

Selectboard, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 16, 2019, 4:00 PM  
Emerson Hall

PU  
CP  
GBM

**Present:** Colin Powell, Chair; Gordon MacArthur, Selectboard; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager and Karen Motycka, Finance Officer.

**Public:** David and Ann Jones, Sally Chadbourne (GSA Trustee), Bobbie Vagt, Liz Parish, Brooke Tenney, Kay Hightower and Tim Seeley, GSA Head of School (arrived at 4:45 PM).

Colin called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. A quorum was verified.

Colin asked if there was a motion to approve Warrants; Budget vs. Actual and Trial Balance Reports and Bank Reconciliations. Gordon made a motion to approve, including the three bills that Karen had added that afternoon. Colin seconded the motion. No discussion.

Approved 2 – 0.

Colin asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/2/19 meeting. Gordon made a motion to approve. Colin seconded the motion. No discussion.

Approved 2 – 0.

**Item 1.**

Colin asked if there was a motion to approve the FY20 Water Budget as recommended by the Utility Board. Gordon made a motion to approve the FY20 Water Budget in the amount of \$560,849 as recommended by the Utility Board. Colin seconded the motion. No discussion.

Approved 2 – 0.

**Item 2.**

Colin introduced and made motion to approve applying for excess Castine Touring Company Funds. Gordon seconded the motion. Shawn reviewed. Castine Touring Company is a non-profit looking to put excess funds back into the community. The Town's request has four projects, listed in order of priority. The first is to purchase the materials to build four, four foot long picnic tables. Town staff would provide the labor to build. The second project is to refurbish or rebuild up to five Castine Historic signs. The third would be to purchase an aesthetically pleasing bicycle rack for the Town Dock. The fourth would be to provide financial and or volunteer support for Castine's Maine 200 Celebration. The total requested is \$1,470. Gordon commented that he was not certain that Castine Touring Company could fund all the projects. The projects are listed separately by amount.

Approved 2 – 0.

**Item 3.**

Colin introduced and asked Shawn to review the Fire Department Stipends. Shawn stated that the current budget includes stipend amounts of \$2,000 each for three Assistant Fire Chiefs. As

there are now only two Assistant Fire Chiefs, would the board consider stipend amounts of \$3,000 each for the two? Gordon stated for those who were not aware, Peter Vogell had stepped down as an Assistant Fire Chief, effective July 1, 2019. The two remaining Assistant Chiefs (Jack Spratt and Tom Gutow) have picked up the extra work load. Gordon made motion to approve. Colin seconded the motion.

Approved 2 – 0.

**Item 4.**

Colin introduced and asked Shawn to review the Fire Station Feasibility Study. Shawn reviewed. The Town approved \$15,000 at the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting for the Feasibility Study. The study was put out to bid with the lowest coming in at \$16,055. Shawn proposed that the balance of \$1,055 be taken from the Fire Rescue Building Account as the feasibility study was the first step needed in building. All agreed that Feasibility Study should be paid for in this manner and no motion was needed as the funds were being spent with intended use.

**Item 5.**

Colin introduced Town Manager's Report. Shawn reviewed report (attached to become part of the minutes).

563 Castine Road continues. Shawn is trying to keep an open line of communication so it is not drug out any longer than it needs to be.

Shawn, Lisa Lutz and David Adams had a conference call with the producer and director of the Baron de Saint Castine documentary. They encouraged them to respect private property rights, as it was feared that with the airing of the documentary, treasure hunters may arrive and impose themselves on private property. The producer and director will re-work their plan a bit and get back to us.

Bids for the Fire Department Tanker were due on 12/13/19. We only received one bid, which came in at just over \$303,000. Tom Gutow is speaking with FEMA to see how we work with having received only one bid.

Castine's Maine 200 Celebration updated by Colin and Helen Miller (via conference call).

Castine's Maine 200 Celebration will take place July 12 – 14 and one sailing vessel "Maiden" has been confirmed and working on a second ship, a Class A tall ship out of Rhode Island. Helen updated the group on Fundraising. So far, \$66,000 in donated funds have been committed.

Helen is shooting to have \$100,000 raised by year end.

Shawn reminded the group that at the last Selectboard meeting, a resident had requested researching sidewalk snow removal. Maine Maritime Academy utilizes a skid steer, which is a fairly expensive piece of equipment. There are other more economical ways. A walk behind snowblower could be purchased for \$800 - \$1,000, however labor to snow blow would still be needed. Discussion on whose responsibility it is to remove snow. Liz Parish stated that she thought the Town should remove the snow from the sidewalks on Main St from the Church down to town center. Both Colin and Gordon stated they felt real numbers were needed and then taken to a Town Meeting before being done. More research is needed on sidewalk snow removal responsibility, costs, etc.

**Item 6.**

Colin asked if there was any other business. Sally Chadbourne said Tim Seeley was still about 15 minutes away. Tim was coming to speak to the Selectboard about George Steven's Academy's need to increase tuition rates. Colin said they would move along and speak with Tim when he arrived.

**Communications:** Colin read an email from Ester Adams of Opera House Arts from the Stonington Opera House. This summer they are having a touring production of Hamlet to increase access and to build their audience. They have asked if Emerson Hall could be a possible location. They will come and look at the hall and then submit a formal request if it meets their venue requirements. It was noted that this would be something nice to bring to town.

**Members of the Public:** Liz Parish asked Colin about the Coast Guard Eagle visiting Castine. Colin verified that the Eagle will not be here.

**Past Actions:** None.

**Selectboard Comments:** The tentatively scheduled Town/Gown Meeting for 12/18/19 was cancelled as there were no agenda items. Karen will let Bill Brennan know.

**Schedule next meetings:** Tuesday, 12/31/19 at 12 Noon to pay end of the year bills, Monday, 01/06/20 at 4 PM, Tuesday, 01/21/20 at 4 PM (Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr Day).

Tim Seeley, Head of School for George Stevens Academy arrived. Tim apologized for being late, he was at a GSA Finance Committee Meeting. He was sharing financial information with School Boards and Selectboards in the Towns of their students. Tim talked about options available for Town's that do not have a public high school. He also talked about GSA's boarding program that has receded from years past, which also means loss of those revenues. Currently Town tuition covers approximate 80% of the student cost. The difference has been made up with the annual appeal and income from the endowment. This however, cannot be sustained. GSA is finding itself needing to increase tuition by just under \$3,000 per student to meet costs. The plan would be to implement this over a 3 year period. Discussion and questions. The Selectboard thanked Tim for coming and explaining. As more information is known, Tim will keep the Towns informed.

With no other business, Colin asked for a motion to adjourn. Gordon made motion to adjourn. Colin seconded the motion.

Approved 2 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Minutes by Karen Motycka



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: December 16, 2019  
Re: Town Manager Report

1. 563 Castine Road. Complaints were issued to be serviced on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. I expect that the property owners have either already been served or will be in the very near future. I will continue to try to keep an open line of communication with the property owners to assuage them to allow us onto the property so that this issue isn't unnecessarily drug out.

2. Baron de Saint Castin Documentary. Lisa Simpson Lutts, David Adams and I conducted a teleconference with the Canadian producer and director for this project on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The overarching theme of our comments to them were to respect the property rights of the Town citizens. In response, they have told us that they have re-worked their plan a bit and we will meet with them again soon.

3. Fire Department Issues. The Town received only one bid in response to our request for proposals regarding our upcoming tanker truck procurement. The bid came in slightly higher (\$3000.00) than our \$300,000 grant. If accepted, this will increase the Town's portion to just over \$18,000. We have a The RFP for the movement of the Fire Department repeater also went out for bid today.

4. Maine 200 Update. Colin will provide the Maine 200 update. Helen Miller will be dialed in.



5. Sidewalk Snow Removal. At the behest of a Castine resident, I researched sidewalk snow removal. Maine Maritime Academy utilizes a skid steer to clear their walks which is a fairly expensive piece of equipment that Castine doesn't possess. There are other types of sidewalk snow removal equipment that are more economically viable such as snow blowers or walk behind plows. However, Public Works has never taken care of any walks other than Town owned.