

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

PV
GPM

DATE: Monday, October 4, 2021

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair; Peter Vogell, Selectboard member; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Helen Miller, Liz Parish, Penny Carlhian & Marc Pelletier, Scott Vogell, Bob Friedlander, Gus Basile, David Adams, Hope McNally, Diane & David Modesett.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:00PM. Quorum was confirmed with Peter Vogell stating his presence; and Gordon MacArthur stating his presence (Colin Powell absent). Gordon gave updated Zoom procedures. Municipalities under current legislative law can adopt a Remote Participation Policy which allows a Board/Committee member to participate by Zoom if they are unable to be present. This does not include public participation.

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 \$94,379.62; 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. Gordon stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 2-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$14,166.14; 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. Gordon stated yes to approve.

Water Dept Warrant approved 2-0.

Disbursement Warrant for Water Dept Sales Tax in the amount of \$689.92. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Disbursement Warrant for Water Dept Sales Tax in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Water Disbursement Warrant approved 2-0.

Disbursement Warrant for monthly State Reports in the amount of \$1,230.05; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Disbursement Warrant for monthly State reports in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to

approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Disbursement Warrant for monthly State reports approved 2-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the September 20, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Sept 20, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the September 28, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Sept 28, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the September 30, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Sept 30, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Victualer License – The Manor Inn.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

Marc Pelletier asked if the license was to be issued to new owners? Gordon said no; application is completed and signed by the same owners: Simone Martin & Will Cosgrove.

Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. The Manor Inn renewal Victualer License approved 2-0.

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

#4 Sidewalk Committee Update: Gordon MacArthur made motion to appoint Elizabeth Vogel to the Sidewalk Committee as an Alternate member. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

Elizabeth Vogel appointment approved 2-0.

Item 3. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: 1) Wedding request from Meredith Roderka and Jeremiah Fenn to have their ceremony at Fort Madison on June 24, 2022, with 100 guests attending. They grew up in the Bangor area, a brother attended Maine Maritime Academy, the reception will be held at the Wilson Museum, and they will be using Castine Touring Company "Scarlett" for transportation. Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

Fort Madison wedding request approved 2-0.

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

-Liz Parish asked to clarify the Zoom procedures and said is it right that the Selectboard Mtgs will be Zoom but will not allow public participation. Gordon said the Zoom rules in place right now are only for a Board/Committee member who will be absent from the mtg.

Discussion.

Penny Carlhian asked how one would know if a mtg was being held via Zoom. Karen Motycka, Finance Officer said the Town Office will post if the mtg will be held Zoom but sometimes we might not know until last minute. Karen suggested that Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett, who found out the details, clarify at the next mtg on how we will operate going forward.

Helen Miller said the Town may want to consider other options for allowing participation. She said she feels it could be considered discriminatory not allowing the public to participate by Zoom. Her mother is over 100 years old, therefore, cannot be present as much anymore.

-Gus Basile asked how many volunteers have been appointed to the Sidewalk Committee. Gordon answered nine (9) were appointed at their 9/28 mtg and the one (1) alternate member today = ten (10) total. Gus said he remembers Gordon saying at a past mtg the Selectboard would like five (5) members but no more than seven (7). Peter corrected saying he was the one who said he would like to see five to seven (5-7) or more members appointed. Discussion.

Marc Pelletier said the new Sidewalk Committee needs direction. They need to figure out day/times, etc. and get started before the snow season. Gordon said Shawn would be the one to help organize and call new members together to get started.

-David Adams said that many probably know but MarKel's Bakehouse has sold, and rumor has it the new owners have no desire to reopen as any sort of business especially an eatery. David suggested the Comprehensive Plan Committee look at topics such as this because we need more commercial businesses in downtown.

Discussion. Gus Basile told David the new owners are his neighbors at Wilson Point Road and the rumor is not true. Gus corrected saying the new owners are looking for people to run businesses in the building. They do not have a desire to run it themselves, but their goal is to have the spaces full of businesses.

-Bob Friedlander said in the recent Castine Patriot it is reported that through the ARPA Castine school will receive \$6,250; Penobscot school will receive much higher, over \$100,000. Bob asked if anyone knows why such a difference between Castine and Penobscot. Karen Motycka said that would be a question for the Castine School Board or the Superintendent Office. It is unclear how they calculate it.

-Marc Pelletier said at the last Selectboard Mtg he brought up that the Town might want to consider hiring a project manager for the new Fire Station project. He noticed in the Town Manager's report Olver Associates has been hired to be project manager for a sewer project. Marc reiterated his opinion about a project manager for the Fire Station project and that it would be a benefit for the Town. Gordon said he and the Town Manager have discussed

options, and both agree that the Town having a project manager for this project would likely move into that direction after a site has been decided upon. Marc urged they consider doing it before a site is decided upon since that someone could help determine the site.

Helen Miller said that since Castine is such a historic Town she hopes and would think a new Fire Station would not have to look industrial. She said she is concerned about the look and hopes it would be kept with the historic aspects of the Town. The Selectboard intend to do so as best they can.

-Liz Parish asked if they could talk again about the approximate \$107,000 ARPA funds Castine is to receive. Liz says we know we are going to get it so why can't we start now figuring out what to spend it on.

Karen said there are several reasons why we cannot start planning:

- 1) she is a firm believer that we do not have the money until check is in hand
- 2) town voters must approve how to spend the funds
- 3) there are restrictions in place for what the Town can use the funds on (the State is working on trying to open the restrictions and include other options)
- 4) ½ of the funds issued between now and 2022 and the ½ could come into 2023

-David Modesett asked for an update on a possible Noise Ordinance. Gordon said that it is on the Selectboard's list of things to do. Their intent is to aim for having it before the voters at the May 2022 Town Mtg if there are no legal ramifications.

-David Adams updated on the recent visit from the Canadians making a documentary film on Baron de St Castin. They were here and now gone, and it worked out well. They are producing a large documentary which we hope will amount as an economic development benefit for Castine.

Past Actions: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 10/18/21 at 4PM - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wednesday, 10/20/21 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. Gordon stated yes to adjourn.

Approved 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:41PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: October 4, 2021
Re: Town Manager Report

1. COVID Update. Hancock County remains in the “High” category for community transmission along with every other county in Maine. Mask wearing continues to be recommended for everyone by the State of Maine CDC. As of yesterday, October 3d, Maine had a combined antigen and molecular daily positivity rate of 6.8%.

2. Infrastructure and Maintenance and Operations Update. Due to contractor medical issues, we have been delayed on our final paving projects for this season. I’ll update the Selectboard and the town when I have solid dates but these projects should begin with the next week.

I do intend to add one small paving project to this season which is to fix the pothole and turnout on the eastern end of School Street. This project will be cost shared by the UU Church.

-Three floats have come out of the water at the town dock, and these are the priority project for Castine Public works after they complete their other routine duties through each workday. Our hope is to complete the refurbishment of these floats before the remainder of the floats come out of the water on 01 November.

-Streetlight fuses were switched out in every light in town last week.

-The town dock boat ramp was pressure washed last week.

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-The Perkins Street stormwater drainage project was sent out for contractor bids on the 24th of September. There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on the 07th of October and bid opening on the 14th. Following bid opening, we expect to move into contracting with a firm as soon as possible to hopefully get this project completed this season. Olver Associates is acting as the town's project manager to help solve this long lingering problem.

3. Island Name Change Committee (INCC) Update. Following the decision to delay the INCC recommendation to the town until the regular town meeting in May of 2022, we will update and revise the charter for this Committee which I will provide to the Selectboard once it is complete.

4. Sidewalk Committee Update. The Town received a letter of interest from Elizabeth Vogel to join the Sidewalk Committee. Due to the abnormal time for the last Selectboard meeting, we did not receive the letter until after the appointments were made. I recommend appointing Beth to this Committee. Attached is her letter of interest.

5. Fort George Historic Property Management Plan (HPMP). We have received the final draft copy of the contractor derived HPMP and closed out the town's grant paperwork with the Maine State Historic Preservation Office. The plan will be posted on the town website in the very near future and we invite public comment.

6. Recent Vandalism and Theft. The sign marking the British Canal at the neck has been taken and its whereabouts are unknown. There has been another instance of vehicle vandalism at Fort George where an unknown person drove their vehicle directly down the hill from the parking area.