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**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 4:00 PM
Emerson Hall**

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

Public: Marc Pelletier, Randy Stearns, Joe Slocum, Gus Basile, Josh Adam, Brooke Tenney, Carmen Montes for Sedexo and David Avery for "Castine Patriot".

Zoom: Bruce Boczkiewicz, Liz Parish, Helen Miller, Debbie Rogers, Bill Eisenhardt and Sue Macomber.

Colin called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and verified that a quorum was present.

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

Colin 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 \$105,399.47. Roberta seconded the motion. With no discussion, Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Colin asked for a motion to approve a second General Fund Warrant. Roberta made a motion to approve a second General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$18,812.58. Gordon seconded the motion. With no discussion, Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Colin asked for a motion to approve the Water Warrant. Gordon made a motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$14,849.05. Roberta seconded the motion. With no discussion, Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Colin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2023 Selectboard Meeting. Gordon made a motion to approve the April 3, 2023, Selectboard Meeting Minutes. Colin seconded the motion. With no discussion, Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Item 1.

Colin introduced approval of revised Sodexo Operations, LLC (MMA) Liquor License. Maine Maritime Academy put permanent fencing around the Wyman House on Battle Ave to include

this area for serving liquor. Carmen Montes of Sedexo was present for any questions. Colin made a motion to approve the revised liquor license. Gordon seconded the motion. With no discussion, Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Item 2.

Colin introduced approval of the Town Dock Vendor Lease. Shawn summarized, saying the lease would be with Safe Harbor, run by Julia Cooper and Jody Mabus. The hours of operation will be Wednesday – Sunday 11 AM – 7PM. They will help to keep the dock area clean of trash and will also check and tidy the dock bathrooms daily. Gordon made a motion to approve the Town Dock Vendor Lease with Safe Harbor. Roberta seconded the motion. Marc Pelletier asked if they were prevented from extending their hours? Shawn answered no, these are minimum hours. Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Item 3.

Colin introduced the Town Manager's Report. Shawn read the report (attached to become part of the minutes). Colin made a motion for the Town to apply for the Northern Border Regional Commission Grant in an amount of \$1.915 million for western Court Street from Pleasant to Tarratine Streets. The Town would need to come up with 50% matching funds, either through surplus or borrowing. Roberta seconded the motion. Marc Pelletier asked about the estimated construction costs and what happens if the project costs more than the estimation. Shawn said a 20% contingency had been built into the estimate. Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Colin asked for a motion to spend up to \$9,000 on a Fire Department Emergency Response Vehicle. Roberta made a motion to approve the purchase. Colin seconded the motion. Gordon asked if the vehicle had passed inspection. Randy answered that it had. Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Colin made a motion to approve the Tree City Proclamation. Gordon seconded the motion. With no discussion, Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Item 4.

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

Colin asked if there were any communications. There were none.

Colin acknowledged members of the public.

Josh Adam asked when the Public Hearings for a Fire Station were going to take place. Shawn answered that none have been scheduled. Josh reminded the Selectboard and Shawn that Port City has been paid for two Public Hearings within the contract and only one has happened. Shawn said he would note. Josh also commented on Kevin Coady's letter. Josh called the law firm and asked where they got their information. It was from a report done by Columbia University, where they monitored two fire stations in Buffalo, NY. The chemicals listed were ones that the report listed as often coming back to the station. Josh gave a copy of the report to the Selectboard and Shawn. Josh was thanked.

Gus Basile reiterated a comment he made at a previous meeting about the new Castine Public Works Employee being a firefighter as well. He suggested that the Selectboard ask Maine Maritime Academy at a Town/Gown Meeting about encouraging their employees to join Castine Fire Rescue. Gus also had specific Worker's Comp for Firefighters questions. The questions he had would need to be answered by Maine Municipal Risk Management. Colin thanked Gus for his comments.

Past Actions – On March 6, the Selectboard approved an Amusement License for The Elms at Castine. That license listed just one event. Business Amusement Licenses are valid for the calendar year. The Elms at Castine is continuing with additional music events this year. The Selectboard should acknowledge that The Elms at Castine Amusement License is valid for the 2023 calendar year. Gordon made a motion to approve. Roberta seconded the motion. Colin called for a vote.

Approved 3 – 0.

Selectboard Comments – There were none.

Schedule Next meetings – Monday, 05/01/23 at 4PM and Monday, 05/15/23 at 4PM. Town Meeting is Saturday, 05/13/23 at 8:30AM.

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

Approved 3 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Minutes by Karen Motycka.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: April 18, 2023
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Broadband Fiber Update and ACP. The latest report that I have from the Peninsula Utility for Broadband, or PUB, is that the new fiber network will be up and running by April 28th. As previously discussed, the new carrier is called Fidium Fiber and they are advertising higher connection speeds than many outlying homes can find on the market at the current time. There is also a program called the Affordable Connectivity Program that I would like to talk about. This program provides internet service at reduced rates for households that meet largely income-based requirements. Only around 30% of Maine households who qualify have signed up and the percentage is only around 10% of eligible homes in Castine. I have printed up flyers to get the word out and sent the same to the Castine Area Relief Fund etc. We will also post this flyer on the town web and facebook pages.

2. Fire Department Emergency Response Vehicle Request. The CFRD requests to buy a surplus vehicle from Farmingdale. As the Selectboard is aware, the CFRD's Rescue 1 vehicle has been having mechanical difficulties and the fire department will be re-starting the community medicine program again soon. I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize the expenditure of no more than \$9,000 to enable the CFRD to buy this vehicle.

3. Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Grant Opportunity.

Construction prices continue to skyrocket. We are routinely updating our



rough order of magnitude cost estimates for projects around town. Recently, I asked Olver Associates to update our last western Court Street estimate (from approximately Pleasant Street to Tarratine) for 2023 and the numbers are staggering. Two years ago, this project was estimated at approximately 2.5 million, but we are looking at 3.83 million this year. We are continuously seeking external funding opportunities for large capital infrastructure projects in town. One such entity is the NBRC catalyst grant. For this grant, we have held pre-cursor meetings with the Eastern Maine Development Corporation, which is an offshoot of the NBRC and the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Business Development. We believe that we are competitive for this grant opportunity, but the competition is fierce. The downside of this grant is that it requires a 50% match. For the match, Castine currently has approximately 1.5 million that we could safely draw from the town's surplus, 394 thousand in the town's infrastructure account and approximately \$500 thousand in water department overlay for a total of approximately 2.4 million in possible matching funds subject to the Selectboard and the town's approval. If we are approved for this grant, it must be with the understanding that the town will match the 1.915 million. I respectfully request the Selectboard's authorization to apply to the NBRC for a grant of \$1,915,000 so that if approved, Castine can address the infrastructure problem on Court Street from Pleasant to Tarratine.

4. Tree City USA. Castine was named a Tree City USA community again in 2022 for the 13th straight year. One of the requirements for being named a Tree City is a proclamation by the lead political body of the town. This year, Arbor Day will be on April 28th. I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize this year's Arbor Day proclamation. (Read the proclamation)

5. Town Dock Floats. Due to damage from the December 22/23 storm, we had to make some changes to getting the floats put in place this year. Because of the damage from the storm, we couldn't use a crane this year as the damage



has yet to be repaired and can't be repaired until the asphalt plant begins production early next month. Most of Castine's floats are in the water, but the dinghy floats remain in the parking lot. We estimate that we'll get the dinghy floats in the water tomorrow by forklift and the ramps in place shortly thereafter by barge or another method.

6. The Safe Harbor Lease. In front of the Selectboard is the lease for The Safe Harbor at the town dock. There are no substantive changes to this copy from what you have seen previously. For the public's awareness, The Safe Harbor will be scheduled to be open from 11 AM to 7 PM Wednesday through Sunday with extended hours on holidays and during coordinated special events.

7. Town Office. Sue will be out of the office for an extended period recovering from surgery and our normal back-up was called home due to a family medical emergency. We ask that all Castine residents be patient and understanding and to expect possible delays as we get through an extraordinarily busy period.