

Machias Town Board Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7pm after a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2023 Machias Town Budget. The pledge of allegiance was said by all in attendance prior to the Public Hearing. Attending were Supervisor Stephen Cornwall; Councilmen Robert Shenk, Frank Bork, and Robert Green; Tom Reese called in by phone; Code Enforcement Officer Bernie Horschel; Highway Superintendent Tim Byroads; and Town Clerk Rebecca Grimmelt. Also in attendance were Youth Board member Katie Cornwall; Derek Rule from MDA; Linore Lounsbury from Linking Hands, LLC; Little League representative Mr. Bigelow; Brenda Hanson; Peter Sorgi; Josh and Jen Dusterhus; and LuAnn and Rafael Tudela.

Frank Bork made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2022, meeting. Robert Shenk seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The supervisor invited Linore Lounsbury from Linking Hands to speak to the Board. She and her partner research and write grants for non-profit organizations. They have 80 years of experience and much success in finding grants and receiving the awards. They charge \$250 per grant and receive 10% of any awarded funds. They are going to investigate grants for the new playground. Ms. Lounsbury said that she knows that there are some state grants and some through the Ralph Wilson Foundation for children and parks.

Mr. Bigelow, from the Little League Association came to the Board to ask if they would support the association. They plan on purchasing new catcher's gear for all six divisions and new baseball bats for the youngest division. The Board agreed to issue a check for \$1,800 to support the League.

Derek Rule went over the Environmental Assessment Form Pt. 2 for both the combined Felton Hill solar project and the Machias Solar project on Rt. 16. There were some negative concerns regarding toxic leaching, wetlands, ground water, visual impact, etc. The water table is fairly shallow, but that doesn't consider any mitigation efforts proposed by the contractors. There are wetlands on site. Public concern about cadmium telluride leaching into the ground water was addressed by the attorney; they are not using solar panels containing the cadmium telluride. Their panels are constructed of monocrystalline silicon, made in Texas. They will agree to adding those panels as a condition on their permit. Peter Sorgi presented a letter addressing the concerns in

the EAF Pt. 2. The company has a SWIPP showing how they are avoiding the wetlands and have many studies to back up all of their claims regarding the EAF.

There was quite a bit of back and forth about possible lawsuits and understanding of the moratorium law. The Felton Hill project would like the Board to issue a Special Use Permit for their projects. Their attorney says that the 2020 Solar Law applies to them and that the Moratorium Law doesn't apply to their projects because they are already in progress and aren't looking for a Building Permit. The Board needs to issue a positive or negative declaration of the EAF Pt. 2 to continue moving the project forward.

Josh Dusterhus said that property owners have concerns regarding fencing and its impact on wildlife. They are concerned about noise. They want the Board to insist on a full Environmental Impact Study. Peter Sorgi said that he doesn't know of any other studies that can be done.

The Dusterhuses and Brenda Hanson asked about the Decommissioning Plan for the Felton Hill Projects. The Board said that that had been handled and reviewed by the Town's attorney. Peter Sorgi distributed copies of the Decommissioning Plans to the Board and residents. Derek Rule said that if the Felton Hill contractors will provide a copy of the GeoTech report and agree to not use the solar panels containing cadmium telluride, that the Board could issue a negative declaration on the EAF Pt. 2. Several Board members were not comfortable with that without reviewing all of the studies that had been completed. Derek said that he would make sure that the Board had access to everything for their review. The EAF declaration was tabled. There will be a Special Meeting of the Town Board on Monday, December 5th at 6 pm to further discuss the EAF with the Town Attorney present to give his legal opinions.

Katie Cornwall, from the Youth Commission, addressed the Board. She wanted to know if the Board could make a commitment to the new playground. Steve Cornwall has not received any response to the bid requests that he sent out for the playground. He will reach out to the companies to try to get an answer. The Youth Commission would like to use Linking Hands to try to access grant money for the playground project. She reminded everyone about the fundraising event on December 2nd and said that everything was going well with the preparations.

Frank Bork made a motion to hire Linking Hands for grant writing. Robert Shenk seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Steve Cornwall will fill out the contract and submit it to Linking Hands.

Tim Byroads presented his report for the Highway Department. He said that they had survived the first storm of the season with only one hydraulic line needing repaired.

All equipment is running well. He is getting prices to replace the 550 and other dump truck. Frank Bork will look into options. Tim will be publishing announcements for no street parking and no plowing across the roads. He wants tickets to be written to offenders. He wants to purchase the dirt roller that they have been renting using CHIPS money. There will be a resolution next month to allow that. Next year he would like to rent and then buy a sewer sucker truck. He has submitted all of the paperwork for CHIPS.

Resolution 50, "Resolution to Adopt the Town of Machias 2023 Final Budget" was read by the Supervisor. Robert Shenk made a motion to approve the resolution; Robert Green seconded. All were in favor and the resolution was approved.

Resolution 51, "Audit of Claims for November 2022" was read by the Supervisor. Robert Shenk made a motion to approve the resolution; Frank Bork seconded. All were in favor and the resolution was approved.

Resolution 52, "Resolution Authorizing the Appointment to Vacant Cemetery Administrator" was read by the Supervisor. Robert Shenk made a motion to approve the resolution; Frank Bork seconded. All were in favor and the resolution was approved.

Frank Bork made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Green seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Grimmelt, Town Clerk

November 2022 Vouchers

GENERAL	\$	47,166.75
YOUTH	\$	5,887.18
HIGHWAY	\$	40,641.79
STREET LIGHTING	\$	1,816.85
WATER	\$	4,803.68
LIME LAKE SEWER DISTRICT	\$	176,422.67
LIME LAKE SEWER DISTRICT CAPITAL	\$	0.00