

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

Pd
GM

DATE: Monday, October 17, 2022

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Peter Vogell, Chair, Gordon MacArthur, Selectboard member; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer & Susan Macomber, Town Clerk (Colin Powell, Selectboard member absent).

PUBLIC: Liz Parish, Josh Adam, Scott Vogell, Joe Slocum, Marc Pelletier, Roberta & Bruce Boczkiewicz, Pam Scott, Bente Hartmann, Tony Politano, Brooke Tenney, Peg & Mac Patterson, Helen Miller, David Adams and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Peter Vogell opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Peter Vogell verified that there was a quorum with Gordon MacArthur and himself 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 \$165,863.28. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Peter asked for votes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve.

General Fund Warrant approved 2-0.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve Water Warrant in the amount of \$44,311.85. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Peter asked for votes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Peter stated yes to approve. Water Warrant approved 2-0.

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

October 3, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Item 1. Peter Vogell introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

#3 Easement & Opportunity: Shawn also included a power point presentation.

Discussion.

Marc Pelletier recommended the Town install safety ballards at bottom & corner of Pleasant & Water Streets where there is a blind spot. He also asked why not take the 4' painted pedestrian walkway and transition that to curb/sidewalk. Shawn and Gordon both answered that drainage would be an issue and that 8' is better than 4'. Shawn added that the easement is 44' wide which will allow for the slope needed to create the walkway for the first year and then transition to the sidewalk project next year.

Karen Motykca pointed out that safety ballards could prevent a problem with snowplowing. Scott Vogell asked why the sidewalk could not be placed on the other side of Pleasant St. Shawn answered that there is a house foundation too close to allow and there is already an existing sidewalk network on the east side of Pleasant St to flow down to this proposed addition.

Tony Politano asked who would shovel the new sidewalk area. Shawn answered that issue was decided at last year's May Town Mtg, therefore, it would not get shoveled. We will cross that bridge when the new sidewalk exists.

Item 2. Other Business as Required = NONE.

Communications: -Email from Kate Noel regarding scheduling a T/G Mtg. It was decided to schedule Monday, Nov 7 at 3:15PM.

-Letter from the Town of Brooklin addressing the Blue Hill Peninsula Housing crisis. A group met on Thursday, Sept 22 to discuss, next mtg is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 19 @ 5:30PM in Sedgwick Town Office. Letter was sent to all area Town representatives.

-Email from Bente Hartmann asking the Town to consider changing the overnight parking ban to exclude the month of November. Bente said in recent years there has been little or no snow to plow during November. She asked if the parking ban could be extended to start Dec 1st or some sort of flexibility be in place. Peter Vogell said a Public Hearing needs to be scheduled to amend the Traffic Ordinance.

Marc Pelletier said the Town could give out notices for upcoming predicted storms to allow discretion measures and delay overnight parking ban to Dec 1st.

Gordon MacArthur said you'd be surprised about how many people do not look at the Town's website for notices or updates or posting on the Town bulletin board.

Tony Politano asked what the procedures were for overriding violations for posted No Parking This Side of Street, etc. Shawn said as Road Commissioner and for safety factors he has the authority to override.

Tony also asked if we knew what other Towns do for preparing for the snow season and for snow events. The Selectboard said they would check.

Discussion.

Public Hearing was scheduled for Monday, Nov 7 at 4PM.

Peter acknowledged the public present: -Pam Scott had handouts for the Selectboard showing information printed from the US Board of Geographic Names (USBGN) website. Pam said their website has been updated and there are policies that relate to Castine's issue. Pam said the USBGN will not change the names if the Town does not want it. They take serious what input they receive from the communities. Shawn addressed saying there has been an official complaint filed to the USBGN and with all the information given to the Town it is our understanding that the USBGN will act on that original complaint. Discussion.

-Brooke Tenney asked if a Castine representative will be attending the Peninsula Housing crisis mtg on Oct 19th. Peter Vogell said he plans to attend, and Roberta Boczkiewicz said she could as well as a Castine Comprehensive Planning Committee member. Brooke asked that an update from that mtg be given at the next Selectboard Mtg.

-Marc Pelletier said 1) he googled and found that Orland's overnight parking ban is from 11/1 – 4/1 and Stonington's is 12/1 – 4/15 in certain areas.

2) he asked about the Fire Station process and if the Town was going to be hiring a Project Manager/Owner's Representative. He said if the Town was going to be spending millions of dollars on this project it would be prudent to have a manager to assist with controlling costs, the budget, takes care of ROP's and RFP's, meetings with the architects and Town, inspections, punch lists, etc. Marc says he fully supports a new fire station but are we going to budget to an architect design and how are we going to pay for the project?

Joe Slocum said he agrees with Marc on having a Project/Construction Manager but said there are items that need to be ironed out first i.e. location is key and a priority especially for evaluating costs. Each component of the project falls into place after that. Get a preliminary design as a starting point. It is guaranteed things will change and then bring in a Project/Construction Manager after those items are ironed out.

Discussion.

Peter Vogell said we are still quite a way down the road yet. After the Town gets the final assessment report the Selectboard will hold an Informational Mtg to find out what the community wants. We must take one step at a time.

Shawn Blodgett said the Town will have a Project/Construction Manager like Marc Pelletier recommends and like Joe Slocum describes. The current factor is time. Timing is what we are dealing with right now.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtg:

Monday, 11/7/22 at 3:15PM – T/G Mtg.

Monday, 11/7/22 at 4PM – Public Hearing to discuss amending the Traffic Ordinance.

Monday, 11/7/22 immediately following the Public Hearing – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Tuesday, 11/8/22 – Election Day.

Monday, 11/21/22 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

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

Peter asked for votes. Gordon stated yes to adjourn. Peter stated yes to adjourn. Approved 2-0.

Mtg adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: October 17, 2022
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Recycling Reminder. We have transitioned to winter dates for re-cycling pickup. Recycling will be picked up on the 1st and 3d Tuesdays of each month.

2. Perkins/Pleasant/Water Street Stormwater Project Update. Trench paving has been completed throughout the project area. The new catch basin, pipe, ditching and pavement are complete on Western Perkins Street. The last remaining piece of this project will be to emplace the top layer of overlay for which we are awaiting good weather.

3. Easement and Opportunity. As part of the Perkins/Pleasant/Water stormwater mitigation project, the town's contractor had to cut into the slope on the inside, or eastern curve of Water Street to get the upsized pipes into the correct location in the pavement. This presented the town with an opportunity, so we have negotiated an easement with the property owner so that the town would have the required space to emplace a pedestrian walkway around the blind corner of Water Street and enable pedestrians to safely transit this area of town. We are happy to report that Direxa Dearie was supportive of our proposal and has signed the easement which will give the town the space to address a multiple decades long public safety issue. (Transition) Some of this has already started, but the rest can be accomplished in two phases. What we envision is to widen the road. The previous pavement width was around 29 feet wide at the Perkins/Pleasant intersection and between 22-23' wide for the



rest of this section until one gets to the corner. The pavement will now be 31' wide at the road intersection and a uniform 27' wide for the rest- getting a little wider at the downhill corner. This will allow us a 23' wide road for driving surface with a 4' wide pedestrian walkway on the inside corner. This phase can be accomplished this year. The next phase will require both the Selectboard and the town's support to come to fruition. Phase Two will be to come back to this same area, emplace curbing, construct an ADA compliant sidewalk on Water Street and refurbish the sidewalks to Court Street. A rough order of magnitude cost for the entire project will be in the 170-thousand-dollar range. However, I am confident that we can use the second tranche of the town's American Rescue Plan (ARPA) money for this purpose. The town has \$52,385.44 in unspent money received through ARPA but this will require the town to vote to approve the expenditure. Regardless of where the money comes from, we have an achievable path forward to fix this problem. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Direxa Dearie for her community minded support which was critical to address this very old public safety issue.