

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

CP  
gmr  
Peter Vogell  
(Zoom)

DATE: Tuesday, January 18, 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; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Marc Pelletier, Bill Lyons, Beth Vogell, Bob Beske, Tom Comiciotto, Gus Basile and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

ZOOM –Liz Parish, Brooke Tenney, Helen Miller, Anne Blodgett, and Penny Carlhian.

Colin Powell opened the meeting at 4:05PM (experienced technology problems with microphone). 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 \$51,264.25; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. 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. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$8,350.22; 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.

Disbursement Warrant (State Reports) in the amount of \$2,674.10; Peter Vogell made motion to approve the Disbursement Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0.

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

approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. January 3, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Colin Powell introduced approving Victualer Licenses.

Castine Inn = Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. 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. Castine Inn Victualer License approved 3-0.

Pentagoet Inn = Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Pentagoet Inn Victualer License approved 3-0.

Item 2. Colin Powell introduced the Town Manager's Report. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager read his report (see attached). Shawn's Report included notification that David Jones was resigning from the Board of Appeals after more than 15 years of volunteer service, effective February 1, 2022.

Item 3. Other Business as Required. NONE.

**Communications:** NONE.

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

1) Marc Pelletier, Chair of the Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee, gave an update. Many of the Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee members were present (B Lyons, B Vogell, B Beske, T Comiciotto and G Basile). Marc said the Committee was appointed to work on 2 (two) primary tasks: 1) Snow Removal from sidewalks and 2) Sidewalk Infrastructure/Inventory; what sidewalks are in good shape and to keep and what sidewalks are in bad shape and should be abandoned. The Committee has been meeting and working on snow removal for the last 2 (two) months. They have not started addressing Infrastructure/Inventory yet.

This season, so far, volunteers have been clearing the sidewalks in the core area. The Committee created a letter to mail to property owners abutting sidewalks in the core area asking them to clear the snow from the sidewalks. The letter was presented to the Selectboard at the December 20<sup>th</sup> mtg. After Selectboard input and discussions at the December 20<sup>th</sup> mtg the letter has been revised to tone it down.

Recently Town Office employee, Karen Motycka, Finance Officer, did research to get answers to Selectboard Gordon MacArthur's liability concerns. Upon her research she found information and material that Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett forwarded to the Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee for them to review as a potential resolution which would amend the Castine Traffic Ordinance to include requiring property owners to remove snow from sidewalks that abut their

property. The Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee supports, endorses, and recommends that the Selectboard take action to amend the Town's Traffic Ordinance. There are no liabilities. Selectboard have the authority to approve amendments to the Traffic Ordinance after holding a Public Hearing. Discussion regarding enforcement. Marc Pelletier pointed out that under the current guidelines of the Traffic Ordinance the Traffic Enforcement Officer, the Municipal Officials and Town Employees all have the authority to write tickets, therefore, it was recommended it be the same with enforcing sidewalk snow removal. Discussion. Peter Vogell said he would still like to get a list from the Committee showing what sidewalks to keep and what ones to abandon so that it clearly indicates what sidewalks have to be cleared and what ones, he feels, should have a sign posted "closed for the winter". In preparation for holding a Public Hearing and amending the Traffic Ordinance, language will need to be drafted. Bill Lyons, member of the Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee said he would work with Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett, to put something together for consideration.

**Past Actions:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** Gordon MacArthur said he would like to thank David Jones, on behalf of the Selectboard, for his many years of dedication and service on the Board of Appeals. He also thanked the Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee for all their work completed thus far and he looks forward to collaborating with them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase for outlining the Town's sidewalk infrastructure and inventory recommendations.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Mon, 2/7/22 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Tues, 2/22/22 (due to the President's Day Holiday) at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wedn, 1/19/22 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM) if needed = CANCELLED.

Mon, 1/31/22 at 10AM - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg to approve Warrants.

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 4:35PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: January 18, 2022  
Re: Town Manager Report

1. COVID Update. Hancock County remains in the “High” category for community transmission along with every other county in the rest of Maine. Mask wearing continues to be recommended for everyone by the State of Maine CDC.

Maine’s daily antigen and molecular positivity rate continues to stay high with a 19.6% rate on January 17<sup>th</sup>. This is down from 23.8% on January 12<sup>th</sup>. We urge everyone to continue to be cautious and stay safe.

2. ARPA Final Rule Published. The Department of Treasury published the final rule governing the American Rescue Plan late last week. The 44-page final rule relaxes some guidance and opens a few more possibilities for Castine and the expenditure of this money. Added to acceptable projects that we have previously discussed are:

- Road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure
- Schools and other educational equipment and facilities
- Hiring of additional public sector staff if, for Castine, the new hire is not more than a .5 full time equivalent employee.
- Energy consumption reduction for publicly owned treatment works
- Improvements in water pressure for the water system

To refine the numbers for some of these projects, we are currently working with Olver Associates to get a pre-bid cost estimate on enhanced storm water infrastructure for eastern school street. We are also awaiting the final bid price

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### Town of Castine Municipal Offices

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on upsizing the stormwater drainage pipes from the Perkins/Pleasant intersection as part of Phase II of the Perkins Street stormwater project due to start in April.

3. David Jones resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). After more than 15 years as a member of the Castine ZBA, David Jones has decided to resign from the Board effective on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The ZBA does not meet often, but when it does meet, the issues that this board wrestles with are often extremely difficult and highly contentious and emotionally charged. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David for his years of diligent and committed service to the Town of Castine.

4. New Bills Under Consideration. As with the Accessory Dwelling Unit (LD 1312) Bill that I discussed with the Selectboard in the summer of last year, expect to see similar bills coming up for a vote this year. The 15-member Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions has met seven times and have been working on recommendations for the entire legislature. Of greatest municipal interest for Castine are proposals to mandate the below:

- Permit accessory dwelling units in all zones that allow for the development of single-family homes.

- Permit development of multi-unit buildings in single family residential zones.

- Relax parking space requirements to encourage development of multi-family units.

- Provide state oversight of housing goals by creating a state board to hear appeals of local decisions regarding affordable housing projects.

- Provide access to affordable and safe housing as a protected right under Maine's Human Rights Act.

- Limit the ability of municipalities to assess impact and permit fees on housing projects.