

Approved @ 2/16/21 Zoom Mtg.

Gordon S. MacArthur

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

Peter Vogell



DATE: Monday, February 1, 2021
TIME: 4PM (via ZOOM)
PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair; Peter Vogell & Colin Powell, Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.
PUBLIC: Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz, Liz Parish, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Helen Miller, and Eli Forman of the Castine Patriot.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:00PM. Quorum was confirmed with Peter Vogell stating his presence; Colin Powell stating his presence; and Gordon MacArthur stating his presence. Gordon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: NONE.

Gordon asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations, excise tax collections.

General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$14,565.15; Peter Vogell made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Colin Powell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$1,863.62; Peter Vogell made motion to approve the Water Dept Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Colin Powell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Water Dept Warrant approved 3-0.

Disbursement Warrant for State reports in the amount of \$1,268.00; Peter Vogell made motion to approve the Disbursement Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Colin Powell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0.

General Fund/Volunteer Fire, Rescue Dept Reimbursement Warrant in the amount of \$8,880.00; Peter Vogell made motion to approve the General Fund/Volunteer Fire, Rescue Dept Reimbursement Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Colin Powell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. General Fund/Fire, Rescue Dept Stipend Warrant approved 3-0.

Colin Powell made motion to approve the January 19, 2021 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Jan 19, 2021 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

#2 - Tax Map Digitization = Peter Vogell made motion to authorize Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager to enter into a contract with CAI Technologies for digitizing Castine's Tax Maps in the amount of \$9,900. Second by Colin Powell. Colin asked if funds have been put aside for this expense. Karen Motycka, Finance Officer, responded yes. She said that funds have been put aside over the last 2-years anticipating this change. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a contract with CAI Technologies approved 3-0.

#3 - 563 Castine Road Tax Map 10-Lot 12 = Colin Powell made motion to approve a Supplemental Tax Bill in the amount of \$15,285.81 with a due date of April 1, 2021 be sent to property owners at 563 Castine Road (M10, L12). Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Supplemental Tax Bill to 563 Castine Road (M10, L12) approved 3-0.

Item 2. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: - request from Castine Historical Society (CHS) to use the Town Common on 8/5/21 at 6PM for a Sea Shanties concert with a rain date of 8/10/21 at 6PM.

Colin Powell made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Discussion.

Request will be approved with the condition that all COVID19 restrictions and safety requirements are implemented if it still exists come August 2021.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. CHS request approved 3-0.

Gordon acknowledged the public present for any requests, questions, or concerns:

1) Ruth Ann Vagt asked about the dead Elm Tree on Court/Pleasant Street and if someone was aware of it. Shawn answered yes, the Town is aware of it and it is on the schedule to be taken down. The weather and ground not being frozen enough has prevented the work thus far. Colin Powell asked about another Elm Tree; this one located on Pleasant Street on his in-law's property (Pedrick & Johanna Sweet). Shawn said the Tree Committee & Bill Burman are aware of that one too but he would have to report back with a timeframe for taking it down.

Past Actions: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: Colin Powell said the monthly Sheriff's Report was in the Selectboard packets and he was wondering why only 8-hrs of coverage in December took place. Shawn said he keeps in regular contact with the Sheriff's Dept and when there are more people in town, we get more coverage.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Tuesday, 2/16/21 (due to the President's Day Holiday) at 4PM (ZOOM) - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wednesday, 2/17/2021 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM), if needed.

Colin Powell made motion to adjourn. Second by Peter Vogell.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to adjourn. Colin stated yes to adjourn. Gordon stated yes to adjourn. Approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:17PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: February 1, 2021
Re: Town Manager Report

1. COVID-19 Update. The data being published is not complete to give the Selectboard a true update as to the state of the pandemic within the county. The published total case rate for Hancock County continues to incrementally increase with Hancock County showing an increase of 28 total cases in the number reported since last Thursday. However, there has not been a corresponding increase in the numbers being reported for those completing isolation, which makes it hard to tell the number of active cases currently in the County. The statewide positivity rate has been trending in the downward direction, which is welcome news. Castine is still in the green category within School Union 93, and absent any changes, will continue with in person instruction through February 12th. As is the case in every meeting, I continue to implore everyone to take care of yourselves, and each other, by wearing your masks, practicing social distancing and washing your hands.

2. Tax Map Digitization. The large paper copy tax maps that the town has utilized for a long time are no longer produced by hand as the production is now completely digital. In anticipation of this, the town budgeted money for tax map digitization conversion. To achieve the digitization, we intend to execute a contract with Cartographic Associates Inc. (CAI Technologies) who the town has been working with for over a decade. For this service, there will be a one-time charge of \$9,900, but after this upfront cost, the town's costs will revert to historical norms of a \$900 a year maintenance fee. I request that the Selectboard, authorize me to enter into a contract with CAI Technologies for this service.

3. 563 Castine Road Tax Map 10-Lot 12. Upon advice of our legal team, we worked with our tax assessor agent today to generate a supplemental tax assessment for the subject property. The supplemental tax assessment totals \$15,285.81 and with the Selectboard/Board of Assessor's approval, will be due on 01 April, 2021. If approved, this supplemental tax assessment will go out in the mail tomorrow.



4. Mold at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The mold remediation project at the wastewater treatment plant has been completed. We will continue to monitor and assess, but with all water intrusion from the roof and the rotting end gable siding fixed, I think that collectively, these actions have solved the problem.

5. Streetlights. For the public and the Selectboard's awareness, Castine has three streetlights that are not functioning properly. The lights are now owned by the town after Castine purchased them in 2019 and are warranted for 7 years from the date of the purchase. Our problem is that the lights are mounted on Central Maine Power poles, and CMP has fairly stringent standards on which contractors can conduct work on or around their lines. I'm in the process of finding a vendor who can conduct the assessment work and will update the board once a way forward is developed.

6. Fiberight / Coastal Resources re-opening. The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) held a town meeting on the 19th of January to introduce the prospective buyer of the Fiberight plant. The prospective buyer is Delta Thermo Inc. The final details are still being ironed out, but absent any major snags, the target timeline to re-open this facility will be the end of April to the middle of May. Contracts are still being worked out, but the CEO of Delta Thermo did mention that they intend to extract glass from the waste stream, so this would indicate that Castine will soon be able to include glass in the recycling. Tipping fees are reportedly going to be the same, but we will provide more information on any cost changes once the contracts are signed and released.