

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

APRIL 29, 2021

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order via the Zoom platform at 7:19 PM by Chairman Josh Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Paula Johnson-Rolfe, James Jackson, and Leslie Haynes; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Mary Angarola, David Clark, Bill Kitchen, Sarah Dedmond Craighead, Bruce Smith, Bob Berta.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 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 #86 in the amount of \$27,398.62; to approve municipal warrant #87 in the amount of \$1,640,601.09; to approve municipal warrant #88 in the amount of \$15,514.91; and, to approve municipal warrant #89 in the amount of \$39,611.75 .

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board
VOTED:

To approve school warrant #42321 in the amount of \$221,956.02 .

3. NORTHFIELD REGISTRATION AGREEMENT

Ms. Therrien reminded the Board that Machias has had a working agreement with Northfield for a number of years to provide registration services and collect that town's vehicle and excise taxes. She explained that the annual agreement needs to be signed between the two towns. Ms. Therrien noted that Machias is paid \$1723. annually for services with Machias keeping the \$3.00 registration fee.

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

To sign the interlocal agreement to complete registrations and collect vehicle and excise taxes for Northfield.

4. LAND SWAP AND SURVEY FOR BYPASS ROAD

Ms. Therrien reported that Maine Wild Blueberry Company has agreed to do a land swap which would provide the Town with the land needed for the by-pass route. She noted that the members of the Board have copies of the proposal for their review; she told the Board that the Town would trade Lot #15, Lot #17, and Lot #18 in the Machias Industrial Park (total of 6.98 acres) for land owned by Maine Wild (7.7 acres). Ms. Therrien advised the Board that the three lots are located at the back of the industrial park and that the Town has never been able to sell these lots. Ms. Therrien noted that there will be no cost to the town for the land swap other than attorney fees and the cost of surveying and remarking the boundaries.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by James Jackson, the Board
VOTED:

To move forward with the land swap with Maine Wild Blueberry. .

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

VOTED:

To authorize the expenditure of up to \$1500. for surveying work for the road bypass project with funding from the contingency account.

Mr. Rolfe pointed out that the actions taken by the Board show the MDOT that Machias is committed to this project; he pointed out that the MDOT had indicated that they would be willing to partner on the project but that the State had no funds for the project.

5. LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Ms. Therrien advised the Board of a letter of resignation from Christy Verburgt advising that she is resigning from her position as reserve police officer. Ms. Therrien commented that she was sorry to see Ms. Verburgt leave.

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

VOTED:

To accept the resignation of Ms. Verburgt with sincere appreciation for her years of service with the police department.

6. AMBULANCE BILLING

Ms. Therrien told the Board that Ambulance Service Director Lois Libby recommends that the Town remain with Com Star for ambulance billing services and to wait a year before rebidding the billing services next spring. Ms. Therrien said that Ms. Libby had hoped for a bigger response to the request for bids.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board

VOTED:

Based on the recommendation of the Town Manager and the Ambulance Director, to remain with Com Star for ambulance billing services for one more year.

7. AIRPORT PROJECT

Ms. Therrien reported that the response from Jerrold Goldman's office was that he would not be putting forward the Machias airport for project funding. Ms. Therrien said that she would continue to seek approval by reaching out to Senator King and Senator Collins as well as looking at other avenues. Mr. Kitchen expressed his disappointment and he thanked the Town Manager for doing a great job with the application.

8. REPORT ON CLOSURE OF TOWN OFFICE

Ms. Therrien advised the members of the Board that it was necessary to close the Machias Town Office due to a positive Covid-19 test from one of the workers in the office and institute a ten day quarantine period. She advised the Board that the office would re-open on May 4th.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM.