

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

GRM  
Peter Vogell  
(Via Zoom  
12/6/21)

DATE: Monday, November 15, 2021  
TIME: 4PM (In-person; broadcast 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: Brooke Tenney, Bobby Vagt, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Josh Adam, Kate Noel and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.  
ZOOM – Liz Parish, Helen Miller, and Bruce Boczkiewicz.

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 \$70,673.38; 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. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$14,258.72; 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. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Water Dept Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Peter Vogell made motion to approve the November 1, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin abstained since he was not present. November 1, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced electing a Chair covering 11/2021 to 11/2022. Gordon addressed saying the Selectboard members have agreed to split up Chair duties alternating between Gordon and Colin until Spring 2022 when Peter returns from Florida. Once Peter returns (around 5/1/22) he will take over Chair duties until his term expires, 11/2022.

Colin Powell made motion to approve Chair duty outline covering 11/2021 to 11/2022. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Chair outline approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the Sidewalk Snow Removal Survey. Gordon said the Sidewalk Committee, with permission from the Selectboard because the winter season is approaching, already has the survey posted on Facebook, the Town's website, and hard copies available at the Town Office. Peter Vogell made motion to approve the Survey. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Survey approved 3-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the FY22 Water Dept Budget as recommended by the Utility Board. Karen Motykca, Finance Officer, addressed. She said the Utility Board reviewed and recommends approving a \$562,203 budget which has increased less than 1% compared to last year. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. FY22 Water Dept Budget approved 3-0.

Item 4. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Sewer Rate Increase as recommended by the Utility Board. Rate increases as follows:

Quarterly Billing:

0-800 cu/ft = \$155.25/quarter (currently \$126)  
each additional 100 cu/ft = \$27.90 (\$24.25)

Seasonal Billing:

0-1,100 cu/ft = \$621/year (currently \$504)

with each additional 100 cu/ft = \$27.90 (\$24.25)

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the proposed increases. Second by Colin Powell. David Avery asked what the percentage increase is compared to the last one. Karen Motykca said the increase is approximately 15%. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Sewer Rate Increase approved 3-0.

Item 5. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager read his report (see attached).

Comprehensive Plan Update: Kate Noel, Castine Comprehensive Plan Committee (CCPC), gave a summary of what the Committee has been working on.

Kate Noel = Chair; Zach Sawyer = Vice-Chair; Roberta Boczkiewicz = Secretary.

CCPC has been meeting regularly since July. One mtg a month is a designated for business with Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) Rep, Jarod Farn-Guillette present; and one mtg a month designated as a work session; both are open to the public. The Committee had an Open

House on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the MMA Fieldhouse with fifteen stations (each station set up to address the 15 Comp Plan Chapters). Data collected from the Open House has been compiled. The Committee has also been identifying community stakeholders and meeting with them; a public survey is planned to be emailed, posted on social media, Town's website and advertised in the Castine Patriot; in April/May they hope to meet with subject matter experts, i.e., land use lawyer, etc. The Selectboard thanked Kate for the updates and for the Committee's hard work thus far.

Island Name Change Committee (INCC): The INCC is preparing to meet again on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. The Committee would like to add Rachel Talbot Ross as an Ex Officio member. Peter Vogell made motion to re-appoint INCC members and add Rachel Talbot Ross as an Ex Officio member. Second by Colin Powell.

David Avery asked what Rachel Talbot Ross' presence on the Committee would be? Shawn said that Rachel is a member of the State Legislative and has been a leading role within the State on this topic. The Committee thinks it would be good to have diversity on the Committee. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. INCC Members Re-appointed with additional Ex Officio Member approved 3-0.

Item 6. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: NONE.

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

1) Josh Adam asked what the relation between the approved Water Dept Budget and the Sewer Rate increase was. Karen Motycka, Finance Officer, addressed. Water and Sewer each have separate budgets. The last sewer rate increase was done in 2018, but the increase did not cover expenses. We need the revenues to cover the budget. Currently, the Sewer Dept owes the Town over \$100,000 in deficit spending. The goal and hope with this newest increase is for the revenues to meet expenses as well as start to pay the Town back.

**Past Actions:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Mon, 12/6/21 and Mon, 12/20/21 both at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtgs.

Wedn, 11/17/21 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM) = CANCELLED.

Mon, 11/29 at 9AM to approve Warrants (there are 3-wks between scheduled mtgs).

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 4:25PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: November 15, 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 November 13th, Maine had a combined antigen and molecular daily positivity rate of 8.1% which is a half a percentage point uptick from my last report. Maine CDC is reporting an 81% vaccination rate and the local Union 93 schools are hosting vaccination clinics to vaccinate school age children. As the weather cools and residents continue to move more indoors, I urge everyone to continue to exercise caution as the pandemic isn’t over.

2. Infrastructure and Maintenance and Operations Update. The School Street intersection paving project should be completed tomorrow and the road re-opened on Wednesday. This will be the town’s final paving project for the season. I appreciate the communities understanding with the traffic disruptions for this project, specifically for school drop off and pick up at the Adams School.

-Castine Public Works will complete the refurbishment of the town salt shed at the transfer station this week. This project involved re-roofing the building, installing new door track and some cement and mason work to aid in keeping the salt from prematurely rusting out the new track. Now that the majority of the leaves have fallen, Public Works will now shift to getting the historic signs down and stored for the winter along with cleaning out the town’s ditch network and stormwater catch basins. Following this yearly task and when the



weather cooperates, Public Works will begin refurbishment of more town dock floats.

3. Island Name Change Committee. Following the tabling of the name changing initiative for the warrant for the last election cycle, the Island Name Change Committee is preparing to begin meeting again with their first meeting tentatively scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. To this end, I respectfully request that the Selectboard re-appoint the Committee with the membership made up of the following:

Wallace Alston

Hans Carlson

Marcia Mason

Caleb Jackson

Debbie Rogers

Ralph Q. Smith

Georgia Zildjian

Lisa Simpson Lutts – Ex Officio

The Island Name Change Committee would also like to invite Representative Rachel Talbot Ross (Maine District 40) to join the Committee in an Ex Officio Status. I request that the Selectboard also make this appointment.

4. Security Camera at the Town Dock. I have received two quotes from security camera installers for a security system at the Town Dock. For a single camera, one quote was for \$1800. The second quote, for a two-camera system with monitor and wiring is for \$4,728. The two-camera system is my preferred system, but I will need to take a bit of time this week to research the types of cameras that are being recommended to ensure that the town is getting a good price.

5. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Installation Update. The SCADA system that was contracted by the town last October is



now 95% operational. The lone piece of this puzzle that still needs to be figured out is the communications piece from the British Canal Well to the Battle Avenue Water Treatment Facility. This upgrade replaced the town's aging and unreliable system and upgraded it as well as allowing the Water Department to conduct real time remote monitoring and some operations.

6. Comprehensive Plan Update. Castine's Comprehensive Plan Committee have been meeting very regularly since July and are moving forward rapidly. For further updates, Kate Noel will address.