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**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Emerson Hall**

Present: Gordon MacArthur, Acting Chair; Colin Powell (Zoom) and Roberta Boczkiewicz (Zoom), Selectboard; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager and Karen Motycka, Finance Officer.

Public: Marc Pelletier, David Adams, Brooke Tenney, Gus Basile, Bobby and Ruth Ann Vagt, Josh Adam, Richard Anderson, Kevin Coady and David Avery for "Castine Patriot".

Zoom: Bruce Boczkiewicz, Kay Hightower, Ann Miller, Helen Miller, Debbie Rogers and Penny Carlhian.

Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. It was verified that a quorum was present by roll call.

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

Gordon asked for a motion to approve warrants, abatements, budget vs actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections. Gordon made a motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$90,707.47. Colin seconded the motion and Roberta commented that the bills covered items from electric bills to debt service payments. Gordon called for a vote by roll call.

Approved 3 – 0 (Colin – Yes, Roberta – Yes, Gordon – Yes).

Gordon made a motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$24,085.21. Roberta seconded the motion. Gordon called for a vote by roll call.

Approved 3 – 0 (Colin – Yes, Roberta – Yes, Gordon – Yes).

Gordon asked for a motion to approve the March 6, 2023 Selectboard Meeting Minutes. Colin made the motion to approve, Roberta seconded the motion. Gordon called for a vote by roll call.

Approved 3 – 0 (Colin – Yes, Roberta – Yes, Gordon – Yes).

Item 1.

Gordon introduced the Town Manager's Report. Shawn read his report (attached to become part of the minutes). Shawn requested that the Selectboard approve the expenditures for the Community Resiliency Partnership Grant to update lighting at Town Hall, the Library and Adams school with LED fixtures, install additional insulation in the attic of Emerson Hall and add two new energy efficient doors to the main floor fire escapes at Town Hall. Gordon made a motion to approve the expenditures. Colin seconded the motion. Gordon called for a vote by roll call.

Approved 3 – 0 (Colin – Yes, Roberta – Yes, Gordon – Yes).

Debbie Rogers said she had a question about Town Managers Report. She asked if the Town would put the Maine Maritime Academy Waterfront Report on the Town's website. Shawn explained that this is not a Town project. However, the report is public information, as the town, along with every other abutting property owner received a copy. If anyone wants a copy, the town has an electronic copy that we will share.

Item 2.

Gordon asked if there was any other business. There was none.

Communications – Gordon read an email written to the Selectboard from Mary Kneisel in regards to her thoughts on the MMA Proposed Waterfront Project.

Shawn read an email from the Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation offering to give a presentation to the Selectboard regarding an emergency moratorium around industrial scale aquaculture.

Shawn read an email from Zach Sawyer, Assistant Director of Admissions at Maine Maritime Academy reaching out about a Leadership Challenge Weekend event for JROTC Cadets throughout Maine and New England. They request to use the facilities at Fort Madison, Fort George and the Back Shore for training exercises. Gordon asked for a motion to approve use of facilities. Colin made motion to approve. Gordon seconded the motion. Josh Adam commented that he did not think it appropriate for hundreds of cadets to stomp around the wet grounds at the Forts. Gordon said he did not believe it would be hundreds of cadets, but thanked Josh for his concern. Gordon called for a vote by roll call.

Approved 3 – 0 (Colin – Yes, Roberta – Yes, Gordon – Yes).

Gordon acknowledged members of the public.

Gus asked about Pesticide Policy vs the Source Water Protection Ordinance. Shawn said the Ordinance would override the Policy. The Policy pertains to town owned property only. Marc Pelletier asked if property owners and contractors should be made aware of the Ordinance. Shawn said most contractors are, as they have repeat customers. Karen said that each spring, every property owner in the Source Water Protection Zone is sent a postcard reminding them of the Source Water Protection Ordinance.

Kevin Coady introduced himself and asked if the Selectboard had received correspondence from his attorney, Agnieszka A. Dixon of DrummondWoodsum in regard to the New Fire Station Project. Gordon affirmed they had and as they were not aware that Kevin would be at the meeting today the plan was to invite Kevin to a future meeting to discuss. However, since he was present, Kevin could read the letter. Kevin read the letter. Shawn asked about some of the chemicals listed in the correspondence. Shawn believed the attorney pulled a list of possible chemicals at fire stations and did not believe most of these were present at the Castine Station. Shawn verified again that Castine Fire has not used PFAS firefighting foam in over a decade.

Discussion and comments by several. Roberta said thank you to Mr. Coady, she felt the Selectboard needed time to look into some of the things his letter brings up.

Past Actions – there were none.

Selectboard Comments – there were none.

Kay Hightower asked if she could ask permission from the Selectboard to continue to look for possible areas for pickleball courts. Gordon said fine to look at any area. If one is found, they will need to come to the Selectboard and then to the Town. Kay said that was understood.

Schedule Next meetings – Monday, 04/03/23 and Tuesday, 04/18/23 (Patriots Day holiday is Monday, 04/17/23) both at 4PM. Town Meeting to be held Saturday, 05/13/23 at Emerson Hall, at 8:30AM.

With no other business, Colin made a motion to adjourn. Roberta seconded the motion. Gordon called for a vote by roll call.

Approved 3 – 0 (Colin – Yes, Roberta – Yes, Gordon – Yes).

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Minutes by Karen Motycka.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: March 20, 2023
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Snow Plowing Contract Bids In. After advertising in the Patriot and Ellsworth American for well over a month and direct mailing all local contractors who do municipal plowing, the town only received one bid. The bid was for \$91, 719.14 a year for the first year with a cap put on increases of no more than 3% per year.

2. Fort George Update. On the 13th, a public hearing was held by the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee in Augusta to hear testimony on LD 791 which is an act to provide funding for Fort George. At the hearing, Senator Grohoski, Reps Milliken and Russell (formerly of Castine, now living in Bucksport) and I testified in favor of the Bill. Andy Cutko, the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands testified neither for nor against the measure. As part of the American Rescue Plan funding that the State received, \$50 million was allocated as an injection to Maine State Parks. However, State Historical Sites were explicitly absent from the list authorizing BPL to provide funding. There are approximately 20 State owned historic sites spread around the State that could benefit from the increased funding being talked about now. While our local elected officials are pressing for funding for Fort George, BPL seems to prefer a more holistic approach and would seek funding for all 20 sites. I'd like to publicly thank Senator Grohoski and Representatives Milliken and Russell for their testimony as they did their homework and did a great job on behalf of Castine.



3. Community Resiliency Partnership Grant Update. We were finally able to get more bids in on energy efficiency upgrades for Emerson Hall, Witherle Memorial Library and the Adams School. Hampden Electrical is my recommendation to the Selectboard to complete the transition of all three buildings to LED lighting for a labor and material cost of \$32,988. Though all of this work will be covered by grant money, I respectfully request the Selectboard's authorization to finalize the contract with Hampden Electrical so that we can move forward with this project. Also, as part of the CRP grant, I received an updated bid from CJ Insulation for \$8,812 to substantially improve the insulation in the attic of Emerson Hall bringing the majority of this space up to R60 in value. Between these two bids, we will have between \$8,200-\$9,000 left for two new more energy efficient fire escape doors in Emerson Hall and I have been playing phone tag with vendors to get bids.

4. Source Water Protection Ordinance Update. I have been working with Olver Associates and their sub-contracted staff to update our Source Water Protection Ordinance. Before conspiracy theorists get warmed up on this initiative, this has nothing to do with the location of a new Fire Station. Our aquifer gets progressively move shallow as one moves across the peninsula from West to East and there has been a recognition for years that we are more stringent on applications on the eastern side of Castine than we are on the western side due to the depth of the aquifer. Our aim is to codify this recognition and develop a third zone where similar, but slightly stricter standards apply.

5. Emerson Hall Stage Nearing Completion. Public Works will put two more coats of poly on the stage floor upstairs but it already has two coats on it now and looks great while still retaining its character. My thanks to Henry Erhard and Scott Brown for doing a great job breathing life back into this part of Town Hall.