

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

GBM
CP
RB

DATE: Monday, December 5, 2022

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Colin Powell, Chair, Gordon MacArthur, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer & Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Bruce Boczkiewicz, Scott Vogell, Don Tenney, Ann Blodgett, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Gus Basile, Tom Comiciotto, Ruth Ann & Bobby Vagt, Lisa Simpson Lutts, Tony Politano, Jimmy Goodson, and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Liz Parish, Sayres and Helen Miller.

Colin Powell opened the meeting at 4PM.

Colin Powell verified that there was a quorum.

Colin asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: None; Gordon MacArthur read a statement of thanks to Peter Vogell for his decades of service and dedication to Castine as a Selectboard member and wished him the best for the future especially to enjoy winters in Florida and not have to travel back and forth for meetings. "No one shall be able to match what Peter's given".

Colin Powell asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections; Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$41,400.69. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Roberta pointed out that this warrant has 48 different expenses being paid, drainage, dock bathrooms, salt, etc to name a few. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve.

General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$26,321.76. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve a Fire/Rescue Dept Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$10,150. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve.

Fire/Rescue Payroll Warrant approved 3-1.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the November 21, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Colin said his name was spelled wrong on Pg 2 Item #3. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. November 21, 2022, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Colin Powell introduced approving the FY23 Water Dept Budget as recommended by the Utility Board. Gordon MacArthur made a motion to approve the FY23 Water Dept Budget in the amount of \$566,652 as recommended by the Utility Board. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. The budget covers 1/1/23 – 12/31/23 and there is a less than 1% increase as compared to last year's budget. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. FY23 Water Dept Budget approved 3-0.

Item 2. Colin Powell introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

#2 British Canal Sign & Date: CHS Lisa Simpson Lutts addressed. The CHS has done some research and found that the 1779 date posted on the British Canal sign is in error it should say 1812. Lisa gave a summary of the research (handout). The CHS would like the sign to be accurate. The Selectboard all thanked Lisa and the CHS for this information.

#8 Fort George: Tony Politano & Lisa Lutz reviewed background and history of how the "Friends of the Forts" was formed and their efforts. The Friends group got grant money to complete a study of Fort George. Then COVID hit. Any progress stopped. It would be good to get that effort up and running again. Should the Town create a Committee?

#7 Mistaken Appointment: Shawn said at the last Selectboard Mtg the made a mistake in recommending appointing Justin Cooper to the ZBOA as he thought there was a current opening. Gordon MacArthur made motion to rescind Justin Cooper's appointment to the ZBOA. Second by Colin Powell. Rescind Appointment approved 3-0.

Remote Participation Policy: Shawn reviewed a draft revised Policy and why the Policy was established in the first place. Castine has adopted the Policy template circulated by the Maine Municipal Association with its main purpose to allow Board/Committee members who cannot be present at a mtg to still participate, be present and allow the Board/Committee to function and operate. The pandemic drove this Policy to be a reality for today and the future.

Here are the items added to the revised draft:

- There will be a good faith effort to provide remote access for public participation
- The Town cannot be held responsible for failure of equipment, internet, or any other technology

- All communications from the public attending remotely will be controlled by the Chair and at the Chair's recognition

Shawn pointed out that Colin (Chair) had a laptop in front of him and would recognize anyone on ZOOM by the "raise the hand" feature to speak.

Discussion.

Helen Miller (ZOOM – raised hand) asked if Shawn checked to compare other surrounding communities to see how they were operating meetings remotely to allow public participation. She said it is important as it is the sign of the times. Shawn said he had not.

Item 3. Other Business as Required = None.

Communications: NONE

Colin acknowledged the public present: -Don Tenney said he's noticed a lot of vehicles on Battle Ave hitting a significant pothole. He asked if the pothole location was on the borderline of town responsibility or State. Shawn said the Town will get perm-patch in it.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtg:

Monday, 12/19/22 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

-Gordon asked if MMA has reached out to schedule a Dec T/G Mtg. Nothing yet.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to adjourn. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

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

Mtg adjourned at 4:31PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: December 05, 2022
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Community Resiliency Partnership Grant. Castine has been named a recipient of a \$50,000 Community Action Grant from the Community Resiliency Partnership. The grant money will be used to transition as many remaining non-LED fixtures in Emerson Hall, The Adams School and the Library as we can with grant money. The money will also be used to increase the R-Value of the Emerson Hall attic insulation to 2022 Region 6 standards as well as replace two energy inefficient fire escape doors with more modern replicas.

2. British Canal Sign and Date. Lisa Simpson Lutts from the Castine Historical Society is with us tonight with handouts to discuss correcting the dates on the sign when the new one is put back up in the Spring.

3. High Water Signs. Recently, I spoke with the Selectboard about meeting with the Maine Department of Transportation Region 4 Planner regarding the routine overtopping of the road in the vicinity of Dunc's Meadow. We have also been in touch with the Region 4 signs folks who are looking into signage improvements at this point. As the Selectboard knows, there are no streetlights in this area and the Fire Department routinely has to cone off or put barricades up during high water events. We are going to try to do better than this.



4. Blue Hill YMCA. Recently, I received a query from a Castine resident asking why Castine was not a supporting community for the YMCA. I spoke with the Branch Director and in front of the Selectboard is their “ask” of \$1500 along with the benefits of the expenditure. As this was not budgeted and we are in the middle of the fiscal year, we would have to allocate from budget lines that the town has already approved or from Selectboard contingency. As we are in the middle of the budget year, I would also need to check with them on pro-rating this should the Selectboard approve.

5. Perma-patching or Cold Patching Around Town. Since last Wednesday, Castine Public Works have emplaced approximately 1800 Lbs. of perma-patch around town to patch any potholes that we are aware of before winter. If any Castine resident sees one that we have missed, do not hesitate to send us an email to let us know.

6. Harbor Committee Training Attendance. The Harbor Committee have requested to send one of their number to the annual Harbor Masters Training event. Attendance to this event is required for Harbor Masters to ensure continued qualification. The Harbor Committee felt that it would be valuable for one of their number to attend to provide greater understanding of harbor operations for their committee. The cost is \$335 and can be covered using the Dock-Wharf-Float account.

7. Mistaken Appointment. At the last Selectboard meeting, I made a mistake in recommending Justin Cooper’s appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals as I thought that there was currently an opening. However, there is not, so I must respectfully request that the Selectboard rescind the appointment of Justin Cooper to this board.

8. Fort George. I would like to continue the discussion with the Selectboard on Fort George. Is a committee the answer to move this forward?