

Machias Town Board Meeting Minutes February 22, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was said by all in attendance. Attending were Supervisor Stephen Cornwall; Councilmen Robert Shenk, Frank Bork, and Robert Green; Code Enforcement Officer Christopher Lexer; and Town Clerk Rebecca Grimmelt. Councilman Tom Reese was absent.

Frank Bork made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2022 regular meeting. Robert Shenk seconded; all were in favor and the motion carried.

A letter from Mary Miller Petteys was read into the minutes at her request. *"I am writing as a current property owner in Machias, NY - or at least we are in probate for the time being. My Father is currently one of the deceased being held in "receivership" in the vault there in the Machias Cemetery and whilst perusing the town Facebook page, it came to our attention that this vault was also housing random lawn equipment and that multiple persons had keys to this facility.*

My sister, Heather, did go and see it for herself with Teresa, and the lawn care equipment was still scattered in the vault as of a few weeks ago. Even knowing she was coming to see it for herself, the equipment was still being housed there, We had both been told prior that all lawn equipment had been moved and that the vault was secured. (This was not the case.) I was told this on the phone by Tim Byroads in early January 2022.

We have brought this up with Cleon at Babbitt's funeral home - and we have been playing hot potato to get a straight answer about the status of this vault and the lawn tools. Who is accountable? My sister and I were sold "receivership" and given no other burial option until Spring. Shed storage with lawn tools was never mentioned to us on the contract.

Honestly, while grieving our father we never thought we would have to contend with this outrageous situation and to be given the runaround on the lawn equipment.

Teresa, the custodian, has been accommodating and as helpful as she can be, but we don't think that anything has been resolved around this issue.

My sister and I would like an update on how and why we have been lied to and not given the correct information about receivership from the start. It is not our responsibility to carefully negotiate contracts between small town funeral homes and land/vault usage issues that belong to the Town of Machias. Respectful guard rails need to be put up so that grieving loved ones don't have to think of their dead relatives having random

lawn care people coming in and out of a vault while we wait for closure and then being given false information about the status. It really adds insult to injury. "

The Supervisor had been in contact with Tim Byroads regarding the issues with the cemetery vault. There were no lawn care people in the vault after the caskets were received, but there are several weed whackers in there. It was proposed that the building be split into two separate halves with one half being used as a "vault" and the other being used for storage, etc.. The Board agreed that this sounded like a good solution. The wall would be built with a 36 inch wide door to accommodate caskets and would be secured with a deadbolt that only the Cemetery Custodian and Cemetery Superintendent would have keys to. This wall will be built as soon as possible. Steve Cornwall will call Mary Miller Petteys to discuss her concerns.

Steve Cornwall reported that Derek from MDA had called regarding the new water meter contracts. They should be ready in March. Our system has two commercial meters in addition to all of the residential meters. We would like all of them to be changed to radio-read. Derek has spoken with our attorney, Joel Kurtzhaltz, regarding requiring standardized meters. He is checking on it with other towns.

The Water Bond was paid in full last fall. This means that we will have an extra \$36,000 in revenue this year for the Water District.

Sandy Bull had asked to see if the Town would install additional "Amish" signs on the roads in light of the recent accident on Roszyk Hill Road. The Board felt that additional signs wouldn't make any difference. Robert Shenk said that the Amish buggies need additional markings. What is required by law? Does the DOT have any rules?

Frank Bork reported on the Lime Lake Sewer District. Steve and Frank met with the Town's accountants regarding the increase in the sewer district fee. There were two loan payments in 2021; one for \$251,000 and one for \$181,375. The Town owes \$6,800,000 on the capital loan. In 2022, there is a payment of \$184,502 due, and a payment of \$187,000 due December 31, 2022. The payments will climb until the loan is paid in full. Frank commented that he was impressed with the accountants and that they are very sharp.

Robert Shenk said he had gotten a call from a resident on Route 16. They wanted Chris Lexer's contact information to discuss code violations on another property.

Frank Bork said that he received a call about a person plowing snow across Elton Road. They were hit by another car while in the road. The sheriff didn't know that it

was against the law to plow snow off of your property into public roadways. Tim Byroads provided a copy of the law to those involved.

Resolution #15, "Audit of claims for February 22, 2022" was read. Frank Bork made a motion to accept the resolution and Robert Shenk seconded the motion. All were in favor and the resolution passed.

Steve Cornwall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Green seconded and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Grimmelt, Town Clerk

GENERAL	\$	8,018.32
YOUTH	\$	63.11
HIGHWAY	\$	60,866.05
STREET LIGHTING	\$	2,023.89
WATER	\$	3,298.00
LIME LAKE SEWER DISTRICT	\$	4,334.54
LIME LAKE SEWER DISTRICT CAPITAL	\$	0.00