

Approved @ 5/3/21 Zoom mtg.

Gordon B. MacArthur

Peter Vogell

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

DATE: Tuesday, April 20, 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: Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Helen Miller, Bruce Boczkiewicz, Mary DeRost (Castine Inn), Penny Carlhian & Marc Pelletier 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 \$33,677.11; 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 \$7,272.70; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Dept 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 Dept Warrant approved 3-0.

Disbursement Warrant for Motor Vehicle State Report in the amount of \$582.00; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Motor Vehicle 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. Motor Vehicle Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Peter Vogell made motion to approve the April 5, 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. Apr 20, 2021 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving renewal Liquor License – The Castine Inn. Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell.

No complaints were received at the Town Office over the past year.

Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. The Castine Inn renewal Liquor License approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

#4 2021 Infrastructure: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve to schedule three paving projects = 1) complete overlay work on Madockawando Rd; 2) refurbish stormwater swale and catch basin on western side, downhill from Pleasant St/Perkins St intersection; and 3) culvert renovation and frost heave mitigation at intersection of 166 (Castine Rd)/State St.

Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Three paving projects approved 3-0.

#5 American Red Cross Blood Drives: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve for the American Red Cross to utilize the basement area of Emerson Hall for Blood Drives on the following dates: June 10<sup>th</sup>, August 26<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>, and December 9<sup>th</sup>. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. American Cross Blood Drives in Emerson Hall approved 3-0.

Item 3. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: 1) Letter from Jenni Steele, wife, mother, and grandmother of Maine commercial fishermen asking for Castine's support to for the Maine fishing industry and to send letter of support to Maine Delegations asking that they consider fishermen livelihood when making any rule changes. Peter Vogell made motion to approve support and send letter to Maine Delegations. No second. Motion failed.

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

NONE

Past Actions: Approval for Crack Sealing – discussed at the April 5<sup>th</sup> mtg. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve crack sealing for approximately 9,000 lbs.; amount of \$19,530.

Second by Peter Vogell.

Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett, said that prices are rising so we want to get this scheduled.

The company who did crack sealing last year is giving us last year's prices.

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

**Selectboard Comments:** Gordon MacArthur said that he did a little research after the last mtg regarding request for snow removal on Town sidewalks. Gordon said there was an average of 18 snow events per year over a 10-year span; 2011 was the highest with 33 events and the lowest with 11 events in 2016. Even though this issue has been brought up many times over the years, there is no concrete documentation for research, not to mention specifics change, i.e., costs, employees, etc., therefore, new research will take place going forward. Marc Pelletier asked if there was a timeframe for research. He said many are looking for a resolution. This is a public safety issue and needs to be dealt with at this point. Marc also suggested that an Ordinance could be enacted requiring property owners to remove snow on abutting sidewalks, which would not be a cost to taxpayers. Gordon answered that the issue will be worked on during the summer and take to the voters maybe sometime this fall. Marc Pelletier volunteered to help if a committee was to be formed. Helen Miller suggested starting off with concentration on Main and Court streets first. Gordon said he felt that if one sidewalk gets snow removal then they all do.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 5/3/21 and Monday, 5/17/21 both at 4PM (ZOOM) - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wednesday, 4/21/2021 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM), if needed = CANCELLED. No agenda items and MMA officials are on break.

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 4:25PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: April 20, 2021  
Re: Town Manager Report

1. COVID-19 Update. Governor Mills extended the Maine State of Emergency through May 13, 2021. As of yesterday, the percentage of Maine's population having received at least a first vaccine dose was 50.6%. The final vaccination percentage rate is currently 38.48%.

2. Call for Volunteers for the Castine Comprehensive Plan. Castine has recently begun advertising on the town's web and facebook pages for volunteers to form a Comprehensive Plan Committee to be appointed by the Castine Selectboard. Applicants only need to write a simple paragraph explaining their interest and provide a synopsis, or curriculum vitae, of their background and experience.

3. 2021 Street Sweeping, Striping and Crack Sealing. Weather permitting, Castine streets will be swept on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Over the past week and in preparation for this evolution, Castine Public Works have been going through town and ensuring that all winter detritus is off the walks and roadside and ready to be swept up. As in year's past, I expect that the street sweeping will only take one day, but we will require town support with regard to parking de-confliction. We have also solidified that crack sealing will take place during the week of the May 17-21. As we get closer to these dates and have a better feel for the weather, I will notify the town with greater clarity as to times and locations. Lastly, street striping has been scheduled for the week of 24-28 May. This will also be a one day event and as with the earlier events, will be weather dependent. As we get closer to these dates, and have a better feel for the weather, I will publish this with as much granularity as I can.

4. 2021 Infrastructure. So far, asphalt prices are increasing dramatically this season. According to the Maine Department of Transportation, prices for asphalt have increased by around 07% since January and I believe that this



trend will continue. In order to get scheduled and locked in earlier with a price, I request that the Selectboard allow me to schedule Castine's first three paving projects for this season as change orders from our low bidder on all bid projects from last season, Bowden and Son LLC. This request is for the first three projects for this season. These projects are:

- 1) Complete the overlay work on Madockawando Road
- 2) Refurbishment of the stormwater swale and catch basin on the western side of the road just downhill from the Pleasant Street/Perkins Street Intersection.
- 3) Culvert renovation and frost heave mitigation at the intersection of 166 and State Street.

All remaining paving projects will be competitively bid just like last year.

Another infrastructure project coming up in the near future will be the construction of stormwater swale at the southwest corner of the swimming pond at Backshore Beach. This project will be completed by Fred Motycka in conjunction with the beach cleanup just before Memorial Day.

Lastly, Castine Public works will refurbish three of the town dock floats during the week after the rest of the floats go in on April 23d. I expect this work to take a week and be completed by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

5. American Red Cross Blood Drives. Due to Castine's continued high turnout for blood drives, and the layout of Emerson Hall which is perfect for a COVID era blood drive, representatives of the American Red Cross have requested to hold four more blood drives at Emerson Hall. I respectfully request the Selectboard authorize the American Red Cross to utilize the basement of the building on the following dates:

- 1) June 10<sup>th</sup>
- 2) August 26<sup>th</sup>
- 3) October 14<sup>th</sup>
- 4) December 9<sup>th</sup>