

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

CP  
RB  
GM

DATE: Monday, June 5, 2023

TIME: immediately following the Public Hearing

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Estimated 20 members of the public present including David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Mary Kneisel, etc.

Colin Powell opened the meeting at 4:55PM (after the Wharves & Weir Act Public Hearing).

Colin Powell verified that there was a quorum.

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

Colin Powell 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 \$27,118.29. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta pointed out approximately 30 bills to be paid which were CMP bills, books for the Library and Olver Associates for Sewer. Colin asked for votes:

General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$14,057.12.

Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the May 15, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Colin Powell. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

5/15/23 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the May 19, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes.

Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

5/19/23 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the May 30, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes.

Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

5/30/23 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Colin Powell introduced approving the Wharves & Weir Act (MMA Application) Notice of Decision. Colin Powell made motion that the Selectboard finds Maine Maritime Academy's proposed pier replacement and extension will not be an obstruction to navigation or injury to the rights of others and therefore approves their application for a license to build the pier as proposed. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: Wharves & Weir Act Notice of Decision approved 3-0.

Item 2. Colin Powell introduced approving storm repair project at the Town Dock.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, addressed. He said this is repair damage from the 12/23/22 storm on the Acadia dock side. The cost currently is approximately \$21,324 which includes reinforcing sheet piling in this area, saw cut out impacted area, dig down 3-5', replacing sub-base with concrete, replace sub-base on top and repave. New planking on the dock is needed in some areas which could cost up to \$9,286, taking the total cost to \$30,610. This will be a big improvement for the Acadia dock. There is approximately \$18,000 left in the Harbor Improvement account, and we have a grant application in for another \$15,000. However, with the grant being only a possibility and the dock area being such an important focal point for the Town, Shawn requested the Selectboard authorize up to \$25,000 from the Town's Capital Infrastructure account to ensure this work is completed. The Town currently has about \$384,000 in the Capital Infrastructure account. Shawn also pointed out that sheet piling has an estimated life expectancy of 25 years and ours has lasted over 35 years. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve allocate up to \$25,000 from the Capital Infrastructure account to use for completing the Acadia dock work. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: Up to \$25,000 from Capital Infrastructure account to use for Acadia Dock repairs approved 3-0.

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

ADD #11. Community Informational Input Mtg: Monday, 6/12/23 at 6PM to discuss solar energy on municipal buildings. Shawn said that through the Community Resiliency Partnership program we are required to hold at least two (2) public forums as criteria for grant fund opportunities.

#7. Rusty Nails at the Backshore Beach: Gordon MacArthur asked if it would be worthwhile to get the magnet tool that roofers use. Shawn said yes.

#4. 26 Water Street: Bob Friedlander asked what 26 Water Street is? Shawn addressed.

Because the owners of 26 Water Street have made several accusations and allegations against

Town Officials the Town has had to hire an investigator, therefore, an alternate CEO will process their Building Use & Site Plan Review applications.

Item 4. Other Business as Required = NONE.

**Communications:** -Request from Brooke Tenney on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Church on the Town Common asking permission to place a tent on the Town Common, 7/30/23 for minister, Margaret Beckman's retirement celebration.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve request. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: Request from Unitarian Church approved 3-0.

-Email from Marc Pelletier on behalf of the Castine Touring Co (Scarlett) informing that a MDOT sign for Scarlett will be install, as approved by the Town, at the top of Main Street & Battle Ave. One will be installed in Town of Orland as well.

-Email from David Bicks on behalf of the Annual Castine Classic Yacht Celebration which will be taking place on August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are requesting permission to use the Town Docks as in the past and waive overnight dockage. Susan Macomber, Town Clerk, said typically the Harbor Committee will review first and give recommendation to the Selectboard. Harbor Committee meets next week Tues, 6/13/23 and will address the request at that time.

**Gordon acknowledged the public present:** -Josh Adam asked if there was an update for when a Port City Public Informational Mtg. Shawn said no updates at this time.

-Marc Pelletier asked what the Town was doing about the sign located at 26 Water Street property which is in violation for the Zoning Ordinance. How can this be allowed? Why is it still there? Shawn addressed. There are numerous matters ahead of this one, so it has not been addressed yet. The owners have made allegations against him so he is unsure if he can address the alleged violation. Bob Friedlander confirmed as a member of the Planning Board that sign size requirements cannot exceed 18 sq ft / 3'X6'; the sign at 26 Water Street is 32 sq ft / 4'X8'. Shawn said he does not yet know how to figure this out and will likely reach out to the Town's Attorney. Liz Parish asked if Shawn, CEO and/or Town Manager cannot handle due to the issues then who can. Someone needs to contact them to take it down. Shawn said he has to find out what the Town can do within the bounds of legalities.

Dan Leader asked why a letter can't be sent out to them which could be a 1<sup>st</sup> step in a complicated situation. Gordon MacArthur said that the person involved does not pick up mail sent from the Town and has instructed the Town to communicate directly with their Attorney. Their Attorney does not call the Town back. Marc Pelletier suggested serving them by a constable.

**PAST ACTIONS:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** NONE.

Upcoming Mtg:

Monday, 6/12/23 at 9AM – Selectboard Work Session.

Tuesday, 6/20/23 - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

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

With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: approved 3-0.

Mtg adjourned at 5:23PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: June 05, 2023  
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Memorial Day Special Thanks. I'd like to publicly acknowledge everyone who put on a stirring Memorial Day commemoration. Special Thanks go out to veterans Si Yates, Mike Coughlin and Jim Shanley for being the long-time stalwarts and making this commemoration happen and Dick Anderson and Bill Eisenhardt for their speeches. I'd also like to thank the entire town band, Reverend Andi Lloyd for her prayers, Luke Cukierski for his reading of the Gettysburg Address, Saffron and GiGi Simmons for stepping in on a moment's notice to present flowers at the cemetery and the common, Wylden Blodgett for carrying the flag and Will MacArthur for playing the pipes; because Memorial Day should always have Amazing Grace played on the pipes. Lastly, I'd like to personally thank Karen, Sue and Natalie for volunteering their own time to put together the programs.

2. Town Dock Repairs. Repairs are currently underway at the town dock to repair the damage caused by the December 23/24, 2022 storm. This project has grown a bit after the pavement was removed and a plan was developed to reinforce the sheet piling a bit with concrete. The original repair quote for the pavement was only for just over \$13,000. The scope of work for this quote was to saw cut out the impacted area, dig down 18 inches, replace the sub-base and repave. We are now digging down 3-5 feet, replacing the sub-base with concrete, replace the sub-base on top of this and then repave. This will add \$8,234 to the aforementioned total for an all in price so far of \$21,324. The



term "so far" is being used because this only repairs the paving and pier skirt in that area. The planking also needs replacement in some areas. Which could cost up to \$9,286 in materials and labor for an all-in cost of approximately \$30,610 to not only repair but improve the town dock area. We have approximately \$18,000 in our Harbor Improvement account and I have a grant application in for another \$15,000. However, with a grant being only a possibility and the dock area being such an important focal point of the town, I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize town staff to draw up to \$25,000 from the town's capital infrastructure account to ensure that this work is completed. The town currently has roughly \$384,000 in this account.

3. Lighthouse Vestibule nearing completion. The connecting hallway between the lighthouse home and the light tower is nearing completion. This project entailed removing all the rotted floor joists and surrounding sill, digging down to ledge, leveling up the appurtenance, pouring a new foundation, building a new sill and replacing the sub-floor and floor. Remaining to be done is solve the long lingering water drainage problem on the entire property, but the completion of the current project buys the town some time to develop a solution to the larger problem while still allowing the public to visit a very solid and safe structure on days when the lighthouse is open.

4. 26 Water Street . As the Selectboard is aware, the town has received a building and use application for 26 Water Street. In response to this, the town has engaged and the Selectboard has appointed Luke Chiavelli, the Bucksport Code Enforcement Officer to process this singular application.

5. Bears in the Woods. We have received several reports of a bear taking up residence in Witherle Woods. The Maine Coast Heritage Trust has been made aware and been encouraged to put up warning signs.



6. Castine Touring Company Sign Request. I have signed off on a Castine Touring Company request to place a business sign in Castine. This is one of the small markers that the Department of Transportation places on their road signs.

7. Rusty Nails Found at Backshore Beach. We received a report of rusty nails in the rocks at Backshore. Most likely, the nails are detritus from beach fires. The report didn't specify the exact location, so we are looking for nails in a pile of rock. We are endeavoring to get them cleaned up, but in the meantime, we ask everyone to use caution while at the beach.

8. Northern Border Regional Commission Grant. We were able to submit this grant request on Friday. The request is for 1.915 million dollars which will cover approximately half of the cost to completely rebuild Court Street from Pleasant to Tarratine.

9. Street Striping. I have a call into our striping vendor to get Castine on the schedule for street striping, but I assess that there is no hurry as the town dock area is the focus and repairs from the Dec 2022 storm are still underway. We may have to reduce our scope of work this year, but we will start at the town dock and work outward from there.

10. Art Show upstairs at Emerson Hall. A compendium of the artwork produced by the students of the Adams School will be on display upstairs until the Spring Concert.