

Note: Before beginning the meeting, those assembled stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS**

**NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:06 PM by Chairman Paula Johnson-Rolfe. In attendance were Board members Leslie Haynes, Sandra Sinford, Carole Porcher, and Jake Patryn; Town Manager Bill Kitchen; Secretary Cathy Lord; Police Chief Keith Mercier; Officer Tim Mace; Nicole Ball.

### **1. PRESENTATION BY REALTOR - DUBLIN STREET PROPERTY**

Ms. Nicole Ball, representing Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate, addressed the Board regarding property located on Dublin Street which was previously owned by the late Barbara Smith. Ms. Ball told the Board that the Smith family is interested in selling the property to the Town of Machias for parking purposes since it is close to the town's softball field. Ms. Ball noted that the family is behind in paying the property and sewer bills currently owed on the property and see a sale to the Town as a way of benefitting both the family and the municipality. Ms. Ball told the Board that the Smith family proposes selling the property to the Town for the sum of \$85,000, which is currently below what the property is listed for. She told the Board that the amount of \$37,073.35 is owed on the property for back taxes and sewer charges. Ms. Ball advised the Board that the family currently has an offer for the purchase of the 0.4 acre lot but wanted to approach the Town first. Mr. Kitchen reiterated that the offer to sell the piece of property is \$85,000. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe thanked Ms. Ball and told her that the Board would need some time to consider the offer before making a decision.

### **2. ADJUSTMENT TO SEWER BILLS - 131 COURT STEERT & MACHIAS SAVINGS BANK**

Mr. Kitchen informed the Board that Tyler Farrington who owns property at 131 Court Street is requesting that the Board adjust his sewer bill because of a water spigot that was running at this rental property (three units). Mr. Farrington advised that the water did not enter the system but that the spigot was running without his knowledge. Mr. Kitchen noted that it was only after a billing cycle that the problem was discovered and the water shut off. The Board discussed their practice of allowing this type of adjustment to happen only once if a user has a water problem. Mr. Kitchen noted that Mr. Farrington's average bill is usually \$170, but that during the last billing cycle his bill was \$1880. Mr. Kitchen suggested that the Board take an average as an adjusted bill.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Jake Patryn, the Board  
VOTED:

To abate Mr. Farrington's sewer bill (131 Court Street) to meet the average of the previous three quarters.

Mr. Kitchen noted that Machias Savings Bank has requested an adjustment to the sewer bill for their operations building located on Main Street because of water used to establish the lawn in front of the building. He informed the Board that the bill usually averages \$175, but that during the last billing cycle the bill was \$2402. Mr. Kitchen suggested that the Board grant this one-time request.

On a motion by Jake Patryn, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board  
VOTED:

To abate the bill for Machias Savings Bank's operations building located on Main Street to the average of the last three sewer bills.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the removal of the brickwork in front of the Machias Savings Bank's training building located at 1 Colonial Way in consultation with the Public Works Director.

### **3. NOVEMBER 23RD BOARD MEETING**

The Board discussed their schedule of meetings. It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the second November meeting due to the proximity of the date to the Thanksgiving holiday as has been done in previous years. Ms. Johnson-Rolfe noted that the Board's next meeting will be December 14th barring any unforeseen need to meet before then.

### **4. DECK THE FALLS ANNUAL HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST**

Mr. Kitchen updated the Board on the annual holiday decorating contest. He noted that there is no fee to enter the contest and there are residential and commercial categories. Mr. Kitchen added that the deadline to enter is December 9th and that judging will be December 14th - December 16th.

On a motion by Carole Porcher, seconded by Leslie Haynes, the Board  
VOTED:

To schedule the holiday decorating contest in residential and commercial categories as outlined by the Town Manager.

### **5. HIRE PERSONNEL FOR SPLIT POSITION - TRANSFER STATION & PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Kitchen advised the members of the Board that he is looking at filling the full-time position shared between the Bay Area Transfer Station and the Public Works Department. Mr. Kitchen recommended that Mr. Shawn Levesque be hired to fill the position with a starting date of November 23rd.

On a motion by Leslie Haynes, seconded by Sandra Sinford, the Board  
VOTED:

To proceed with hiring Shawn Levesque to fill the split position as recommended by the Town Manager.

### **6. BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES LEASE - TELEBUSINESS CENTER**

Mr. Kitchen advised the Board that the State Bureau of Motor Vehicles wants to renew its lease for a 327 square foot room on the first floor in the telebusiness center building with a two year lease. He noted that the Town will receive an annual income of \$4600. from the lease. Chief Mercier recommended that the Bureau advertise their correct business hours to the public to avoid any confusion.

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

To approve the lease for the State Bureau of Motor Vehicles for space in the telebusiness center.

### **7. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Chief Mercier advised the Board of the equipping of the new police cruiser, an update on personnel, and the health and safety fair scheduled on November 16th.

### **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Porcher updated the other members of the Board on her continuing efforts to attract a new veterinarian to the area.

On a motion by Sandra Sinford, seconded by Carole Porcher, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM.