

Approved @ 4/20/21 Zoom Mtg. Gordon B. MacArthur

Peter Vogell

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

DATE: Monday, April 5, 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: David Adams, Marcia Mason, Johanna Barrett, Liz Parish, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Helen Miller, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Berna Kaiserian, Pat Bishop, Don Tenney, Penny Carlhian, Lisa Haugen, Diana Bernard, Bev Bishop, Brooke Tenney & Gil Tenney, 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.

Warrants: 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 \$71,787.67; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell.

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 \$13,121.33; 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.

Water Dept Disbursement Warrant for paying Sales Tax to the State in the amount of \$533.96; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Disbursement Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Water Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0.

Disbursement Warrant for Motor Vehicle State Report in the amount of \$3,285.95; Peter Vogell made motion to approve the Motor Vehicle 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. Motor Vehicle Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0. Disbursement Warrant for the State Inland & Fisheries Wildlife Boats/ATV's/Snowmobiles Report in the amount of \$290.05; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Boats/ATV's/Snowmobile Disbursement Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Boats/ATV's/Snowmobile Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0. Disbursement Warrant for the State Inland & Fisheries Wildlife Hunting/Fishing Report in the amount of \$101.00; Peter Vogell made motion to approve the Hunting/Fishing 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. Hunting/Fishing Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Peter Vogell made motion to approve the March 15, 2021 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

Mar 15, 2021 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve the March 29, 2021 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Mar 29, 2021 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Innkeepers, Tavernkeepers & Lodging House application – Pentagoet Inn. Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Pentagoet Inn Innkeepers, Tavernkeepers & Lodging House License approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Innkeepers, Tavernkeepers & Lodging House application – Castine Inn. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Castine Inn Innkeepers, Tavernkeepers & Lodging House License approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving CFRD to apply for the Globe Gear Giveaway, Maine Municipal Safety Grant, and Stop the Bleed Grant.

Colin Powell made motion to approve. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion.

Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. CFRD to apply for Globe Gear Giveaway, Maine Municipal Safety Grant and Stop the Bleed Grant approved 3-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the May 8th Town Meeting Warrant. Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. May 8th Town Meeting Warrant approved 3-0.

Item 4. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

After the Town Manager's Report was reviewed. Karen Motycka, Finance Officer brought up granting permission for CFRD to donate old turnout gear to Global Gear Initiatives. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve for CFRD to donate old turnout gear. Second by Colin Powell.

Donate turnout gear approved 3-0.

Item 4. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: 1) Memo from Brooke Tenney regarding snow removal from sidewalks. Gordon MacArthur said he favors further investigation on the issue specifically with costs, personnel, equipment, what sidewalks and the logistics for carrying out the task. Peter Vogell agreed and said the Selectboard should revisit the issue since numerous Castine citizens' have requested it be done. Colin Powell also agreed and added that the Town has researched this issue in years past but supports revisiting as costs and other elements change. It has been a difficult year and we could not pull it together for this year due to COVID. The Selectboard all agreed it would early Fall at the earliest to be able to address this issue. Also noted is that the Selectboard, tentatively agreed, if one sidewalk is done then all should be done. Discussion. Bobby Vagt brought up the Cares Act and that Castine is cited to receive \$100,000. Maybe some of these funds could be used for this project. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, addressed. He said, at this time, the Town has not received any official notification of getting these funds, an amount given or guidance on what the funds can be spent on. Liz Parish said that representative Pingree mentioned it in an interview so it seems it will happen so the Town might want to start planning and preparing on what to do with said funds.

2) Beacon of Sovereignty resolution request. Gordon gave a summary of the request. The resolution coincides with CDC guidelines for mask medical exemptions and to follow ADA Federal Law. In the Beacon of Sovereignty memo, they reference there has been a public outcry from individuals that have had their rights infringed upon and wide-spread accommodations are not being met for those with physical disabilities, mental disabilities, lack of internet and/or lack of transportation. Discussion.

Maine does not recognize mask medical exemptions. Gordon MacArthur said he understands about people's rights but does not favor approving the resolution. As a municipality, Gordon

feels we need to follow the rules and regulations set by Governor and State. Peter Vogell and Colin Powell both agreed.

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

A) Bobby Vagt said the Town should double check on who they are donating the turnout gear to and make sure they are who they say they are. Some organizations will take donated items and sell them; Bobby also asked how the Town's water tables are looking with summer approaching. Shawn answered that production is very good and the reservoir is full.

B) David Adams said he saw an Angus King interview referring that Maine is receiving \$120 million to improve internet. Municipalities are invited to explore their needs and interest for high-speed internet. David said it would be good to find out what MMA is doing. Colin Powell and Shawn Blodgett gave updates and said Castine is not in such a bad situation regarding high-speed internet; David also commented on the Canadian filmmakers coming to Castine that Shawn mentioned in his Town Manager's Report. David has been involved with them and can help answer any questions the community might have; And last, David asked if any funds are allocated for fixing the bumps, potholes, etc. on Wadsworth Cove Rd. Shawn Blodgett said there are two other Town roads, Madockawando & LaTour Streets, that are in far worst shape and are higher priorities. Court Street is also in similar condition. Crack sealing was done on Wadsworth Cove Rd last year to help maintain and preserve until the road can be redone.

C) Brooke Tenney commented that Zoom Mtg information is not published online. Shawn Blodgett and Karen Motycka explained the reason why is due to Zoom "bombing".

FYI – Zoom Mtg info is on the posted agenda on the bulletin board and can be obtained by contacting the Town Office.

Past Actions: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Tuesday, 4/20/21 (due to the Patriot's Day Holiday) at 4PM (ZOOM) - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wednesday, 4/21/2021 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM), if needed.

Gordon MacArthur 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 4:56PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: April 5, 2021
Re: Town Manager Report

1. COVID-19 Update. As of April 03, 2021, the statewide positivity rate for antigen and molecular tests stood at 2.8% which is 2/10s of a percent higher than on my last report from March 15th. The good news is that the vaccination percentages are continuing to climb. As of today, the State is reporting that 34.18% of Maine's population have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination with 23.04% having received both doses. All of Castine's principle town staff have received their first doses.

2. Stair Rust at the Lighthouse Tower. The rust mitigation project at the Castine lighthouse is continuing. The rust and epoxy have been ground off the steps and the sandblasting on the stairs started today. The stairs will be treated with a rust converting product at the end of each days sandblasting and ultimately be re-coated with epoxy at the conclusion of this project.

3. 2021 Street Sweeping, Striping and Crack Sealing. As of today, we have scheduled Castine Streets to be swept during the first week of May. Street striping and crack sealing will be scheduled immediately after the sweeping takes place. For crack sealing, we have contacted our top bidders from last year's sealing evolution. As of right now, Coastal Road Repair LLC from Westbrook remains the most cost effective bid for Castine as long as the town meets their requirement for minimum emplaced pounds of sealant, or 3,500



lbs. Due to price increases of both oil and rubber, crack sealant will soon increase in price once the bidding firms exhaust their on hand supply of sealant. Last year, Castine emplaced roughly 7,250 lbs of sealant for just under \$16,000 and we expect to closely replicate, or add slightly, to that total this year. Due to the light winter, the town will be able to pay for this year's sealing, utilizing money from our road maintenance account. I request the Selectboard approve Castine contracting with Coastal Road Repair to continue this road maintenance effort.

4. Water Department SCADA update. Due to COVID related supply chain disruptions, the contractor hired to renovate and upgrade the town's water department Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System is behind schedule. However, they are now finalizing the telemetry on the system and should be here this month to complete the installation.

5. Tree City USA. Due to the communities' monetary support and the work of the Castine Tree Committee, Castine has once again been named a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation. This is the 12th consecutive year for this designation.

6. Canadian Documentary Filmmakers. The Canadian documentary filmmakers making an 8 hour documentary on the life of the Baron Castin have signed a contract with the French Canadian Channel, Historia, to make their documentary. They expect to be in Castine in August to film.

7. Historic Properties Management Plan Update. I have received the draft copy of the completed Task 1, of Castine's prospective Fort George Historic Properties Management Plan from the firm hired to complete this project. We are reviewing the document in concert with the Castine History Partners/Friends of the Fortifications and will provide feedback.



8. Fence Repairs at the Battle Avenue Water Treatment Facility. We have received an estimate of \$7,250 to repair the 9 sections of damaged fence at the Battle Avenue Water Treatment Facility. I have applied for a grant from the Maine Drinking Water Program to help cover this cost, and should receive positive or negative feedback on our grant request by the 01st of May. If the grant application is not successful, Castine will have to bear the cost of this repair as a security fence must be in place around our drinking water source.