

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

GBM
RIB

(Zoom)

DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2023

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur – Acting Chair, Colin Powell (ZOOM), Roberta Boczkiewicz, Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager & Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Patrick & Lisa Haugen, Terry Biggie, Craig Dagan, Marc Pelletier, Marty Tenney, Pat Bishop, Don Tenney, Scott Vogell, Pat Irving, Josh Adam, Lynn Cooper, Marcia Mason, Liz Shook, and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Bruce Boczkiewicz, Helen Miller, Kay Hightower, Wyllys Terry, Marianne Lee, Dottie Sherling, Brooke Tenney and Anne Fuentes.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:03PM (getting ZOOM on).

Gordon MacArthur verified that there was a quorum.

Gordon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: None.

Gordon MacArthur asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$64,255.91. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta pointed out that the bulk of this warrant was paying expenses for CMP & Coastal Energy bill, axles for canon, etc. Roberta also said she wanted to clarify her mistake from last meeting that expenses paid on the General Fund warrant was to fire protection not Fire Department. Gordon asked for votes: Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$6,801.40. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the January 3, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Roberta stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Colin Powell abstained (absent). January 3, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the minutes for the Executive Session portion of the January 9, 2023, Work Session. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. January 9, 2023, Selectboard Executive Session minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the minutes for the Executive Session of the January 12, 2023, Work Session. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. January 12, 2023, Selectboard Executive Session minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving reappointment to the CHPC.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, said this item will not be addressed at this time due to questions regarding term limits for Commissioners.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced presentation from the Friends of Castine Pickleball.

Terry Biggie, one of the founding members of the Friends of Castine Pickleball, gave a brief summary. The Friends of Castine Pickleball are asking to target the Backshore Beach area to build up to three (3) outdoor pickleball courts. They hope to make a gift of \$100,000 to the Town for this project by fundraising, donations, etc. There are over 200 residents, family members, neighbors, and friends who support this project. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US and has developed a passionate following for many in Castine. Over 125 pickleball players in 2022 ranging in age from 5 to 85, played and this number does not include MMA or Adams School students. Pickleball players were able to play at Penobscot Elementary School and then transitioned to the MMA Fieldhouse in August '22.

They are extremely grateful for the indoor courts, especially during the winter and inclement weather but indoor courts:

- Typically have multiple sports' lines, which represent all the different sports;
- Minimize focus on health benefits like fresh air and sunlight exposure;
- Reach sweltering temperatures during the summer because of no air conditioning;
- Access can be denied if the spaces are needed for other purposes;

Their goal is to build these town owned courts with private funding at no expense to the Castine Townspeople. Their preliminary research regarding costs indicate an amount around \$125,000 which would include not only the building of the courts but also nets, fencing, equipment, a small storage shed, signage, benches, and other necessary items. They will be able to determine a more accurate budget once we have the Selectboard's permission to access the land to gather more information on the subsoil.

Friends of Pickleball plan to offer their time, talents, and resources as stewards of this project and to include:

- Work to obtain necessary building permits;

- Secure 100% of the funding for the project build;
- Manage the opening/closing of each playing season;
- Manage day-to-day maintenance of the courts;
- Organize day-to-day playing schedule by way of a software program;
- Work with the Town & REC Committee to determine a future maintenance plan (the courts will require resurfacing every 5 years or so; cost is approximately \$7,500; funding for maintenance plan can be accomplished by a combination of appropriations and donations.

It was brought up that Friends of Pickleball checked with Finance Officer, Karen Motykca, on insurance liability and was told that if the courts were owned by the Town the insurance costs would be minimal. Also, Susan Macomber, Town Clerk, said insurance liability waiver forms can be completed by players.

Discussion regarding timeline and next steps.

Susan Macomber, Town Clerk, pointed out that this issue needed to be approved by Town voters. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, said the Town is going to be scheduling a Special Town Mtg after 2/14/23 to address the Captain's Catch business on the Town Dock.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to allow Friends of Pickleball to access the Backshore Beach property to do additional research and evaluations they need as a start. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Allowing Friends of Pickleball to access the Backshore Beach to collect additional information approved 3-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

#2 American Tower Update: Mark Pelletier asked if it was possible to negotiate with American Tower to have them build a garage for dual purposes that we need. Shawn Blodgett said American Towers objective is predictability.

#5 Maine Coast Heritage Trust Trail: Josh Adam said work at this MCHT trail has already started. Looks like they've done most of the work except culvert work. Shawn Blodgett said no they just started doing a few things, like removing trees, etc. which does not need a building permit. They had an issued building permit for the project, but MCHT made a mistake on the amount of earthmoving and needed to re-submit for Planning Board review.

#1 Recycling Zero Sort Cost etc: Dottie Sherling (ZOOM) asked if there was a record of who put recycling out for pickup and then notifying them if they've violated the rules. Shawn Blodgett said the Town does not keep track of people utilizing the curbside pickup programs, but we do notify with a detailed informational ticket if they've violated. Marc Pelletier said why doesn't the Town stop picking up recycling to those who violate and make them take it to the Transfer Station. Gordon MacArthur said the system is working generally well. He said a long time ago

Peter Vogell told him "if you stop curbside pickup people will just throw items in the road". We will continue to keep an eye on things and monitor. It's all about the education.

#3 Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association Donation: Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association's donation of equipment which totals \$9,220.50. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Roberta states yes to approve. Colin Powell stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. CFRVA equipment donation approved 3-0.

#4 Maine Maritime Academy Klondike Event: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Klondike event on Feb 3-5, 2023, utilizing Fort George. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Feb 3-5, 2023, Klondike event utilizing Ft George approved 3-0.

Shawn Blodgett added that since Roberta brought up the canon axle, he thought he would explain further. There has been a canon sitting in Emerson Hall basement which was donated to the Town and was on the USS Castine. It's an 1899 canon & carriage. We are refurbishing it to use in Town special events.

Item 4. Other Business as Required = None.

Communications: -NONE.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -NONE.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtg:

Monday, 2/6/23 at 4AM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Tuesday, 2/21/23 (due to the President's Day Holiday) at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

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

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Roberta stated yes to adjourn. Colin stated yes to adjourn. Gordon stated yes to adjourn.

Approved 3-0. Mtg adjourned at 4:48PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: January 17, 2023
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Recycling Zero Sort Cost etc. Our Zero Sort cost keeps increasing. Late last week, we were informed that our cost increased to \$225 a ton. This is an increase of \$75 dollars a ton since July of 2022. Castine does just over 100 tons a year in recycling, so our assessment is that we can continue to bear the increased cost which will be around \$7,500 for the year. However, we will need to factor in this increased cost into next years budget. Also on recycling, we are having fewer problems with those dropping their recycling off at the transfer station but are still having problems with curbside pickup. The issue with the curbside pickup is that residents are sticking paper towels and toilet tissue into their recycling. Neither public works nor the transfer station attendants are going to go through residents recyclables and if issues are found with a bag, it goes into the landfill dumpster – also costing the town money.

2. American Tower Update. As mentioned to the Selectboard at an earlier meeting, American Tower has contacted the town on multiple occasions seeking two things. The first is a 35-year lease extension and the second thing they are looking for is a “right of first refusal” should the town ever seek to sell the transfer station property where the tower currently sits. After consulting with the Town Attorney, I was informed that the Selectboard has the authority to extend the lease, but the town would have to approve the right of first refusal. American Tower is offering a one-time bonus payment to Castine of \$15,000 for the lease extension and possibly another payment should the town

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vote to grant the right of first refusal. This is important as I am trying to figure out how to pay for much needed upgrades at the Public Works building as well as attempting to solve the problem of where and how to store the new electric school bus that Castine will procure in the coming year through a grant. We currently have \$19,958 in our public works facility maintenance account. I would recommend that we make this issue a topic of discussion at an upcoming work session and strategize the prioritization and funding of this facility upgrade.

3. Castine Fire Rescue Association Donation. In front of each of the Selectboard is this year's acceptance letter for the Castine Fire Rescue Association's donation of equipment to the town which totals \$9,220.50. For those that do not know, the CFRVA is a fundraising charity, staffed by the Fire Department and associates, that raises money through the year, buys equipment and donates this equipment to the town to improve the department.

4. Maine Maritime Academy Klondike Event. MMA would like to conduct their Klondike Event again this year with local Scouting Troops. They are requesting the use of the Fort from February 3-5. Further they are requesting warming fires in portable, above ground fire pits as well as utilization of the parking area for food cooking. They will not be burning on the ground nor digging fire pits. The Fire Chief is supportive and Assistant Chief and Christine Spratt are two of the organizers of the event. I request approval of this event.

5. Maine Coast Heritage Trust Trail. The MCHT has a building permit pending to build an access trail spur on their deeded access easement on the western 50' of the property that the town purchased on Battle Avenue. They will begin work on the trail as soon as possible once they have completed Planning Board review. The next scheduled Planning Board meetings are on the 2d of February for a work session and a Public Hearing on the 9th of February for the Planning Board vote. I am bringing this up for the community's awareness as this



project does not have anything to do with the possibility of a new fire station on this site. This project is nothing more than MCHT exercising their deeded right to a right of way across this edge of the property. The project will entail the construction of an approximately 150' long by 6-8 feet wide access trail along with the installation of a culvert for a crossing point onto Battle Avenue.

6. Staff Vacations. For the Selectboard's and the community's awareness, Karen is off this week. The Fire Chief will be out of town from March 11th through the 21st. Likewise, the Town Clerk will be out of town on the same dates, but Karen will be in the office, so we will be able to continue to provide those services. However, I intend to be on vacation from February 14 through March 03d. With Dale Abernethy's passing, we do not currently have a backup CEO. Until this can be rectified, residents may experience delays in building permits during this time period.