

TOWN OF CASTINE
SELECTBOARD, ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MEETING MINUTES

PV
CP
GBM

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2020

TIME: 4 PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Colin Powell, Chair; Gordon MacArthur, Selectboard member (Peter Vogell absent); Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Scott Vogell, Jimmy Goodson, Anne Berleant & Eli Forman of the Castine Patriot.

Colin Powell opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Colin asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: None.

Colin asked if there was a motion to approve warrants and abatements; review Budget vs. Actual, Trial Balance Sheets, Bank Reconciliations and Excise Tax Collections.

Gordon MacArthur made a motion to approve Warrants and Reports. Second by Colin Powell. Approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the January 6, 2020 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Colin Powell. Approved 2-0.

Item 1. Colin Powell introduced approving the annual InnKeepers, TavernKeepers & Lodging Houses Licenses – MarKel's, The Manor and Castine Cottages.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell. Approved 2-0.

Item 2. Colin Powell introduced accepting annual donations from the Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association (CFRVA - see attached list).

Gordon MacArthur made motion to accept the donations. Second by Colin Powell.

Approved 2-0.

Item 3. Colin Powell introduced approving for the Town to apply for grants regarding Maine 200 & Fort George Fortification.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, addressed. There are four grants and all have due dates in the near future. For Maine 200, we have raised enough funds that fulfilling any fund matching requirements is not a problem. For the Fort George Certified Local Government Grant, we will have to match through a combination of town funds, Friends of the Fortifications, other

donations and in-kind services. The ultimate goal with this grant will be to have a developed Cultural Resource Management Plan. (for more details see attached Town Manager's report). Gordon MacArthur made motion to apply for all four grants. Second by Colin Powell. Approved 2-0.

Item 4. Colin Powell introduced the Town Manager's report. Shawn Blodgett read his Town Manager' report (see attached):

-Bureau of Parks & Land Notice (not listed): The Town received a notice regarding pier replacement and float work project at the Castine Yacht Club. The notice has been properly posted.

Item 5. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: NONE.

Colin Powell acknowledged the public present: -Jimmy Goodson said that there will be a community dinner held at the Main Street Church on March 1st from 5:30-7PM, introducing Community Compass (several churches working together on No Neighbor Left Behind). Our town can benefit from these programs and a navigator. Community Compass has partnered with the Community Hatch Fund group to collaborate with several programs. Distributing scholarships to Nichols Camp is one example.

Past Actions: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: Colin Powell said his schedule has been crazy lately due to the Holidays, a family emergency and work but he now plans to be back in the Town Office regularly.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 2/3 at 9AM – Budget Work Session.

Monday, 2/3 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Tuesday, 2/18 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg (due to the President's Day Holiday).

Wednesday, 2/19 - T/G Mtg at 8AM in Emerson Hall (watch for cancellations).

Gordon MacArthur made motion to adjourn. Second by Colin Powell. Approved 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association

P. O. Box 602
Castine, ME 04421

Itemized list of equipment donated to the Town of Castine, Castine Fire Rescue Department by the Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association in 2019:

2 x 1501DH Knox HomeBox, Antique White, Standard Door Hanger	\$386.14
AcuRite 01007M Atlas Weather Station w/Touchscreen Display, Remote & Lightning Detection	\$259.34
Ambient Weather WEATHERMOUNT2 Weather Station Mount	\$106.50
AcuRite 06044M Wireless Temperature and Humidity Monitor Sensor	\$12.99
AcuRite Remote Battery Pack for Atlas Weather Sensors	\$19.95
Mounting guy wires and harness for weather station antenna	\$39.99
All-in-One Drop-in Stainless Steel 15 in. 2-Hole Single Bowl Bar Sink	\$109.00
Madison Assembled 60 in. Sink Base Cabinet in Warm White	\$259.00
Hardwood Reflections 6 ft. Butcher Block Countertop in Unfinished Birch	\$169.00
Sink installation, drain piping, pex tubing, fittings, etc.	\$437.58
Undersink water filtration system and spare filter cartridge	\$114.25
Cell Phone Charging Station	\$32.99
30 X Thin Red Line Mourning Badge Bands	\$38.97
iPad fire simulation software/application	\$26.36
Lifetime 1269 Pro Court Height Basketball System	\$164.92
Wilson Basketball	\$11.99
Honeywell MM14CHCS 14000 BTU Portable Air Conditioner and Heater	\$558.10
Weber 45030001 Spirit II 4 burner propane barbeque grill	\$473.70
6-piece barbeque grill tool set, drip trays, cover	\$30.00
2018 Perpetual Award Plaque Updates	\$38.00
Certificate holders and parchment paper for awards	\$65.95
Memorial Flag pole area paving stones, dirt, paint, sand paper, paint, etc.	\$1055.51
HELMER 5 Drawer unit on casters 6210.1752.1012	\$119.99
4 X Gold Lion 12 Pack - 3" Red Aluminum Carabiner D Shape Buckle Pack	\$60.00
3 X ACDelco AAA Super Alkaline Batteries, 100 Count	\$66.54
4 X Tobfit 6 Pack LED Road Flares Emergency Lights Kit	\$80.00
4 X Tobfit 12 Pack LED Road Flares Emergency Lights Kit	\$239.96
60 X Custom Screen Printed "Castine" Public Safety Break Away Traffic Safety Vests	\$929.00
Red LED Christmas lights, extension cord, and daylight timer for decoration of Fire Station	\$84.00
Res-Q-Jack RJ3 Stabilization Strut	\$1,423.00
2 X SCOTT 30 Minute 4.5 SCBA Composite Cylinders	\$1,720.00
16" dual purpose 4000 PSI Pressure Washer Undercarriage Attachment	\$52.74
Brass Angled Quick Connect Fitting for Undercarriage Attachment	\$11.95
Funds allocated to CFRVA training scholarship	\$877.00

Total retail value of items donated in 2019:

\$10,074.41

Enclosure (1)



CASTINE MAINE U.S.A.

Shawn Blodgett
Town Manager & Code Enforcement Officer
Shawn@castine.me.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: January 21, 2020
Re: Town Manager Report

1. 563 Castine Road. The new deadline for a response from the property owners passed on January 17th. I am awaiting word from our attorney on the recommended next step.
2. Sewage Pump Repair. One of the two pumps at our sewage pump in the vicinity of Wilson museum is in need of repair. Due to the cost of repair versus replacement, we have ordered a new pump to be installed which should happen in 5-7 weeks. The primary pump at this location has been recently serviced and has less flow this time of year, so we expect no problems until we can get the backup pump reinstalled. We have funds in our maintenance accounts to cover this cost.
3. Grants. For your consideration, I am including the below 4 Grant submissions with pertinent details on each. These grant opportunities all have due dates in the near future. For the Maine 200 grants, we have raised enough money that we are postured to have no problem with any funds match requirement. For the Fort George Certified Local Government Grant, we will have to match through a combination of Town Funds, Friends of the Fortifications and other donations. The Town's ultimate goal with this grant request will be the contracted development of a Cultural Resource Management Plan.



-Maine Bicentennial Commission (\$10,000) -Submission Due Date - Feb 1, 2020.

<https://www.maine200.org/community-grants>

A 1 for 1 match of either monetary or in-kind equivalent is strongly encouraged. The goal of this grant is to support Allowing citizens—especially our youngest ones—to come together to envision a successful and prosperous future for themselves and the state as a whole;

-Maine Community Foundation (\$10,000) - Submission Due Date - Feb 15, 2020 Community Building Grant

<https://www.mainecef.org/apply-for-a-grant/available-grants-deadlines/community-building-grants/>

The Community Building Grant Program will only support projects and organizations that meet all of the following criteria. Projects or organizations must...

1. **Invest in people** by strengthening skills, knowledge, abilities, and/or well-being of community members
2. **Maximize community strengths and resources** by improving access to or the use of community-based resources, including people, organizations, and built and natural environments
3. **Engage community members** by involving those people who will benefit in the design, delivery, or evaluation of project activities and goals.

-Maine Women's Fund - (\$10,000) - Letters of Interest are due - Jan 24, 2020

<https://www.maine womens fund.org/sites/default/files/2020%20Grant%20Guidelines%20and%20Application.pdf>

We will seek to tie together the Maiden visit, 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage and the Maine 200 celebration with this grant submission.

-Maine Historic Preservation Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant – No Maximum, but 40% Match required. – March 23d Deadline.

Castine has \$2000 in this year's budget and the friends of the fortifications will provide some as well. Goal is to gather funds enough to contract the development of a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the town.

4. Wastewater Treatment Plant Lighting. We have contracted to fix and upgrade the lighting at the wastewater treatment plant. The energy savings



payback on this upgrade should be under two years and funded through the current budget.

5. George Stevens Academy (GSA) Tuition Meeting. I was unable to attend last Friday's meeting in Blue Hill regarding the proposed GSA tuition hike. However, the Town Office did receive a synopsis of the latest GSA proposal and a print out of this proposal is attached to my report and also in your mailboxes. In addition, I received a call from Ben Astbury, a Selectboard member from Sedgwick proposing to form a committee with representation from all GSA sending communities. The membership of this committee would be made up of one Selectboard member and one School Board member from each GSA community. I asked Mr. Asbury to send me more detailed information regarding this proposal which I will forward for your consideration once received.

Dear Selectboard, School Board, and Superintendent colleagues of Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Castine, Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry,

We began this process with a piece entitled "A Conversation about Town Tuitioning." All along, we have seen this as a dialogue between George Stevens Academy and our communities, one where each participant speaks his or her mind, and reacts thoughtfully to what the other is saying. We recognize that the timing of the GSA request for a tuition increase has been challenging for all parties, and further complicated by the logistical realities of working across and between our seven towns and their various Boards and communities. While the timing in coming to the Towns was a result of legal and accounting due diligence on GSA's part, and our desire to be able to answer every question that would be raised, we fully acknowledge that it has made it difficult to have the level of thoughtful dialogue and creative, collaborative problem solving that an issue of this scope and magnitude deserves. The perseverance and goodwill shown by each of you is appreciated; we will continue to strive to show you the same respect and hard work in turn.

In that spirit, we'd like to propose the following for this year's town meetings:

- GSA requests an increase of \$300 to the IVF, *with no increase requested in the tuition this year.*
- *This is a reduction of \$297 per student from our first proposal.*
- It is our belief, and that of our attorney, that an increase to the IVF of this amount does not require special, separate approval by the legislative body. It is allowed to be part of the usual K-12 budgeting process, without requiring a separate warrant article. However, the attorney for the unions has not confirmed this, and may have a different opinion. Our lawyers are talking to each other to come to a common understanding. Our hope is that will happen as soon as today. Whatever the outcome of those discussions, we will work together to move forward.
- It is important to note that this reduced request means our financial situation will continue to be very challenging, and we forecast a deficit. GSA will strive to maintain its exceptional educational program for the Peninsula with support from outside philanthropy, endowment draws and possibly interim bank financing.
- It is impossible to *precisely* calculate what the increased tax burden from an IVF increase will be for our communities because there are many variables to setting the overall tax rate each year. However, as one reasonable example, consider Blue Hill, the town with the greatest number of enrolled students (114 in 2019-2020). Based on publicly available tax records, an increase of \$300 in the IVF per student in 2019 would have equated to an increase in the mil rate from 10.8 to 10.86. Put another way, a Blue Hill taxpayer with a property valuation of \$100,000 would have seen an increase of \$6.27 in their tax bill.
- The exact impact will vary for each town due to different mil rates and enrollment, and for some taxpayers any increase at all is significant. We anticipate, however, that the majority of voters will find these modest numbers an acceptable investment in local secondary education, particularly if it is endorsed by you, their elected representatives. That ultimately is our goal—that we all endorse the same plan. That is better for all of us.

We hope that this proposal will be agreeable to all the seven towns, and we understand that a divergence between town responses could cause both huge logistical headaches and ill will. Perhaps just as importantly, it is our hope that by reducing this year's request by nearly \$300 per student, all of us, together, can devote in 2020 the time, energy and expertise needed to address not only the tuition problem itself, but also to finding better and more consistent ways of sharing information and building ongoing transparency. Many suggestions have been put forth, and GSA is already engaged in looking at each of them and building a path forward that addresses the concerns you have identified. We should do that together.

Ultimately, we trust that this type of engagement between towns and the Academy will benefit our entire community, as we forge ahead collectively to meet the educational needs of *all* our students for the foreseeable future.

Sincere thanks for your consideration of this request,

Samantha Politte
Board Chair
George Stevens Academy