

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

AUGUST 7, 2019

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:00 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, Ed Pellon, Annalis Hafford, Chuck Croan, Bruce Smith, Lynette Bubar-Smith, Jeanine Heald.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by James Jackson, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2019 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board

VOTED:

To approve municipal warrant #9 in the amount of \$12,916.78 .

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Bill Ktchen, the Board

VOTED:

To approve school warrant #5 in the amount of \$241,462.96 .

3. OFF-SITE LIQUOR LICENSE - SKYWALKER'S BAR & GRILL

Ms. Therrien noted that the Town has received an application for an off-site liquor license for the alumni association annual celebration to be catered by Skywalker's Bar & Grill. It was the consensus of the members of the Board to sign the off-site permit as presented.

4. CREDIT ENHANCEMENT APPLICATION - MACHIAS SAVINGS BANK

The Board reviewed an application submitted by Machias Savings Bnak for a credit enhancement agreement through the Machias revitalization TIF

district. Mr. Whalen noted that the Board needs as much background information on this application as possible; he noted that he is willing to cooperate in this process as long as information is distributed regarding what the Board is reviewing and being asked to sign off on. Mr. Rolfe explained that it is a requirement for any applicant for a TIF to fill out this application to apply for credit enhancement through the TIF program. Ms. Therrien noted that this is the official application form which needs to be completed by any entity or individual seeking to use the program; she added that this information was provided by Machias Savings Bank as part of the public information at a previous Board meeting.

Mr. Pellon asked if this property owner was getting a tax reduction this year and if the land where the new office building will be located will be taxed this year? Mr. Rolfe suggested that the municipal tax assessor be specifically asked these types of tax questions in order to provide accurate information. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe added that there is also a question as to what this property is being valued at. Ms. Therrien advised that all property is assessed as of April 1st every year and therefore at that time the property was not in development; she added that taxes on any property are set on April 1st of every year and new valuation would go into effect the following April 1st.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board

VOTED:

To sign the credit enhancement application submitted by Machias Savings Bank.

Vote On Motion: 4 votes in favor of the motion (Mr. Rolfe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Johnson-Rolfe, Mr. Jackson) 1 vote abstaining (Mr. Whalen) Motion Passed

5. OLVER ASSOCIATES REPRESENTATIVE - PRESENTATION ON SEWER OPERATION

Annalis Hafford and Chuck Croan of Olver Associates provided the Board with a comprehensive presentation on sludge disposal options. Ms. Hafford described the origin of sludge production and the spreading of sludge on licensed fields. She advised the Board that DEP is now enforcing the requirement of analyzing for PFAS compounds and that in March 2019 Machias was notified that it would not be allowed to spread sludge on previously used sites. Ms. Hafford reviewed the list of sludge disposal options available. Mr. Whalen noted concern over the current cost of hauling the sludge. Ms. Hafford noted that she believes that the Town's sludge hauling rates are reasonable and she agreed that trucking sludge is costly but that at the present time there is no other less costly option. Ms. Hafford advised the Board that the Town might want to work with the airport site (efforts to license), continue to truck the sludge in the meantime, and look at grant opportunities. Ms. Therrien reminded everyone that the Town still has a two million dollar project to address CSO issues. Ms.

Hafford pointed out that there is a bond package referendum planned for next year and that Machias will be applying for funding for this CSO project. Mr. Rolfe suggested the possibility of leasing a truck for the sludge hauling.

Mr. Rolfe thanked Ms. Hafford and Mr. Croan for their thorough presentation; he noted that the Board is comfortable that the sewer consultants are working on solutions for the Town of Machias. Ms. Hafford assured the members of the Board that any new information will be reported to the them.

On a motion by Bill Kitchen, seconded by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, the Board

VOTED:

To allocate \$5000. from the sewer department asset management account to pay costs for airport permitting.

6. LETTER OF RESIGNATION - MACHOS POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Board reviewed a letter of resignation from Police Officer Wayne Robbins.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board

VOTED:

To accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Robbins with regret.

Ms. Therrien informed the Board that the opening has been posted in various employment locations.

7. COMPLAINT REGARDING WEST STREET NOISE

Ms. Jeanine Heald queried the members of the Board and the Town Manager regarding the formal review of the job performance of the police chief and on various police procedures in Machias. Ms. Heald told the Board that residents of Water and West Street are concerned about underage drinking going on at a residence and some suspected illegal activity in the area; she added that reports to the police department have not helped the situation. She suggested that the Town might want to consider combining police forces with the sheriff's department. Ms. Therrien noted that this concept has been brought up in the past; she added that Machias business owners want a police presence in Machias. Ms. Heald told the Board that area residents make multiple calls every weekend to the police department asking for response or a call-back from the

police department. Ms. Therrien noted that the Town has an opportunity to rebuild its police department to a more responsive public safety department. Mr. Jackson explained that the sheriff's department covers the entire county and he pointed out criminal activity is the department's priority. Ms. Heald commented that Machias taxpayers are concerned that there is no answer to calls for assistance/help and that unlawful activity is overlooked. She added that residents want to speak to the police and they want the police to call back when their help is requested. Mr. Rolfe explained that there is a non-emergency number at the RCC that residents can call. Ms. Heald said that anyone has the expectation of a call-back from the police and that a lay-person does not know what to do when there is no response from the police. Mr. Rolfe encouraged residents to continue called the assistance number. By consensus, the members of the Board authorized the Town Manager to call the Machias Water Company supervisor to request that the water company close and lock its gate every night to discourage illegal activity. Mr. Kitchen commented that the Board is optimistic of having a fully-staffed police department soon. Mr. Rolfe added that the Board wants a fully staffed police department that is responsive to public needs.

8. HEATING SYSTEM AT PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE - QUOTES/BID

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that she had re-contacted contractors who had submitted a quote for the purchase and installation of a heating system for the Public Works garage and asked for a quote which included the price for a chimney (230 BTU specification).

Bids: Bold Coast Plumbing & Heating - \$6563.57 (210 BTU)

E. Pellon Company - \$6881.60 (230 BTU)

Ms. Therrien told the Board that she had consulted with the Public Works Director on the bids and that Mr. Schoppee had advised that the system's specifications cannot go below 230 BTU.

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

VOTED:

Based on the recommendation of the Town Manager, to award the bid for purchase and installation of a heating system for the Public Works garage to E. Pellon Company at a bid price of \$6881.60 .

9. SCHOLARSHIPS AT MMHS

Mr. Whalen explained that there are some scholarship programs that have been left to the Town of Machias, such as the Deshane Scholarship (to be given to UM students enrolled in engineering/science programs), for award to MMHS students who meet certain criteria depending on the scholarship guidelines. He noted that he has requested information on these scholarships since he is concerned that the scholarships are not being given out to eligible students. Ms. Therrien noted that she has provided this information to the Board; she added that the scholarships are being given out but that there is a problem with finding eligible students. Mr. Whalen said that he would like to see citizens such as Marge Ahlin and Nicole Ball appointed to the scholarship committee to help provide transparency in the award process. Mr. Whalen said that he has contacted the Superintendent of Schools regarding his questions about the scholarships but has received no answers. Mr. Rolfe suggested that the Board ask Mr. Porter to attend a future meeting to discuss the scholarship program.

10. UPDATE ON BALLFIELDS

Mr. Whalen gave the other members of the Board an update on progress with the ball fields discussed at the previous meeting. He noted that contributors want to be assured of maintenance activities (\$350,000. budget). Mr. Whalen stated that the maintenance program at the Southside field and the baseball fields is of concern since there is some opinion that the facilities are not being maintained as they should be. Mr. Rolfe suggested that this is another topic to discuss with Mr. Porter.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Therrien advised the Board that the town's tax bills were produced and mailed out. She informed the Board that there was no change to the town's mil rate this year.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by James Whalen , the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM.