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**Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 4, 2022, 4:00 PM  
Emerson Hall**

**Present:** Peter Vogell, Chair; Colin Powell and Gordon MacArthur, Selectboard; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; and Karen Motycka, Finance Officer.

**Public:** Bob Beske, Marc Pelletier, Brock Muir, Ann Blodgett, Brooke Tenney, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Bobby and Ruth Ann Vagt, Josh Adam, Ann Robinson, Ted Hale, Liz Parish (Zoom), Helen Miller (Zoom) and David Avery for the Castine Patriot.

Peter called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. It was verified that a quorum was present.

Peter asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. There were none.

Peter asked for a motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$82,441.14. Colin made a motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. Gordon seconded the motion. No questions or discussion. Peter called for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

Peter asked for a motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$6,319.09. Gordon made a motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount stated. Peter seconded the motion. No questions or discussion. Peter called for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

Peter asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022 meeting. Gordon made the motion to approve. Peter seconded the motion. No discussion. Peter called for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

**Item 1.**

Peter introduced Approval of the May 14, 2022 Town Meeting Warrant. Colin made motion to approve. Gordon seconded the motion. David Avery asked if sidewalks would be on The Warrant. Gordon read Articles 58 and 59. Article 58 is to see if the Town favors the Selectboard making changes to the Traffic Ordinance to incorporate sidewalk clearing by abutting property owners. Article 59 is to see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$55,000 to purchase sidewalk clearing equipment. Brock Muir asked if there was an option for those wishing to keep as is. Gordon answered to vote no on both Articles. It was questioned, if the Town were to clear sidewalks, when would that be done. Shawn said if the Article passes, we will need to work on a policy or procedure of some sort, with the understanding that street and town facility plowing will take priority along with other town services, such as trash and recycling pickup. Peter asked for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

## Item 2.

Peter asked Shawn for the Town Managers Report – See attached report to become part of the minutes.

Gordon made a motion to authorize Shawn to execute a contract with Maine Maritime Academy for Castine Fire Rescue Support with MMA firefighting Training. Colin Seconded the motion. Peter called for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

Peter made a motion to authorize the sale of the Public Works excess truck that would not pass inspection to the high (and only) bidder for \$600. Colin seconded the motion. Peter called for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

Peter made a motion to remove the monthly contractor charge accounts from the Draft “Castine Municipal Solid Waste Ordinance” to go to May Town Meeting. Colin seconded the motion. Peter called for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

## Item 3.

### **Other Business as Required - None**

**Communications** – Peter had Karen read a letter to the Selectboard from The Ad Hoc Sidewalk Committee. See attached letter to become part of the minutes. Peter referenced the two Articles that would be going to the May Town Meeting.

### **Acknowledged members of the public to address their requests.**

David Avery asked about the Fire Department Contract. Shawn said that it was to clean up an administrative oversight. No one on the Fire Department has the authority to sign a contract.

Brooke Tenney asked about sidewalk infrastructure projects. Shawn answered that there are so many what ifs right now. We need to have a plan on what should be done with sidewalks – which ones should be fixed and which ones should be taken out. Once that is done, the plan, along with the cost can be taken to the Town to vote on. Marc Pelletier said he thought sidewalks required a seven digit figure to fix. He is discouraged that currently sidewalks are being used for private parking spots and that property owner plantings are overtaking sidewalks to make impassable. Bobby Vagt said he thought the Selectboard should approve funds for sidewalks and then tell the committee to come up with a plan for the funds. Peter reminded him that funds are approved by the Town at Town Meeting. Voters want to know what the plan is before they approve funding. Ann Robinson wanted to know if the tasks of the Sidewalk Committee could be reformulated by the results of the Comprehensive Plan Survey. It was noted that Comp Plan Survey results have not been compiled as of this time.

Helen Miller passed along that she thinks sidewalk clearing could be done with outside hourly labor rather than Town employees.

Brock Muir passed along that he thought Pleasant and Water (to T&C) Streets should be made one way with a walking path in the other part of the street.

Marc Pelletier suggested that an Article with \$200,000 or some amount, go to the Town for sidewalk refurbishment. The Committee could then put forth a suggestion on how to use. This way it would be known if the Town had an appetite for sidewalk refurbishment.

Helen Miller asked about how changing the portion of Perkins Street from Pleasant to Main to one way gets to the top of the list. Gordon answered, first by stating that his previous occupation was a Traffic Engineer with the Vermont Department of Transportation. Before making changes, a study needs to be done looking at public safety vehicle access, plowing access, and parking to name a few. Gordon said that when Water Street was made one way, he did the study free of charge. Water Street was made one way primarily for additional parking and public safety. Discussion. Shawn will check with Olver Associates to see if a Traffic Engineer is on staff.

Ann Robinson discussed how she thought the Town opened itself up to liability by not fixing the sidewalks.

**Past Actions** – There were none.

**Selectboard Comments** – There were none.

Schedule next meetings. Selectboard Meeting Tuesday 04/19/2022 (Patriots Day Holiday on 4/18/22) at 4 PM. Town/Gown Meeting Wednesday 04/20/2022 at 8 AM - Farewell Coffee Hour in honor of Bill Brennan immediately following 8:30 – 9:30 AM

With no other business, Peter asked for a motion to adjourn. Gordon made a motion to adjourn. Colin seconded the motion. Peter called for a vote.

Approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Minutes by Karen Motycka.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: April 04, 2022  
Re: Town Manager Report

1. Fiber Optic Coming to Blue Hill Peninsula. At the last Selectboard meeting, David Adams mentioned possible grants for connectivity expansion. Today, it was announced in Blue Hill by the Peninsula Utility for Broadband (PUB) that they, along with the State of Maine have been name a recipient of a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)/ Department of Commerce grant to bring fiber-optic connectivity to the area to include Castine. Today was only a celebratory announcement, but I have been told that the goal of this is to bring fiber optic service to every home on the Blue Hill Peninsula and offer up to 1 gigabit upload/download speed for the top-of-the-line package. This development will be a huge step forward with regard to local connectivity.

2. Town Dock Sheet Piling Work. I have received interest from a firm to conduct the required sheet piling work. The vendor included pre-bid numbers in their letter of interest equating to an approximate cost of \$167,500 dollars for the project. Their numbers did not include the reconstitution of the parking lot area through repaving. In conjunction with the Castine Harbor Committee, we will be setting up a pre-bid meeting with this firm soon to refine their numbers into an actual bid to assess the viability of moving forward on this project.

3. Contract with Maine Maritime Academy (MMA). Recently, a contract was erroneously signed pledging Castine Fire Rescue Support for MMA firefighting training which periodically takes place in Ellsworth. While the contract should not have been signed, I am in support of the concept. The support that CFRD will provide to MMA allows the Academy to provide needed curriculum to over 150 of their students while also providing training for CFRD personnel. The support will entail the CFRD to periodically provide one piece of apparatus (Engine 6) along with a driver as a training aid for MMA firefighting training. No one other than a qualified CFRD member will drive or operate the equipment and the training will be supervised by Miles Block, also a CFRD member. I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize me to enact this contract.

4. Perkins/Pleasant/Water Street Stormwater Drainage Project. Test pits for this project will begin as early as the 11<sup>th</sup>. We are on track to begin Phase I of this project to fix the long lingering problem of inadequate drainage in the vicinity of 188 Perkins Street.

5. Truck Sale. As the Selectboard is aware, the town advertised the sale of our excess truck that would not pass inspection. After advertising for at least two weeks and the closure of the bid period, we only received one bid for \$600. With the aim of getting this excess piece of equipment off of the town's insurance, I request the Selectboard's authorization to dispose of this piece of equipment.