

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

CP
GDM

Peter Vogell (Zoom)

DATE: Monday, February 7, 2022
TIME: 4PM (In-person; broadcast via ZOOM)
PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Colin Powell, Chair; Gordon MacArthur & Peter Vogell (ZOOM), Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.
PUBLIC: Marc Pelletier, Bill Lyons, Tom Comiciotto, Gus Basile, Scott Vogell, Mac & Peg Patterson, Kelly Gualtieri, Bob Friedlander, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Josh Adam and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.
ZOOM –Liz Parish, Brooke Tenney, Helen Miller, Ann Blodgett, Penny Carlhian, Bill Eisenhardt, Johanna Barrett, Alicia Anstead, Kay Hightower and a few others.

Colin Powell opened the meeting at 4:00PM. Quorum was confirmed with Peter Vogell stating his presence, Gordon MacArthur stating his presence and Colin Powell stating his presence. Colin asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: NONE.

Warrants: Colin 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 \$33,668.89; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$14,714.19; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Dept Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Water Dept Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the January 18, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. January 18, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Colin Powell made motion to approve the January 20, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated

yes to approve. January 20, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (Gordon MacArthur absent from the mtg).

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the January 31, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. January 31, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Colin Powell introduced approving Victualer Licenses.

Nomadic Notions, LLC (owned by Michelle & Ann Robinson; previously MarKel's Bakehouse) = Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Nomadic Notions, LLC Victualer License approved 3-0.

Item 2. Colin Powell introduced approving Appointment to the Board of Appeals.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve Michael Coughlin to the Board of Appeals replacing David Jones, regular member expiring 6/30/2024. Second by Peter Vogell. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Appointment to the Board of Appeals approved 3-0.

Item 3. Colin Powell introduced approving Annual General Assistance Appendices A-H.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Peter Vogell. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Annual General Assistance Appendices A-H approved 3-0.

Item 4. Colin Powell introduced approving the 2022 Mooring, Dock & Ramp Rules and Fees Policy as recommended by the Harbor Committee.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Peter Vogell. Gordon MacArthur pointed out the new section regulating trash disposal at the Town Dock. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. 2022 Mooring, Dock & Ramp Rules and Fees Policy approved 3-0.

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

#1. MMA Booster Clinic: Peter Vogell asked if the Booster Clinic held at MMA on February 11th was 3rd shot or a 4th. Shawn Blodgett said it is the 3rd.

#2. Traffic Ordinance Amendment: Gordon MacArthur made motion to schedule a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 22nd at 4PM to address amendment to the Traffic Ordinance with condition upon receipt of feedback from the Town's attorney. Second by Peter Vogell.

Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Schedule Public Hearing approved 3-0.

If we do not get the feedback in time for posting requirements the Public Hearing will be held in March.

#5. American Tower Right of First Refusal: Peter Vogell asked if the Town's attorney had reviewed. Shawn Blodgett answered yes. The Selectboard agreed to authorize the Town Manager to incorporate the Right of Refusal into the celltower lease which would give American Tower first refusal if the Town ever chooses to sell the small parcel of land to another cell phone related company. American Tower is willing to pay \$5,000 for the right.

Item 6. Other Business as Required. NONE.

Communications: Press Release from the Islesboro Selectboard regarding Mack Point and Offshore Wind. They applaud the State of Maine's vigorous response to climate change.

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

1) Marc Pelletier, Chair of the Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee, addressed. He gave some background for establishing the Ad-Hoc Committee, what the Committee has been working on and the proposed amendment to the Traffic Ordinance the Committee members drafted that will make property owners responsible to clear snow from sidewalks that abut their property with a \$30 per storm fine if they violate. Marc pointed out a couple revisions to the first draft due to a few issues that came up:

- a) where does the snow go especially when you have excessive amounts
- b) list of sidewalks expansion

Discussion.

Scott Vogell said he visited the Town of Bucksport and Blue Hill town offices. He found out those communities, which are more in comparison to Castine than Bangor, Augusta, Lewiston, etc., remove snow from its commercial district by town employees and town equipment. Scott also said he contacted his lawyer who did some digging, and property owners can be held liable if someone was to get hurt. The Town cannot be sued but property owners can. Scott added it's not fair that some property owners will be required to keep the sidewalks clear and others not. Several members present and on Zoom expressed their concerns regarding the amendment and making property owners responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks that abut their property. Discussion.

2) Josh Adam said he saw recently on a Maine DEP map showing that sludge tested in Castine in August 2021 tested positive for PFAS. Josh asked how does PFAS end up in the sewer plant? Shawn said the Town was not aware of this map or testing but would look into it. Discussion.

Peter Vogell said he was plant operator many years ago and sludge was never given to anyone or any other community that he is aware of. It has always gone to an outside Castine facility.

3) Gus Basile asked when Utility Board would get involved with the process of building a new Fire Station. Shawn said the Utility Board's contribution would probably come after the site assessment is complete. The Utility Board should review the site assessment comparison to make a recommendation to the Selectboard.

Past Actions: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Wedn, 2/16/22 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM) if needed.

Tues, 2/22/22 (due to the President's Day Holiday) at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg. Possible Public Hearing first to address Traffic Ordinance amendment.

Sat, 5/14/22 at 8:30AM – May Town Mtg = put on the Board's radar to schedule the date at an upcoming mtg.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to adjourn. Second by Colin Powell.

Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to adjourn. Gordon stated yes to adjourn. Colin stated yes to adjourn. Approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



CASTINE U.S.A.

Shawn Blodgett
Town Manager & Code Enforcement Officer
Shawn@castine.me.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: February 7, 2022
Re: Town Manager Report

1. MMA Booster Clinic. MMA will hold a vaccination booster clinic on February 11 from 10-1. The booster will be Moderna and the clinic will be open to the public. Anyone who wishes to register may do so by email Casey Littlefield at Casey.littlefield@mma.edu.

2. Traffic Ordinance Amendment. As the Selectboard is aware, the Castine Ad-Hoc Committee voted 8-0 on February 1, 2022 to recommend to the Selectboard that Castine's Traffic Ordinance be amended to include the removal of snow from the Town's public sidewalks. A draft copy of this ordinance has been printed out if anyone in the room would like a copy. The draft copy of this ordinance is also with the town attorney for legal review. As some already know, many communities in Maine deal with this issue in a similar way. I respectfully request that the Selectboard hold a public hearing soon to discuss this amendment. There is a 7 day posting requirement for public hearings.

3. Harbor Committee Recommendations. At last month's Harbor Committee meeting on January 12th, 2022, the Harbor Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Selectboard to keep harbor fees the same for the upcoming boating season. However, the Committee also voted to recommend to the Selectboard to change the policy on visiting boat refuse. Currently, the Town of Castine does not place a limit on the amount of trash that a visiting boater can

deposit into the dumpster at the town dock for this purpose. The Harbor Committee recommends to the Selectboard to limit visiting boater trash to 1 bag per week of no more than 15 lbs. in weight at a cost of \$2.00 per bag and that a visiting boater must see a dockhand for trash disposal. I concur with this recommendation and would like to update this portion of the harbor policy and respectfully request the Selectboard to consider this change to the Harbor policy.

4. Road Salt Supply and Delivery Delay. Castine takes part in the Maine Department of Transportation Local Roads Program salt contract. Historically, we have had a 1-2 day delivery timeline. However, late last week, we were informed that the large facility that stockpiles road salt in Searsport has temporarily exhausted it's supply. We have had salt ordered for over 10 days and should receive a shipment over the next day or so, but after the recent weather, our supply is very low. With salt in short supply, Public Works have been digging out as many stormwater catch basins as possible today with the backhoe.

5. American Tower Right of First Refusal. The Town has been approached by American Tower Company with a request to add a right of first refusal to their lease for the land that they lease from Castine at the Transfer Station. This contract update would only apply if the Town of Castine were to ever decide to sell the land that they lease for the cell phone tower to another carrier. They are offering the town \$5,000 to amend their contract. Since I can think of no eventuality where the town would seek to sell a portion of the transfer station and if the town did want to sell, the contract would stipulate that American Tower would have to match the offer, I request that the Selectboard authorize me to complete this amendment to the lease. The proposed amendment has been through legal review.

6. Other Public Works Projects. Public Works have also finished installing a new custom-built flagpole at Fort George and when weather permits, will patch the damaged siding on the Battle Avenue Water Treatment Plant storage building. This building will be patched for the winter but the western side will be completely resided in the spring.