

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

DATE: Monday, December 4, 2023

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair, Roberta Boczkiewicz (ZOOM), Dan Leader, Selectboard member; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Peg & Mac Patterson, Scott Vogell, Charlie Pearce, Marc Pelletier, David Adams, Bob Friedlander, Josh Adam, Ann (Coyle) Robinson, Ruth Ann & Bobby Vagt, Jeff Ackerman, Don Tenney and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Bruce Boczkiewicz, Helen Miller, Olivia Farr, Liz Parish, Mary Kneisel, Penny Carlhian, Brooke & Gil Tenney and Ann Blodgett.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:00PM and verified that there was a quorum.

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

Gordon MacArthur asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections; Dan Leader made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$58,952.76. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Roberta said this warrant covers 90 bills with majority paying the Fire Dept members for all their hard work. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Dan Leader made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$13,456.02. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the November 20, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 11/20/23 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Old Business:

- a) Maine200: Gordon said this item would be addressed under Communications if no one objected, which no one did.

- b) Fire Station: Shawn said there will be a Public Engagement Mtg on Thurs, December 14th from 6-8:30PM to discuss location for a new Castine Fire Station with members from Olver Associates, Port City Architecture, Sevee & Mahar Engineering, Geologist Peter Garrett PhD and the Castine Fire Department leadership in attendance. Atty, Andrew Hamilton will be Facilitator for the meeting. There were approximately 52 questions that came up during the recent Public Listening Session(s) that the Town Manager has been working on getting answers. The hope is to have this report posted soon with intent that the public can review before the 12/14 mtg.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached):

#4 CFRVA Donation: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association (CFRVA) annual equipment donation to the Town for Fire Dept use. Second by Dan Leader.

This equipment is purchased through CFRVA fundraising efforts. This year the donation totaled \$42,618.58. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes. CFRVA annual donation approved 3-0. The Selectboard thanked the CFRVA for all that they do.

Item 2. Other Business as Required: None.

Communications: a) letter from Helen Miller, Bill Buchanan, Olivia Farr and Bruce Mortimer regarding Maine200 and the Selectboard's decision made at the 11/20 mtg.

Gordon asked if any of the Selectboard members wanted to make a motion to reconsider the issue and decision made at the 11/20 mtg. No motion was made.

Vote from the 11/20 mtg stands.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Ann (Coyle) Robinson said she has been researching the public parking issues. She said comments have been made on random patrolling, enforcement, and parking regulations when in fact Castine has between 15-17 authorized personnel to issue tickets. Ann also said she has been patrolling areas like Tarratine Street and find plenty of parking available. She said she has the following recommendations:

- Update maps and signage to conform with the Ordinance
- Install formal curbing on Tarratine Street or proper shoulders in that area to allow definition for parking along the street and
- Work with MMA to define and develop Tarratine Street (area beyond residences) as a suitable parking area and have MMA install a proper walkway

The Selectboard thanked Ann (Coyle) Robinson for her comments and suggestions.

-Josh Adam asked if the upcoming 12/14 Public Engagement Mtg was going to be the 1st of a series of mtgs or the only one. Gordon said decisions to where to go next depended on results of the 12/14 mtg. Other mtgs, if needed, will be considered.

Josh also said he learned secondhand that at the recent Work Session with Fire Dept leadership, a Fire Dept leader said something in lines that if the Dept didn't get the location they wanted they would all just quit. Gordon said he didn't hear that and did not feel there was negativity at the work session. Marc Pelletier said he was present at the work session, and he heard a Fire Dept leader say, "if the Town doesn't appreciate what we do and what location the Dept wants then they would rethink other means". Marc said he was very concerned and shocked to hear the comment.

-Olivia Farr (ZOOM) commented on the Maine200 issue. She asked if the funds returned to donors was the end of the issue. Answer was yes. Olivia said she was saddened that the Town could not come up with a better resolution and save the 25%. Helen Miller wanted to confirm that donors would be receiving a 1099 from the Town. Karen Motycka, Finance Officer, confirmed yes all those who apply to the 1099 criteria.

-Dan Leader announced that the information for the 12/14 Fire Station Public Engagement Mtg is thorough and will be fact based. The mtg will be 2.5 hours long so he felt it is critical that all who attend to focus in on the facts to minimize disagreements. Dan said he felt satisfied the mtg and facts will make things clear. Marc Pelletier asked how the mtg will be conducted. Shawn said the mtg will be facilitated by Attny, Andy Hamilton. There will be a 20-minute introduction; 10 minutes for each panelist; and about 90-minutes for members of the public to speak. The facilitator will keep the mtg flowing and on track. Roberta said Shawn has been working hard on answering and putting together a report addressing the questions from the Public Listening Session(s). We hope to have the report posted on the Town's website soon. Roberta encouraged the public to read the report to eliminate the same questions being asked again at the 12/14 mtg.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: Gordon MacArthur said a letter was sent to the State MDOT regarding speeding up Windmill Hill. This issue was brought as a concern from a citizen. The Town has not heard anything back yet.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 12/11/23 - Work Session at 9AM, if needed.

Monday, 12/18/23 - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

Dan Leader made motion to adjourn. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

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

Mtg adjourned at 4:29PM. Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

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

1. Sidewalk. The new walk along Pleasant Street from Court to Perkins is approximately 50% completed. Weather has obviously delayed the progress. In speaking with the contractors, they will be able to come back and finish as soon as the weather clears and as long as the ground has not frozen at least 3 inches deep. As emplacing new sidewalk outside of a major capital infrastructure project is somewhat new ground for Castine, I would suggest that the Board and I discuss policy parameters for post construction landscaping and driveway repair at a future work session.

2. Town Manager Search Update. At an earlier meeting, it was suggested to the Selectboard to solicit community input for the next town manager. As the Selectboard and town staff move into the interview stage the following will go live tomorrow.

-In order of priority, please list your top 3-4 concerns for the future of Castine.

-In one to two paragraphs or less, please provide the professional and personal traits or qualifications that you feel are most important in a candidate to address your concerns.

3. Fire Station Public Engagement. On the 14th of December, the town will hold another public engagement regarding the location of a new fire station. The engagement will begin at 6:00 PM and conclude no later than 8:30 PM. I



currently have the following experts confirmed to attend: Annaleis Hafford and Dan Piasecki from Olver Associates Engineering, Geologist Peter Garrett PhD, Andy Hyland and Neil Courtney from Port City Architecture and Erik Clapp PhD, from Sevee and Mahar Engineering and the Castine Fire Department Leadership. In addition, we have hired Andrew Hamilton J.D. as a facilitator for the meeting.

4. Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association Donation Keeping with the Fire Department Theme, I'd like to draw the Selectboard and communities' attention to the CFRVA's annual donation to the town. In addition to responding to calls, day and night and in any weather (car accident today), the Association annually donates equipment purchased through their fundraising to the Department for its use. This year, the donation totaled \$42,618.58. I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize me to accept this donation to the town for the exclusive use of the CFRD.