

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

OCTOBER 28, 2020

A meeting of the Machias Board of Select-People was called to order via the Zoom platform at 6:00 PM by Chairman Josh Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Paula Johnson-Rolfe, James Jackson, and Leslie Haynes; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Clerk Sandra Clifton; Finance Director Meghan Dennison; Fire Chief Joey Dennison; Mary Angarola, Peter Whitney, Sarah Craighead Dedmond, Dale Lambert, Larry Jordan, 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 October 14, 2020 Board meeting.

2. WARRANTS - REVIEW AND ACTION

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

To approve municipal warrant #33 in the amount of \$15,176.76; to approve municipal warrant #34 in the amount of \$57,277.24; to approve municipal warrant #35 in the amount of \$13,667.01; and, to approve municipal warrant #36 in the amount of \$128,051.21 .

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

To approve school warrant #102320 in the amount of \$317,735.94 .

3. DISCUSSION OF HUNTING AT THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Mr. Rolfe apologized to the members of the Board pointing out that he had been unable to contact Mr. Radeka regarding his thoughts about the request to hunt at the airport. He noted that in the meantime the airport property remains posted with "No Hunting" signs and he suggested that this agenda item could be placed on the Board's next agenda allowing him time to discuss the request with Mr. Radeka. It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on their next agenda and discuss Mr. Radeka's recommendation regarding the hunting request.

Ms. Dennison pointed out that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting would be on November 11th which is Veteran's Day. The Board discussed the their meeting schedule. Mr. Haynes suggested that this meeting be bypassed due to the Veteran's Day observation. It was the consensus of the Board to bypass the November 11th meeting. Mr. Rolfe noted that in the interim between meetings that anything of concern can be communicated to the members of the Board via e-mail.

4. SOLAR ENERGY AGREEMENT

Mr. Rolfe noted that the Town had originally planned to develop a solar project at the municipal landfill property, but he explained that this project had been cancelled because the power grid capacity was exceeded. Mr. Rolfe noted that the Town has been presented with another option to participate in a solar project and he advised the Board that Mr. Peter Whitney would speak to the Board regarding this project.

Mr. Whitney introduced himself and informed the Board of the 2019 legislative bill that was passed to develop solar projects in Maine. Mr. Whitney explained that this project would pay above market rates for electricity to municipalities. He noted that the developer of the project is Blue Wave Solar. Mr. Whitney advised the Board that the company would give a 15% discount on electrical bill credits. He told the Board that there is no long-term commitment to the

project. Mr. Whitney noted that the push for development of solar power is a state-backed incentive. Mr. Rolfe pointed out that participation in the solar energy project is a very low risk alternative for the Town. The Board discussed signing an agreement for the Town of Machias to participate in this solar energy project.

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

To authorize the Chairman to sign the solar agreement on behalf of the Board.

5. POWER DELIVERY AGREEMENT

Mr. Rolfe advised the Board that Machias had two power delivery proposals.

Proposals: 0.0695 from MG Resources
0.0679 from Resource Utility Consultants

He pointed out that the wastewater treatment plant power agreement is already with the company which submitted the lowest rate and the Town is already receiving cost savings for the treatment plant's electrical use. The Board discussed entering into a delivery agreement with the the company submitting the low proposal for power delivery.

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

To authorize the Chairman to sign a delivery agreement with Resource Utility Consultants.

6. REQUEST FOR SEWER BILL ABATEMENT FROM MR. DALE LAMBERT

Mr. Dale Lambert told the members of the Board that his recent sewer bill was very high; he said that the sewer usage was not accurate because it was based on water usage from his having planted new grass at his property this summer which necessitated extensive watering due to drought conditions. He noted that he has several witnesses who can attest to the circumstances of the water use. Mr. Lambert noted that he was billed \$679.20 for 8100 units of water. He requested that he be billed instead for his average use during the last four years which would be approximately 2000 units.

Mr. Rolfe explained that the Board fears that these types of requests will become common place requests. Mr. Jackson commented that the Board needs to see some figures and evidence to substantiate the request. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that the Board needs to look at actual usage documentation on Mr. Lambert's billing history. After further discussion of the request, it was the consensus of the Board to table Mr. Lambert's request in order to review his account.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ms. Clifton advised the Board that Mr. Bernard Metcalf has brought his account current and satisfied his agreement to pay the Town his sewer and property taxes.

B. Mr. Jackson congratulated the Machias Valley News Observer on their receipt of several media awards.

C. Mr. Rolfe advised the Board that Mr. Dean McGuire is asking if there could be a Christmas parade scheduled if Covid-19 protocols are followed and the police department are allowed to assist. It was the consensus of the Board to support a Christmas parade in Machias this year. Mr. Rolfe said that he would let Mr. McGuire know of the Board's support.

D. Mr. Bob Berta asked if there should be a sign erected at the playground and he said that he would be willing to donate funds for a sign. Mr. Rolfe thanked Mr. Berta.

E. Mr. Berta asked how much a special election costs; Mr. Rolfe said that he can perform some research to find the answer regarding the cost.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM.