updates on this potential purchase.

## **8. TAX-ACQUIRED PROPERTIES - TRAILERS**

Mr. Kitchen noted that the Town foreclosed on two trailers located in the Hoyttown area of Machias for non-payment of taxes and that the owner (Debra Ferra) of the lots on which the trailers sit has asked that the Town remove the trailers. Mr. Kitchen discussed the removal of the trailers and the cost to remove them. Mr. Dean McGuire told the Board that he wants to purchase the land from the property owner and is interested in the removal of the trailers since their condition is deplorable. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe pointed out that the two trailers are on the list of properties to be advertised for sale to the highest bidder and that the Board will have to wait to see if there are any bids on the trailers. She added that there should be a minimum bid listed on the trailers of what is owed on the property (\$350. on each). Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that the Town would be releasing only the Town's interest in the trailers.

Ms. Ferra (participating via Zoom) advised the Board that she has been a faithful taxpayer and that this experience with these two trailers has been less than pleasant. She added that she would like to see the trailers removed as soon as possible.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Mr. Jackson informed the Board that there will be a meeting on May 16th at 5:00 PM at the Machias Savings Bank educational building (1 Colonial Way) of the Community Destination Academy to discuss the impact of tourism to the area. He noted that representatives of Calais, Lubec, and Eastport have also been invited to attend.

B. Ms. Rebecca Palmer representing Downeast Community Partners thanked the Board for their assistance.

On a motion by James Jackson, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM.