

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

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GM
CP

DATE: Monday, November 1, 2021
TIME: 4PM (In-person; broadcast via ZOOM)
PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Brooke Tenney, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Marc Pelletier, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Gus Basile, Tom Comiciotto, Johanna Barrett, Josh Adam, Phil Cotoni (MMA Sodexo), David Adams and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

ZOOM – Liz Parish, Ann Miller, Helen Miller, Jackie Modesett and Penny Carlhian.

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 was absent from the Mtg. 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 \$39,514.96; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. 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 \$927.93; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Dept Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

Water Dept Warrant approved 2-0.

Minutes: Peter Vogell made motion to approve the October 18, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

October 18, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Renewal Liquor License – MMA Sodexo. Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

Phil Cotoni, MMA Sodexo Manager, was present.

The Town Office did not receive any complaints over the past year.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

MMA Sodexo Liquor License approved 2-0.

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

Item 3. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: Email notice from the UMaine breakwater prototype has been delayed due to supply chain issues and approaching winter conditions. The plan is now for the first half of May 2022 through second half of July 2022.

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

1) Marc Pelletier (Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee Chair) did a Sidewalk presentation reviewing the Committee's work thus far. They have met weekly since being appointed (4 mtgs), with an average of eight (8) members in attendance. They have inspected, measured, and created a chart for the sidewalks around Town including their conditions. There is 1.5 miles of sidewalk they propose to be addressed for this winter season (around the Town Common, Main St, Court St, Green St and Water St). The Committee is also working on a survey with hopes to have a link available on the Town's website and they plan to put an article in the Castine Patriot. The Committee is meeting the next day (Tues, 11/2) to finalize the draft survey and article to be published in the Patriot. Here is what the Committee foresees, currently, as possible options:

- 1) Town purchases sidewalk snow removal equipment / uses Town employee labor for removal
- 2) Town hires a subcontractor to use their snow removal equipment and labor for removal
- 3) Take an Ordinance to Town voters to have property owners responsible for snow removal
- 4) Do nothing, leave as is

The survey will help determine what the community would like to see happen.

Bobby Vagt (Committee member) added that this year, whatever the outcome, volunteers are dedicated to clearing the sidewalks as a trial.

Tom Comiciotto (Committee member) said he feels that property owners and businesses should be notified.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, said the Town cannot purchase snow removal equipment and/or have the labor for this season. Long-term is another story and could be a viable option if that is what the Town wants.

Discussion.

Peter Vogell thanked the Committee members and said they have done an excellent job

preparing this information. It is a good start. Peter said the Committee also needs to tell the Selectboard what sidewalks are not needed any longer, in disrepair and should be eliminated. We also need to know costs to take to Town voters.

Marc Pelletier said the Committee's understanding is that they have been tasked to work on short-term and long-term options which include:

- 1) clearing sidewalks during winter months, costs involved (equipment and labor)
- 2) what sidewalks to keep and what ones to eliminate

They are working on the short-term first.

Discussion regarding posting the survey online using a link and having a paper option available for those who do not use a computer or go online.

Johanna Barrett said it is very time consuming to do a combination (online & paper) survey.

Gordon said if that is the case then he favors doing a survey mailer, as well, only because maybe 30%, utilize the Town's website. He said they will address the survey again at their next mtg (Monday, 11/15/21) when all three (s) Selectboard members are present.

2) Bobby Vagt gave a CARF update. The program has been in operation for 77 weeks and has delivered bags of groceries making up more than 16,000 meals to those in need. They have raised around \$37,000 to make this happen. The program thanks the Town, churches, individuals, and families for their support. The funds have primarily been spent on food and bought locally. By now they thought they would be done but that is not the case and will begin fundraising again.

3) Josh Adam said he would like to revisit the PFAS testing in the Town's drinking water resources since he believes there is an error printed in the paper. Shawn clarified. The Battle Ave treatment facility results are back. The other water resource locations are not. The Town will release results when all results are in. Josh also summarized an EPA article published on 10/19. Josh said that the article says there are no standard acceptable PFAS levels. Shawn said he is not sure of an article published and can only go on the guidance given that levels should be below 70 parts per trillion per Federal standards and 20 parts per trillion per State standards. The Battle Ave treatment facility results are well below those numbers.

Josh asked how do PFAS get into the water? Shawn said he is not sure but recently learned there are many products that use PFAS, i.e., showerhead tape.

4) David Adams said there was a Regional Planning Mtg in mid-October. Castine was not present at the Mtg. How do we change this? (Note: Roberta Boczkiewicz (Castine Planning Board member) has been present at meeting as a Castine Planning Board Rep).

David also mentioned his concern regarding erosion at the Baron de Castin fort site located at the now Pemberton property. This is a National Historic Landmark, and the erosion will one day ruin this landmark. He said he plans to pursue this matter but needs support. Johanna Barrett told David that Hans Carlson who works for Blue Hill Heritage Trust says they visit the site and monitor it annually.

Past Actions: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Mon, 11/15/21 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wedn, 11/17/21 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 5:12PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: November 01, 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 31st, Maine had a combined antigen and molecular daily positivity rate of 7.4% which is a 1% uptick from my last report.

2. Infrastructure and Maintenance and Operations Update. Late last week, two pieces of Perkins Street were patched where water and sewage line breaks had damaged the pavement. The frost heave bump at the State Street/Route 166 intersection as well as the remainder of Madockawando and a pothole in the vicinity of 115 Water Street will be paved on Tuesday of this week. A pavement patch from a water line break on Sea Street will be prepared on Tuesday and completed on Wednesday. This will leave only the fix to the pothole and stormwater drainage in front of the UU Church for this paving season.

-Public Works has completed the refurbishment of three of the town dock floats. Our hope is to get one or two more floats refurbished before they go back in the water in the spring. The rest of the floats were pulled and stacked for the winter today, the 01st of November. Public works will now shift to cleaning out stormwater catch basins and the roofing of the salt shed at the transfer station.

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3. Sewage Pump Station #1. For the second time this year, a heavy volume of storm water occurring in a short period of time threatened to top the foundation at Sewage Pump Station #1 on Western Perkins Street. This is being caused by inadequate stormwater drainage pooling in and around the foundation. Following the completion of the remaining five paving projects we have going on in town this will become my top infrastructure priority.

4. British Canal Sign. The British Canal sign that was stolen recently has been found in the woods on Wadsworth Cove Road. A resident contacted us that they have it and we will recover it shortly just in time for the historic signs to come down for the winter.