

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



DATE: Tuesday, September 6, 2022

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Peter Vogell, Chair, Gordon MacArthur, Colin Powell, Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager.

PUBLIC: Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Liz Parish, Brooke Tenney, Pam & Bob Scott, Karen Cukierski (MMA), Jeff Wright (MMA), David Adams, Debbie Rogers, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Helen Miller, Ann Blodgett, and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

ZOOM: Susan Macomber, Town Clerk, Melia Preedy (Attorney for Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises AS LLC) and Bruce Boczkiewicz.

Peter Vogell opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Peter Vogell verified that there was a quorum with Gordon MacArthur, Colin Powell and Peter all present in person. Peter asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: None.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections; General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$486,717.06. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

Peter asked for votes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve Water Warrant in the amount of \$118,301.80. Second by Colin Powell.

Peter asked for votes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve. Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve the August 15, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Peter asked for votes. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve. August 15, 2022, Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve the August 29, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Peter asked for votes. Gordon stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve. August 29, 2022, Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (Colin absent).

Item 1. Peter Vogell introduced approving NEW Liquor License – Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises AS LLC. Melia Preedy, Attorney for Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises, present via ZOOM.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

Peter said he needs to understand some details regarding this request.

Attorney Preedy, reviewed. The cruise ship is planning to stop in various US ports with Maine being the first US State to visit. In order for alcohol beverages to be served on board within State of Maine waters review and approval is needed by each municipality of ports they plan to be in. The cruise ship is proposed to be in Castine waters for one day, on Sept 21, 2022, for signed up guests to kayak and do bioluminescence tours.

Gordon asked if the ship will be docked, moored, or anchored. Attorney Preedy answered that the ship is 400 ft long therefore will be moored or anchored. She is not sure which but will confirm and notify Castine. It is suspected it will be anchored.

Discussion. Peter asked for votes. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve.

Peter stated yes to approve. Hurtigruten Cruise new liquor license approved 3-0.

Item 2. Peter Vogell introduced approving Special Amusement License request – MMA Alumni Relations.

Karen Cukierski & Jeff Wright (MMA), were present.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell.

David Avery asked what the Special Amusement License request was for. Jeff Wright answered it was for a band to perform during the upcoming 2022 Homecoming weekend (9/16/22).

Peter asked for votes. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve. Special Amusement License – MMA Homecoming weekend approved 3-0.

Item 3. Peter Vogell introduced approving the Community Resiliency Partnership Resolution.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, explained. In order to qualify for community partnership funds and grant monies Castine had to host two workshops which were held on 8/17/22 & 8/24/22 and pass a resolution. Shawn read the Resolution.

No discussion. Peter asked for votes. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve. Community Resiliency Partnership Resolution approved 3-0.

Item 4. Peter Vogell introduced discussion regarding changes in the Recycling Program.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, addressed. With the FiberRight facility closing down in mid-2020 Castine has been working with MRC recycling standards with materials going to PERC. This past May Town Mtg (2022) voters approved an increase in the budget to start recycling facilitated by using the Pine Tree Waste Zero Sort program. In July 2022 we started this program which required changes, i.e., accepted recycling materials only, materials must be

clean, cardboard cut down to 2'X2' sections, etc. Changes and new standards are posted in the paper, Town's website and Facebook. Also, we have increased personnel at the Transfer Station to help navigate, educate and patrol the new standards. The Transfer Station employees are there to help not to be anyone's punching bag. Shawn said he understands the frustrations, but the vendor controls the standards not the Town. If anyone has an issue, they should contact the Town Manager at the Town Office and not take it out on the Transfer Station employees. Bottom line is we either recycle abiding by the new standards properly or it goes to the landfill. There are no other deals out there for recycling.

Discussion. Helen Miller and Debbie Rogers both pointed out how helpful the Transfer Station employees have been and doing a great job to educate people nicely and professionally. Debbie Rogers asked about the curbside segment of the program. It's confusing. Shawn said curbside pickup criteria has not changed which is requiring recyclables to be in clear plastic bags. The confusing part is that plastic bags are not accepted by the vendor so if you take your recyclable items to the Transfer Station personally you will be required to dump the items out of the bag. When picked up at curbside the employees are dumping items from the bags, checking through items, and disposing the plastic bags into solid waste since they are recycling prohibited. The Town is still trying to figure out the curbside program which could mean changes in the future but for now its manageable.

Item 5. Peter Vogell introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

Item 6. Other Business as Required: Gordon MacArthur pointed out that Golf Carts are not permitted to be driving around on Town or State roads. The Sheriff's Dept has been in Town lately and pulling over golf carts. The only legal way to use a golf cart is to drive across the road from one point to another.

Communications: NONE.

Peter acknowledged the public present: -Debbie Rogers said she understands there will be a "Binding Survey" available during the Nov Election voting timeframe with names recommended by the Town's Island Name Change Committee (INCC) for renaming Upper & Lower Negro Islands. Debbie asked that the Selectboard please consider adding to the beginning of the survey the option to leave the Island names Upper & Lower Negro Islands. Then whatever the result from this survey, whether it be the original names or the INCC recommendations, be submitted to the US Board of Geographical Names. This could allow more voters to weigh in on the topic. Discussion.

Gordon MacArthur said he personally does not have an issue with what Debbie Rogers is requesting but pointed out that the US Board of Geographic Names will change the names with

or without the Town's preference. Debbie said not necessarily, she said there is another community that submitted for names not to change, and the US Board opted to leave the names.

Peter Vogell recognized the INCC for their hard work and the long research they did to come up with choices and definitions for why they chose those recommendations.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, reminded that the INCC met for over 15 months, held over 30 public mtgs, etc. which were open to the public for anyone to participate, give input and present additional options. This is not the time to do it after their report has been submitted to the Selectboard. David Adams said he did submit a letter to the INCC urging them to do more research on pertinent discoveries but was brushed off.

The Selectboard said they would consider the additional option and look into the format for the Binding Survey with the Town Manager's assistance.

-Bobby Vagt asked if paving prices could be obtained and made public for area on Court Street in front of the Fire Station. The area is like the surface of Mars and it's not good for the Fire trucks or fair to our volunteers to have a road condition like such. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager said he has a mtg scheduled with Greg Bowden when he returns from vacation. With fuel costs decreasing we are hoping that this will also reflect the cost of paving.

-Liz Parish asked if the Fire Station report is finalized and if it is available. Peter answered the report has not yet been received. The Selectboard was looking into it. Liz asked how that could be. She said it was not fair that the Town is still waiting, and we should have it by now.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, said he received an email about 3-weeks ago from the consultant saying they were finalizing some details with the report; 2-weeks ago Shawn sent an email asking the status and he has not received a response yet. The Town does not know what the hold up is. Also, the Town did not give any timeframes or a deadline for receiving the completed document but thought we'd have it by now.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtg:

Monday, 9/19/22 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wednesday, 9/21/22 at 8AM - T/G Mtg if needed.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to adjourn. Second by Colin Powell. Peter asked for votes.

Gordon stated yes to adjourn. Colin stated yes to adjourn. Peter stated yes to adjourn.

Approved 3-0.

Mtg adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: September 06, 2022
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Recycling. The facility, formerly known as Fiberite, that Castine used to send its zero sort recycling to be processed has been closed since mid-2020. Until recently, Castine's recyclables have been being handled in accordance with the Municipal Review Committees' (MRC) bypass plan and have been taken instead to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) where they have been incinerated for energy. Since the Fiberite closure, the re-opening of the facility has undergone multiple starts and stops. Recently, the MRC finalized the purchase of the facility, but it will be several more months before initial operations are underway and several more months beyond this to achieve full operational capability of the facility. Understanding that recycling is important to the community, the Selectboard placed an article on this last town meeting warrant to increase the transfer station budget so that the town could begin recycling again in a most likely temporary fashion through another vendor while the town waits on the Hampden facility to re-open. Following the town vote in May, and after checking with other communities, Castine re-started recycling in late July by sending its zero sort to Pine Tree Waste. The new vendor has different standards than the town became accustomed to with Fiberite. To prepare, we discussed the new standards at Selectboard meetings, put information flyers in every tax bill sent out and put the information on the town web page. Understanding that the information still wouldn't get to some, we increased the staffing at the transfer station so that town staff could conduct on-the-spot inspections and information sharing with customers. The



transition to a new vendor with new standards for recycled materials has been hard, but it is important for the town residents to understand the options, which are either recycle or landfill. There are no better deals out there that we can find with different standards for recyclable materials. The final point that I would like to make is that the transfer station attendants are there to help you but are not there to bear the brunt of resident's ire because recycling standards have changed. They did not come up with the new standards, the vendor did. If a resident has a complaint regarding recycling, call me.

2. Community Resilience Partnership Resolution. So the the Town of Castine will qualify for a Community Resiliency Partnership grant of up to \$50,000, I respectfully request that the Selectboard approve the resolution that I have provided. The preamble paragraph as well as the resolution paragraphs at the end are required by the State. I have provided the Selectboard with the example resolution provided by the State and crossed out some paragraphs from the optional examples which have limited value for Castine such as: transitioning municipal vehicle fleets to electric vehicles, a paragraph on Gulf of Maine warming, a reference to the State of Maine's four year climate action plan and a paragraph on a requirement for the State of Maine to act with urgency.

3. British Canal Sign Stolen Again. On Friday night or Saturday Morning, the sign at the British Canal was stolen again. Appropriate authorities have been informed.