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

DATE: Monday, October 16, 2023

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Acting- Chair, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Selectboard member (Colin Powell was absent from the Mtg); Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Ruth Ann Vagt, Brooke Tenney, Helen Miller, Scott Vogell, Marc Pelletier, Mark Morgioni, Don Tenney, Tom Comiciotto, Charlie Pearce, Pat Bishop, Liz Parish, Dan Leader, Bob Beske, Wyllys Terry, Liz Schanker, Bente Hartmann and Ina Schonberg.

ZOOM: Ann Blodgett and Judy Fitzsimmons.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Gordon verified that there was a quorum with Gordon MacArthur and Roberta present in person. Gordon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: Approve request to modify the American Tower Lease at the Transfer Station.

Gordon MacArthur made a 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 \$210,729.23. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

Roberta pointed out that this warrant covers about 56 bills with the largest ones paying the hydrant rental, a new PW vehicle purchase and snowplowing contract costs.

Gordon asked for votes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 2-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made a motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$2,164.58. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion.

Gordon asked for votes to approve: Water Warrant approved 2-0.

Abatement: Gordon made motion to approve an abatement to Aerotropic in the amount of \$142.78 as they were no longer in business on 4/1/2023. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

No discussion.

Gordon asked for votes to approve. Abatement approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the October 2, 2023 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes to approve. October 2, 2023 Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the October 12, 2023 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes to approve. October 12, 2023 Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Old Business:

Roberta Boczkiewicz gave updates 1) Castine 200 funds reallocation have several options - The Selectboard are discussing and will have decision soon;

2) 26 Water Street sign issue – the Selectboard continues to work on and will have something soon;

3) Two Public Engagement Mtgs scheduled – Monday, 10/23 at 7PM and Wednesday, 10/25 at 7PM to discuss new Fire Station. These mtgs are for input only, not question and answer sessions. No decisions will be made, no experts will be present. Zoom will be available.

Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced update from any Board/Committee Chair or Member present:

Roberta Boczkiewicz gave a brief update from REC Committee. The Committee has been working on Halloween plans which should be finalized this week. They have also been talking to the Merchants and Arts Associations for upcoming Tree Lighting and other Christmas holiday festivity schedules.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced appointing the November 7th Election Ballot Clerks. Gordon read the list (see attached). Roberta Boczkiewicz made a motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Karen Motycka pointed out authorizing the Town Clerk to make changes as needed to the motion. Roberta and Gordon agreed. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes to approve. November 7th Election Ballot Clerks approved 2-0.

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

#6 American Tower: Gordon MacArthur made motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the American Tower agreement adding T-mobile array at top of the cell tower at the Transfer Station. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

Marc Pelletier asked if this has a financial benefit to the Town. Shawn answered yes. Castine gets more rent with equipment added to the Tower.

With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes to approve. Town Manager authorization for American Tower agreement approved 2-0.

#1 Sidewalks: Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve authorizing \$11,870 to be spent from the Capital Roadway Infrastructure Account. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes to approve. \$11,870 from Capital Roadway Infrastructure Account for sidewalks approved 2-0.

Item 4. Other Business as Required: None.

Communications: -Email from Doug Terry, Castine Postmaster, asking the Town to provide one additional 15-minute only parking spot in front of the Post Office to allow the mail truck the appropriate space needed to drop off and pick up mail. Discussion. Gordon said he was not sure if this would resolve the afternoon mail truck problem. Shawn said it has been discussed to allow the Post Office employees to write parking tickets for the Post Office area since they monitor it all the time. This could solve the problems. Mark Morgioni suggested double checking to make sure this would cause no implications to Federal employees performing such duties for a municipality. It was decided to schedule a Public Hearing regarding parking on Monday, 11/6 at 4PM.

-Thank you card from Dr. Marjorie Olivari thanking the Selectboard and the Town for the beautiful plaque and pendant gifts. She also thanked Gordon for his kind words spoken at the gathering honoring Dr. Olivari as she leaves Castine onto her next endeavor.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Wyllys Terry, on behalf of the Friends of Castine Pickleball, gave brief presentation requesting the Selectboard consider allowing the Pickleball group focus on building pickleball courts at the Transfer Station. If the group knows they can focus on the Transfer Station knowing it will be taken to the voters at the May 2024 Town Mtg they can work on a civil engineer to perform a study. Gordon MacArthur told Wyllys before he got too far, the Selectboard and Town Manager did not want to give false hopes to the Friends of Castine Pickleball of targeting the Transfer Station as a possible location until the Town decides where the Fire Station location will be. The Fire Station location is top priority at this time. Wyllys said he appreciated the heads up and understood. He continued with pickleball information: 4 courts, with a 4' or 6' fence around the courts and a parking lot. The current Transfer Station entrance gate would have to be moved up closer to the Transfer Station area, that way the 4 pickleball courts would be outside the gate. Liz Schanker and Terry Biggie are key people involved with the Friends of Castine Pickleball and will be around Castine this winter for discussion in Wyllys Terry absence. Discussion.

Restrooms? Bring in a port-a-pottie. How many parking spots? Wyllys said they are thinking 6-8 spots but that would be ironed out in the civil engineer study.

-Marc Pelletier said he wanted to go on record again asking about MMA Lighting Plan for their pier project. Marc said he feels that MMA has to have a Lighting Plan before going out to bid

and they say they do not. He said in his experience no contractor would bid on a major project without a plan. Marc said he feels MMA is not sharing the plan because of possible ramifications. He asked the Selectboard to pay close attention to this. Gordon said that MMA is on record saying the lighting provided will be less intrusive to that area. Everyone was reminded that MMA holds monthly mtgs for the community to ask questions and voice concerns at Emerson Hall, the next mtg is scheduled for Wednesday, 10/25 at 2PM.

-Brooke Tenney asked if the Public Engagement Mtgs regarding the Fire Station will be structured like the recent Parking Mtg held. Roberta said yes.

-Liz Parish said she heard that MMA's new ship was going to be delayed due to the necessary pier project permits needed. Gordon said that is what he understood.

-Bob Beske asked if the Town had a rubbish/debris pick up scheduled soon? There is debris building up on some The Shore Road properties, some there longer than others, and was wondering if it was going to magically disappear or if the Town had a pick up sometime soon. No Town pick up scheduled.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtg:

Monday, 10/23/23 at 9AM – Selectboard Work Session if needed.

Monday, 11/6/23 and Monday, 11/20/23 both at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor.

Tuesday, 11/7/23 – Election Day, polls open from 8AM to 8PM.

Karen Motycka asked about a possible mtg to approve warrants for paying bills since the next regular Selectboard Mtg is 3-weeks away. The Selectboard agreed and it was mentioned the mtg might be able to tie into mtg needed for PUC issues – mtg date/time TBD.

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

Gordon asked for votes to adjourn: Approved 2-0.

Mtg adjourned at 4:46 PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Castine Selectboard
FROM: Susan Macomber, Town Clerk

RE: November 7, 2023 Referendum Election/Ballot Clerks

October 16, 2023

Please approve Election/Ballot Clerks for the November 7, 2023 Referendum Election and authorize the Town Clerk to appoint any other Election/Ballot Clerks as needed:

Republicans:

Scott Vogell
Kathleen Eaton
Thomas Comiciotto
Kelly Gualtieri

Democrats:

Robin Mass
Ingrid Scott
Gunilla Kettis
Ray Nualla

Independent

Alicia Anstead



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: October 16, 2023
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Sidewalks. We have hit a snag with sidewalk reconstruction on Pleasant to Perkins and toward Main Street. Though explicitly stated in the RFP, the vendor assumed that the town was to conduct the demolition and grading for the new walk. With one of our public works crew out right now due to shoulder surgery, this will be impossible. I met with the vendor last week on the site and received a revised bid. The total project cost is now \$54,316. As the town approved us to utilize roughly \$42,440 of ARPA money for this project we are \$11,870 short to be able to bring this project across the finish line unless we utilize money from the Capital Roadway Infrastructure account. With the decision to pave western Court Street made, I would not assess that we have any immediate requirements on this account. The other option would be to add this initiative to an assumed special town meeting which we will need to hold in the upcoming months. I recommend that the Selectboard authorize this expenditure from the Capital Roadway Infrastructure Account.

2. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Water Rate Increases. For the Selectboard's awareness, effective on the 25th of this month, the PUC has authorized municipalities to conduct 1.5% water rate increases each year without having to go through a full rate case. To conduct a full rate case costs municipalities thousands of dollars each time one is conducted. The Town of Castine has not conducted a water rate increase since 2017. If the Selectboard would like the town staff to pursue this, the first step will be to get a



recommendation from the Utility Board. We intend to call for a Utility Board meeting sometime in the 23-27 of October. This may require an off cycle special Selectboard meeting to consider their recommendation. The PUC will need Castine's updated tariff sheets by the 30th of November

3. Town Dock Ramp Repair. As I spoke earlier about an assumed need for a special town meeting, I will continue on this theme. Our insurance claim which we made to replace the badly damaged town dock ramp has been denied by Maine Municipal Risk Management. The new ramp will cost somewhere north of \$18,000 and we only have \$15,000 coming in through a grant. All other available funds were expended to reinforce the sheet piling and repair the pavement from the December 2022 storm. The replacement ramp must be ordered and custom built over the winter months.

4. Meeting with representative from Senator King's Office. This week, I had a productive meeting with Christina Breen, a local representative from Senator King's office. It was imparted to me that both of Castine's current Congressionally Directed Spending packages (\$1.76 million for Sea Street pump station and \$288 thousand for town dock expansion) still look good.

5. Ed MacDonald Safety Grant. Thus far, it has been a big year for grants and external funding for the Town of Castine. The CFRD has been awarded \$3,000 from the Ed MacDonald Safety Grant for a "roll and rack" hose management system.

6. American Tower. The American Tower Corporation has given the town notice that they intend to add to the T-Mobile array at the top of the Cell Phone tower at the transfer station, but they need town authorization to conduct the work. I request Selectboard authorization to sign this authorization.



7. Penobscot staff work. We seem to be seeing a marked decrease in staff work emanating from Penobscot. Through Colin's engagement with the Penobscot Selectboard Chair to Karen's engagement with their office staff, we have seen a close to 50% reduction in work coming from Penobscot. The Penobscot staff is no longer referring people to Castine but to the State Branch Offices in Ellsworth and Bangor. We do not assess that this problem will be completely solved until we stop serving anyone but Castine residents, but we have started a transition.

8. Once around the horn on everything else. In Code Enforcement, there have been 44 permits issued this year to date with another 8-10 pending. There are two pending Historic Preservation Certificates and two Entrance and Excavation permits to close out. There are three possible pending enforcement actions ongoing. For road, ditch and other maintenance public works have been conducting ditch maintenance, digging swales and picking up property to get the town ready for winter. Once the leaves fall, public works will be cleaning up all catch basins. Karen, Sue and Natalie have been taking care of everything else.