

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

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DATE: Monday, April 3, 2023

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Brooke Tenney, Helen Miller, Ann Blodgett, Scott Vogell, Randy Stearns, Marc Pelletier, Jerry & Kristy Paul, Mark Morgioni, Kate Noel, Bob Scott, Craig Johnson, Don Tenney, Tom Comiciotto, Gus Basile, Josh Adam, Dan & Julie Leaders and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

ZOOM: Bruce Boczkiewicz, Liz Parish, Susan Adam, Mary Kneisel, Penny Carlhian, David Wyman and Bill Eisenhardt.

Colin Powell opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Colin verified that there was a quorum with Gordon MacArthur, Colin Powell and Roberta all present in person. Colin asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: Gordon MacArthur made motion to add Approving & Signing the May 13, 2023 Town Mtg Warrant.

Gordon MacArthur 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 \$15,131.44. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. No discussion.

Colin asked for votes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve Water Warrant in the amount of \$4,156.83. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion.

Colin asked for votes to approve: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Colin Powell made motion to approve a 3/23/23 Disbursement Warrant for State report to Motor Vehicles in the amount of \$2,943.28. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion.

Colin asked for votes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. 3/23/23 Disbursement Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the March 20, 2023 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Colin asked for votes. Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve.
March 20, 2023 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Colin Powell introduced approving & signing the May 13th Town Mtg Warrant. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. May 13th Town Mtg Warrant approved 3-0.

Item 2. Colin Powell introduced approving, per Pesticide Policy, to apply grub preventor on Town owned properties.
Colin read the memo. Properties included the Town Common, Fort Madison, Emerson Hall, Dyce Head Lighthouse and Fort George. Fort George will also require Source Water Protection application be submitted to the Utility Board.
Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Apply grub preventor on Town properties approved 3-0.

Item 3. Colin Powell introduced recommendation from the Harbor Committee regarding the MMA Pier Improvement & Expansion project. Colin read memo from the Harbor Committee. Selectboard all agreed with the recommendation (see attached).

Item 4. Colin Powell introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

#7 Town Office Closed: Karen and Sue will be out of the office to proof the Town Report, Thursday, 4/6/23. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Town Office closed 4/6/23 approved 3-0.

#8 Selectboard Work Session: all agreed to schedule a Work Session 4/12 at 9AM.
David Avery asked to confirm the streets for sidewalk work. Shawn answered eastern side of Pleasant St; Court St to Perkins St.

Item 5. Other Business as Required: Gordon MacArthur motion to approve request from MMA NROTC unit to have their commissioning ceremony on May 6th at Fort Madison. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. No discussion. Colin asked for votes: Gordon stated yes to approve. Roberta stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. MMA NROTC request approved 3-0.

Communications: NONE.

Colin acknowledged the public present: -Gus Basile asked about hiring another full-time employee and said it might be a benefit if it was required that the employee be a certified firefighter on the Dept.

-Bob Scott said he had good information about guardrails. Shawn said he thinks he's received an email from Bob with the information but would confirm.

-Mark Morgioni asked when the Fire Rescue Dept training exercises at the former Torno property would be taking place. Exercises will start Sunday, 4/9 in the late afternoon not to interfere with church (Easter) services.

-Jerry Paul thanked the Harbor Committee, Selectboard, Town Manager & Harbormaster for their support regarding the Pier Improvement & Expansion project. He said it was impressive attending the mtgs and work put in to reach a goal. He is looking forward to the Town and Academy working together to get the best overall which includes combined resources for funding for this project and others in the future.

-Helen Miller said she was extremely upset & disappointed with the way the Town has handled the Bicentennial /Women's Suffrage Celebration, cancelled 3-years ago due to the pandemic and the return of fundraising funds. Helen said she raised over \$100,000 and people are still asking her for updates. She said when she asks the Town for updates she gets the runaround. Colin, as the Bicentennial Chair, apologized to Helen that she felt the way she did and for the lack of communication. Shawn gave a review of developments and items that have been worked on especially with the Oliver Hazzard Perry. The Town and Bicentennial Committee is still trying to figure out what to do with remaining funds. Bobby Vagt, member of the Bicentennial Committee, said he was sorry that Helen felt like she did too but she alone did not raise the money. A letter was sent out from the Committee to all those who gave donations letting them know if they wanted a percentage their donation returned, as some had been spent on deposits, to let the Committee know. An address and phone number was on the letter. We were lucky that many did not want funds returned. Many people have been working on this matter and have tried to preserve the funds to use in the future. Unfortunately, we do not know yet what will be next.

-Josh Adam asked what the process was for when the Selectboard receives correspondence and decisions are made for what correspondence is recognized at mtg. He said at the last mtg 4 correspondences were issued but only 3 were recognized. It just so happens that Kevin Coady was present at the mtg, therefore, the letter from his attorney was addressed.

Josh asked if the Selectboard make a point to hide things or pick and choose what they address in public and what is handled in secret.

Discussion. Shawn reviewed a process. The letter in question was received late on Friday prior to a Monday mtg date. There was not a lot of time to absorb and research. Since Mr. Coady was present and asked about his letter the Selectboard let him address it.

Roberta said the Selectboard would review their protocols.

Gordon said there are no intentions to hide anything. They had planned to address the letter at a future mtg after they time to research the contents and have the Town's attorney review it.

Brooke Tenney said she was present at that mtg and said that the Selectboard did decide to take the time to address but a communication back to Kevin Coady that the letter had been received would be appropriate. Gus Basile said he was also at that mtg and heard the Selectboard say they would further discuss the letter after they had time to research and get opinion from the Town's attorney.

-Gus Basile about if the Fire Dept has a tanker. He understands it does not. Randy Stearns, Fire Chief, and Tom Gutow, Asst Fire Chief, said that was incorrect. The Dept has a 3,000 gal tanker. Gus asked when there would be a mtg regarding the fire station. He is upset that there have been important mtg not open to the public. Gus was corrected that there has never been any important mtg NOT open to the public.

-Selectboard member, Roberta Boczkiewicz said she had been to a seminar recently with other Selectboard members of Maine communities present and they were completely surprised when Roberta told them that Castine zooms mtg and allows public participation. Many communities do not do that.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtg:

Wednesday, 4/12/23 at 9AM – Selectboard Work Session.

Tuesday, 4/18/23 (due to the Patriot's Day Holiday) at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Saturday, 5/13/23 at 8:30AM – Town Mtg in Emerson Hall.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to adjourn. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. 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 4:57 PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: April 03, 2023
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Fire Department Training. In conjunction with the imminent demolition of the home at 116 Perkins Street by the Wilson Museum, the Castine Fire Rescue Department will be taking advantage of this upcoming demolition to conduct training within and on the building before it is torn down. There will be no burning of the building but a smoke machine will be utilized so that the CFRD can conduct SCBA (airpack) training within an actual structure. Residents may see smoke in the local area but should not be alarmed. The CFRD will also be training on forcible entries and in the cutting of roofs. Other local fire departments may also be training on this building, but the primary focus will be on the CFRD. The training will be taking place on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays with approximate hours of mid-afternoon through 8:00 PM.

2. American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds Update. As the attendees to the upcoming annual town meeting in May will see, we will request that the town's remaining ARPA funds of \$52,446.31 be used on two things. First, we are requesting \$42,446.31 funds for sidewalk refurbishment from the Court Street/Pleasant Street intersection down to Perkin's Street. Second, we will be requesting that the town authorize amount amount not to exceed \$10,000 on the town hiring a contracted grant writer. If bids come in lower than projected, specifically on the Sidewalk refurbishment, we will return to the town to



request authorization to spend the remainder on roadway guardrails for Water Street.

3. Community Resiliency Partnership Grant Update. We are awaiting Efficiency Maine to provide us with the final incentive numbers for the lighting upgrades before we can actually receive our CRP grant money. Efficiency Maine has had our paperwork for over a week, so we are hopeful to receive the official incentive offer back this week. Once we receive the incentive paperwork from Efficiency Maine, the state office of Innovation and the Future can release the funds and we can schedule the work to be done. I will project that this work will not begin at Emerson Hall until late May at the earliest and we will want to wait until after the Adams School releases for the year on June 15th to accomplish the Adams School portion of this project. On a related note, we are expecting the Emerson Hall heat pump installation to take place on May 3^d and 4th.

4. MMA Pier Expansion Update. The town has received Maine Maritime Academy's Pier expansion project permit applications. This project is the sole agenda item for this Thursday's work session (6th) and the public hearing posted for the 13th of April, 7:00 PM at Emerson Hall.

5. Town Dock Floats going in on April 14th. Subject to the weather, the town dock floats will be going into the water on the 14th. Castine public works is putting the finishing touches on the remaining two floats and they will be completed in the next day or so. For those that don't know, our public works crew have sequentially re-built all of the town's floats over the past three years and are wrapping the remaining couple this year.

6. Town of Castine Seeking a Public Works Employee. Castine's public works crew is back down to a crew of one. By tomorrow, the town will start



advertising to hire a second member of the team. Details of the position will be on the Castine town web page and hard copies will be available at town hall.

7. Town Office Closed on the 6th of April. I will be out of town from the 6th through the 11th of April and Karen and Sue will need to go to Ellsworth to proof this year's town report on the 6th. I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize us to close Emerson Hall on the 6th of April due to no staff availability.

8. Selectboard Work Session Wednesday the 12th. One of the better changes we have made recently is to hold off cycle work sessions for the Selectboard. Is the Selectboard available on the 12th of April at 9:00 AM for a work session?

9. Maine Maritime Academy 2021-22 Voluntary Contribution. The town has received MMA's voluntary contribution for the past year totaling over \$150,000. Yet to be received will be another tranche of approximately \$5,000. Often, lost in conversations regarding MMA, it is lost on some residents just how much MMA gives back to Castine, so I want to take this opportunity to highlight one example.

10. Drummond Woodsum Law Firm: Kevin Coady Letter. Due to an extraordinarily busy period, no further research has been completed on this letter, but I hope to be able to get to it in the very near future.