

BOARD OF SELECTPEOPLE - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MARCH 21, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING

CONSIDERATION OF VEHICLE WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS
ON EAST KENNEBEC ROAD/CROSSROAD
SEASONAL WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON WEST KENNEBEC ROAD

Attendance: Warren Gay, Josh Rolfe, Leslie Haynes, Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Bill Kitchen, Christina Therrien, Cathy Lord, Meghan Dennison, Michael Schoppee, Megan Prescott, Jason Prescott, Jonathan Mallar, Ryan Currier, Stacey Ward, Andrea Ward, David Burns, Corey Schwinn, Dallas Ward, Ann Marie Evans, Ginny Brown, Teresa Alley, Ed Pellon, David Clark, Mary Angarola, Bob Berta, Sylvia Pouliot.

Chairman Warren Gay opened the public hearing at 6:00 PM and asked the Town Manager to explain the purpose of this public hearing. Town Manager Christina Therrien explained that in 2013 the Town enacted an ordinance restricting weights on posted roads. Ms. Therrien read the ordinance to assembled citizens. Ms. Therrien noted that there is no record of a public hearing being held to obtain citizen input as part of the process of establishment an ordinance to place vehicle weight restrictions on roads. Ms. Therrien explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to ask for citizen comments on the placement of permanent weight restrictions on the East Kennebec Road and the Crossroad and to consider seasonal weight restrictions on the West Kennebec Road. Ms. Therrien commented that there is serious damage being done to the town's secondary roads and that it is evident that roads are breaking up and being damaged by heavy vehicles. She noted that restrictions on weight limits would help address the destruction of the East Kennebec Road, the West Kennebec Road, and the Crossroad.

Pubic Works Director Michael Schoppee explained that heavy vehicles are causing significant damage to the East Kennebec Road and he added that these heavy vehicles are causing damage even in the summer when heavy trucks are using the road as a thruway to Machiasport. Mr. Schoppee noted that the heavier a truck is, the more damage being done to the roadbed. Mr. Schoppee observed that even when the East Kennebec Road is posted truck drivers are not obeying the weight limit signs. Mr. Schoppee explained that these excessively heavy trucks are compressing the roadbed. He added that he sees many large ruts being formed which is evidence that damage is occurring. Mr. Schoppee explained that if the problem is not addressed the Town will be faced with spending huge amounts of money to address the damage. Mr. Schoppee suggested that the Town can still occasionally allow a heavy truck to use the East Kennebec Road by utilizing a permit process granting one-time use of the road with permission. Mr. Schoppee noted that it will be up to the police department to stop heavy vehicles from using the road without permission.

Several citizens offered comments and asked questions. Mr. Schoppee explained that he would suggest restricting the weight on these secondary roads to 27 tons, no semi-trailers. Ms. Therrien recommended a weight limit of 54,000 pounds/3 axles or more trucks. Mr. Schoppee explained that Route #92 is a state road that can be used by heavy vehicles to access Machiasport.

The public hearing was closed at 6:15 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING

ENACTING A 60 DAY RECREATION MARIJUANA MORATORIUM
TO ALLOW DRAFT OF LOCAL REGULATIONS FOR LICENSING STANDARDS

Attendance: Warren Gay, Josh Rolfe, Leslie Hynes, Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Bill Kitchen, Christina Therrien, Cathy Lord, Meghan Dennison, Ed Pellon, David Clark, Mary Angarola, Bob Berta, Sylvia Pouliot Megan Prescott, Jason Prescott, Jonathan Mallar, Ryan Currier, Stacey Ward, Andrea Ward, David Burns, Corey Schwinn, Dallas Ward, Ann Marie Evans, Ginny Brown, Teresa Alley.

Board Chairman Warren Gay opened the public hearing at 6:15 PM. He explained that the Board is considering enacting a sixty day recreation marijuana moratorium to allow the Board of Selectpersons to draft local restrictions for licensing standards. Board member Bill Kitchen reviewed the most recent legislative action which occurred at State level and he noted that it appears that it will be late 2019 before the State has any governing regulations in place. It was noted that a state license is a pre-requisite to obtaining a municipal license to sell marijuana and that municipalities are able to regulate sales as they wish. Mr. Gay explained that municipalities may want to be able to control how many outlets exist and their operating hours. Ms. Therrien cautioned that Machias needs to be prepared and she suggested that the Board consider putting guidelines in place. She added that there are plenty of model ordinances the Board can look at to guide them through the process.

Mr. Gay asked for citizen comments:

- "four existing marijuana businesses are too many for a small town like Machias"
- "is this what Machias wants to be known for?"
- "this does not better our town"
- "does a moratorium serve a purpose?"
- "is 60 days a sufficient amount of time?"
- "have too many places supplying marijuana already"
- "don't need people coming to Machias to get drugs"
- "Machias is too small to have all these marijuana shops"
- "start with discussion of medical marijuana"
- "let citizens make an informed decision based on the facts and information"

Mr. Rolfe pointed out that the Board had talked about enacting a moratorium a year ago. He suggested having work sessions and start discussing the regulation of the sale of marijuana. Mr. Rolfe asked that these sessions be held at a larger venue to allow more citizens to attend. He added that the Town needs appropriate ordinances in place in order to control the sale of marijuana. Ms. Therrien suggested starting with asking citizens if they want marijuana to be sold in Machias.

The Board discussed holding a work session to listen to opinions and comments from citizens. The members of the Board discussed scheduling a work session. It was decided to tentatively hold a workshop on April 4th at 6:00 PM with the location be be announced.

The public hearing was closed at 6:48 PM.

A meeting of the Machias Board of Selectpeople was called to order at 6:48 PM by Chairman Warren Gay. In attendance were Board members Josh Rolfe, Leslie Haynes, Paula Johnson-Rolfe, Bill Kitchen; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Secretary Cathy Lord; Finance Director Meghan Dennison; Ed Pellon, David Clark, Mary Angarola, Bob Berta.

VEHICLE WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR THE EAST KENNEBEC ROAD AND CROSSROAD - SEASONAL WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON THE WEST KENNEBEC ROAD

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board
VOTED: To authorize the Public Works Director to post the East Kennebec Road and Crossroad with a year-round weight restriction of 54,000 pounds/3 axles or more and to authorize the Public Works Director to seasonally post the weight restrictions as conditions warrant on the West Kennebec Road, the East Kennebec Road, and the Crossroad; the Town will consider allowing occasional use of secondary roads with permission with no charge for permits.

2. TO CONSIDER ENACTING A 60 DAY RECREATION MARIJUANA MORATORIUM

Tabled by the Board.

3. REMAINING AMBULANCE LOAN BALANCE - VOTE TO PAY BALANCE

On a motion by Josh Rolfe, seconded by Bill Kitchen, the Board
VOTED: To direct the Finance Director to pay the ambulance loan balance with the final payment not to exceed \$25,000.

4. WAGES FOR THE RESERVE POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS

Tabled by the Board.

5. BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR AMBULANCE STRETCHER

On a motion by Bill Kitchen, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board
VOTED:
To approve advertising the bid specifications for the purchase of a stretcher for the ambulance.

On a motion by Paula Johnson-Rolfe, seconded by Josh Rolfe, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.