

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 25, 2022

A meeting of the Machias Board of Select-people was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairman Paula Johnson-Rolfe. In attendance were Board members James Jackson, Sandra Sinford, and Carole Porcher; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Police Chief Keith Mercier; Scott Porter, Tim Mace, Lisa Hanscom, Dean McGuire, Jacob Paxton, Debbie Farrah, Christine Day.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #96 in the amount of \$21,495.77 and to approve municipal warrant #98 in the amount of \$13,512.03 .

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

To approve municipal warrant #97 in the amount of \$72,761.00 .

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

o approve school warrant #52022 in the amount of \$322,392.22 .

3. BID OPENING - GAFFNEY ROOF REPLACEMENT

Ms. Johnson Rolfe explained that the school superintendent, Mr. Scott Porter, is requesting that the Board table the bids received to replace the Rose Gaffney Elementary School roof at the present time. She noted that the school department will continue to advertisement the project and that any bids received up to this time will remain sealed until the bid closure date. Mr. Porter told the Board that this was correct and thanked the Board for their attention to this matter.

4. MARGARETTA DAYS PROCLAMATION

Mr. Kitchen read aloud a statement recognizing Margarett Days Festival and Crafts Fair:

"Whereas Margarett Days Festival and Crafts Fair is sponsored by Machias Historical Society and produced by community volunteers.

Whereas the festival celebrates the community's unique history as the 'Lexington of the Sea' and the beginning of the American Revolution Downeast, specifically the 'Battle of the Margarett', the first Naval Battle of the American Revolution and the beginning of the US Merchant Marines, and the Battle of the Rim.

Whereas the annual festival features reenactments of life in 1775, a parade, music, storytelling, historical presentations, contemporary artists, children's activities, food and more.

Whereas the Spirit of America Foundation, an Augusta, ME 501(c)(3) public charity encouraging volunteerism, recognized Margarett Days for its "Spirit of America Foundation Tribute" for commendable community service.

Whereas the Town of Machias, its Selectboard, and its Town Manager recognize and congratulate Margaretta Days Festival on its 2021 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute for commendable community service, and thank its organizers and volunteers for its ongoing contribution to the community culture of this region.”

It was the consensus of the Board to sign the proclamation.

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. Chief Mercier advised the Board that the Machias Police Department is proceeding through the initial phases of MMA accreditation.

B. Chief Mercier suggested to the Board to look at developing an events policy to deal with celebrations taking place on public property as a way to provide important information to the Town and municipal departments. Members of the Board and Mr. Kitchen supported Chief's Mercier's suggestion. Chief Mercier added that it is important to have someone to contact when dealing with public events.

C. Chief Mercier advised the Board that he wants to look at additional staffing to provide police coverage at night.

6. CAUSEWAY FEATURES

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that there are two things to consider when discussing the dike area - what underneath the ground (dike) and what is on the surface (causeway). He told the Board that he wants to work with the MDOT and the project manager to expedite the project but that Machias needs planning assistance. Mr. Kitchen distributed a written request to the MDOT requesting planning assistance and he read aloud the request.

On a motion by James Jackson, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board
VOTED:

To approve the request and endorse the document.

7. JUNETEENTH OBSERVATION

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that most municipalities are observing the new Juneteenth federal holiday. He told the Board that he had discussed the affects of the additional holiday extensively with the Finance Director. Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that the Town has twelve paid holidays; he pointed out that the new holiday is not included in the union contract. Mr. Kitchen proposed that employees who want to take the day off take the day as a sick day/personal day/vacation day this year. Chief Mercier pointed out that he has one officer scheduled to work that day and discussed with the Board what would happen if the officer wanted to take the day off. Ms. Sinford commented that the Board does not want to see all employees calling in sick on June 20th. Chief Mercier pointed out that the Town will be able to plan for this holiday next year. Mr. Kitchen said that this was a one time solution.

8. DISCUSSION WITH DEBBIE FARRAH

Ms. Farrah asked the Board when the Town would be removing the foreclosed trailers from her property in Hoyttown. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe explained that the bids on tax-acquired property are due on June 8th at which time the Board will have some information on moving the trailers. Ms. Farrah told the Board that she had sent a letter in May to the Town asking that the trailers be moved. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe explained that the Town is trying to sell the trailers and is following the law in disposing of the trailers legally and she asked for Ms. Farrah's patience while legal procedures are followed.

9. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Ms. Lisa Hanscom discussed her role as Washington County Emergency Management Director. She advised that she is reaching out to towns to discuss emergency management programs.

10. ADULT USE MARIJUANA ORDINANCE

The members of the Board worked through a draft of the Town's adult use marijuana ordinance making changes to the ordinance during their discussions.

11. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

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

VOTED:

To schedule voting on June 14th from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

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

VOTED:

To schedule the annual town meeting on June 15th at 7:00 PM at the high school gym.

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by James Jackson, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM.