

BOARD OF SELECT-PEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - JUNE 12, 2019

A meeting of the Machias Board of Select-people was called to order at 7:50 PM by Chairman Josh Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Paula Johnson-Rolfe, James Whalen, Bill Kitchen, and James Jackson; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; David Clark, Mary Angarola, Bruce Smith.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by James Whalen, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2019 Board meeting.

2. SIGNING OF APPOINTMENT PAPERS

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

VOTED:

To sign all appointment papers presented by the Town Manager as required by law.

3. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

On a motion by Bill Kitchen, seconded by James Whalen, the Board

VOTED:

To nominate Josh Rolfe as Machias Board Chairperson.

Vote on Motion: 4 votes in favor of motion; 0 votes against the motion (Mr. Rolfe abstained)

Mr. Whalen noted that the practice of rotating the chairmanship around members of a board allows members of the group the experience of sitting in "the hot seat". Mr. Whalen said that he had no objection to Mr. Rolfe being the chairperson. He stated that in fairness to others there should be the opportunity to rotate the experience of developing leadership and skills in dealing with the public and media. Mr. Rolfe pointed out that the Board does have the authority to remove the chairperson from that position at any time if they so choose.

Mr. Kitchen commented that Machias is at an "important juncture of positive momentum" and it is important to "stay the course for a bit" longer. Mr. Kitchen said that he recognizes that the chairperson sits in "the hot seat" especially when there is a contentious gallery in the audience. He commented that Mr. Rolfe has done an admirable job acting as chairperson and he stressed the importance of continuity and continuing with leadership that is working.

4. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-CHAIRPERSON

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by James Jackson, the Board

VOTED:

To nominate Bill Kitchen as Machias Board Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Rolfe commented that Mr. Kitchen has stepped up when necessary; he added that he agrees that Machias is in "a good place" at the present time with the knowledge that the Town will continue to make progress.

5. CLOSURE OF TOWN OFFICE FOR CLOSE OF BOOKS

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that the Machias Town Office will be closed on Monday July 1, 2019 in order to close out the town's books/accounts and allow time to complete end-of-year reports. Ms. Therrien noted that there will be public notice of the closure to allow citizens to make alternate plans if they need to since there will be no business conducted at the town office that day other than closure of town books.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Whalen reminded everyone of the agreement to televise Board meetings.

B. Mr. Whalen commented that the contentiousness of meetings could be mitigated by a larger meeting room. Mr. Rolfe said that he agreed but noted that there are problems with having meetings at other locations such as the telebusiness center.

C. Mr. Whalen read from the legislative magazine outlining the role of the chairman at meetings along with duties and responsibilities of the position.

D. Ms. Therrien explained that she works with the Board chair when she is developing meeting agendas. She asked the members of the Board if it was okay to continue that working relationship. Mr. Whalen said that he was "uncomfortable with that". He explained that he feels that any member of the Board could request that an item be placed on the agenda. Ms. Therrien said there has to be some way to filter through requests for agenda items. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that many times Mr. Whalen brings up items under Other Business that the Board discusses. Ms. Therrien noted that she places these items on future agendas if the Board wants to discuss the issues further. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe said that she prefers to have a "heads-up" on items to be discussed at a Board meeting. Mr. Rolfe suggested that Board members could send an e-mail to the Town Manager the Friday before a meeting asking for an item to be included on the agenda. Ms. Therrien explained that it gets cumbersome if an on-going big list of items is added to a meeting agenda especially in the case of topics that have been discussed numerous times.

Mr. Kitchen commented that having a heads-up on agenda items gives Board members the opportunity to do due diligence and research before a Board discussion. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe said that she did not think the Board should keep re-discussing repetitive agenda items; she noted that once an item is thoroughly discussed, the item should not be placed repeatedly on an agenda just because a Board member(s) is/are displeased with earlier decisions. It was the consensus of the Board that the Town Manager would develop the meeting agenda by Wednesday/Thursday of the previous week with members of the Board submitting agenda items by that time for inclusion. Mr. Kitchen commented that this is entirely reasonable. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe pointed out that this time frame gives every Board member an opportunity to gather information once the content of the agenda for a meeting is known.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.