

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

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DATE: Thursday, January 11, 2024,

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Randy Stearns, Scott Vogell, Bill & Sheila Corbett, Zander Parker, Brooke Tenney, Penny Carlhian, Andy Chase, Lauren Sahl, Sharon & Craig Johnson, Matt Powell, George Trinovitch, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Mark Morgiorni, Johanna Barrett, Julie Bohan, Pamela Scully, Cliflou Crais, Angela Fisher, John Settles, Charlie & Greer Pearce and David Avery.

Gordon MacArthur, Chair opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. Quorum was confirmed.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced discussion regarding the 1/9-1/10/24 storm and storm damage. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, read report. Shawn said that what was details to focus on for climate change by 2041 is likely be pushed up to 2024.

Discussions.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to accept the concept that a Special Town Mtg will need to be held in the near future to get funds from Surplus to pay for storm damage.

Second by Dan Leader.

Gordon asked for votes to approve: Concept to have a Special Town Mtg approved 3-0.

The Special Town Mtg will be scheduled by the end of January.

Shawn requested the Selectboard waive Purchasing Policy waiver. Due to the storm, damage, and impending 2<sup>nd</sup> storm on Saturday, 1/13/24 action had to be taken for clean-up and prevention for further damage as well as public safety measures. Shawn said he would keep the Selectboard well informed of actions taken and what's being done.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve Purchasing Policy waiver for dealing with current emergencies generating from the recent storms and damage. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

Gordon asked for votes to approve: Purchasing Policy waiver approved 3-0.

David Avery asked for clarification on the first vote. The vote was to approve that a Special Town Mtg would be needed. A mtg will be scheduled for the Selectboard to warn, approve and sign the Special Town Mtg Warrant for it to be posted the required 7 days prior to the mtg.

Sheila Corbett asked about the Backshore Beach area damage and if the valve at the salt pond was opened. Shawn addressed. The valve was not open. Randy Stearns said the valve is kept closed during the winter months due to debris issues. They have learned over the years that it causes a ton of work

and clean up in the spring. Dan Leader suggested coordinating with MMA with their pier project for work that the Town Dock will need. Shawn said the possibilities are there. Not sure if the timing will work out but it is worth checking into. MMA Craig Johnson said that it will depend on the contractor hired and that MMA pilings are different than the pilings the Town will do but agreed that it's worth checking into. Craig said MMA will go out to bid this next week by January 19t and should have a hired contractor and start the project by May/June 2024.

Mark Morgioni asked where does the Town's responsibility end? Many community members want to help by volunteering for work needed downtown and/or donations. Shawn said the Town Office is working on donation details to help facilitate and get the word out but are not there yet.

Volunteers are needed and appreciated for stuffing sandbags at 9AM tomorrow, Friday 1/12/24. Jersey barriers and tarps are also being used to help with additional damage prevention. We are doing what we can.

The highest gust of wind clocked on MMA ship was 94mph during Wednesday, 1/10/24 storm. It is predicted to get 50-60mph during the Saturday, 1/13/24 storm and the highest wind gusts to happen at the same time as an astronomical high tide.

Shawn said he talked to Senator Collins office and three (3) local contractors for pricing. Scott Vogell, Harbormaster, Randy Stearns, Fire Chief, Adam Clark, Water Dept, Noah Clark, Sewer Dept and Jackson Clark, Water/Sewer Depts have all been doing tremendous work. The Water/Sewer Depts worked all day to locate a part and contractor to do work with success on issue at the Town Dock pump station. Andy from the Maine Drinking Water Program will come to Castine to aid in the repair at the pump station. Shawn has also spoken to all three (3) Selectboard members several times throughout the day and Andy Sankey at Hancock County Emergency Mngt. Tim Bland of Downeast Yacht Services worked all day at the Town Dock to clean-up and remove debris to get ready for Saturday's storm. Planking, support beam and most if not, all pilings are being removed from the Town Dock side. The hope is safeguard from any more catastrophic damage.

Gordon MacArthur thanked Shawn, and all involved to help safeguard Castine and our downtown and get the job done with a little window to do so.

Dan Leader made motion to adjourn. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

Gordon asked for votes: approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: January 11, 2024  
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Winter Storm 12-10-2024.

First, each and every one of the residents of Castine owe the Castine Fire and Rescue Department a very heartfelt Thank You for their actions yesterday. From two power lines going down on the feeder arteries to town during the height of the storm to a propane leak at the dock to traffic control etc, our Fire and Rescue Department did the Lord's work yesterday and are very much deserving of our gratitude.

Next, lets talk about current actions. Right now, the town is running on four concurrent tracks.

- 1) Track 1 is to perform immediate actions to render as safe as we can those areas damaged by yesterday's storm. This action is to prevent further, and possibly more catastrophic damage in the coming days. Toward this end, we have demolished the destroyed portion of the town dock and are repairing Backshore Beach to withstand the storms coming in over the next few days. What we do not want to happen is another piece of the dock breaking loose and damaging MMA ships etc or lose a large piece of Wadsworth Cove road to undermining.
- 2) Track 2 is to inventory the damage and generate an estimate for repairs. I'll detail damage and ROM numbers for you later. We owe the town's



initial damage numbers to Hancock County Emergency Management by 2:00 PM on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

- 3) Track 3 is to prepare for Saturday's storm. We have estimates of water levels a foot higher on Saturday compared to yesterday's storm. To prepare for this, our goal at both backshore and the town dock is to prepare us for this to ensure that we do not experience even more catastrophic damage. If the water doesn't turn out to be as high on Saturday as the estimates, great, we can be thankful. However, we will be prepared if it goes the other way. To this end, we will begin sandbagging the critical node of the Sea Street pump station tomorrow morning at 9:00 am. Backshore Beach / Wadsworth Cove buttressing are taking place today and will carry over to tomorrow.
- 4) Track 4 is to prepare for recovery. To this end, I am in contact with several different firms to move in to Castine toward the middle of next week to begin more detailed assessments of damage.

## 2. Damage.

- a. The town dock was damaged beyond repair in portions. I'll estimate approximately \$150,000 in funds required if the pilings remain viable, possibly up to \$400,000 if the town has to reset all the pilings as well. The immediate need is to remove destroyed planking and beams and buy Jersey barriers to separate the parking lot from the bay. Estimate \$20,000. This is for the dock only and does not incorporate the Safe Harbor building or the Town Dock restrooms. There is undoubtedly damage there as well, but we will need a more detailed assessment to generate a number.
- b. The Sea Street pump station remains on generator power due to water inundation of the transformer bus on the side of the building. We can get this fixed for roughly \$10,000 all in. The part has been located in New Jersey and a contractor is ready to go. I am doubtful that we should get this repaired until after we



see what the storm projected for next Tuesday has in store for the town.

- c. Backshore Beach/ Wadsworth Cove Road. Immediate shoring up of the washed out area has already begun with an estimate of an approximate cost of \$10,000. Follow on paving will have to take place in the spring so the all in estimate for this area will be approximately \$50,000
- d. Embankment erosion on Water Street. There are two spots on Water Street where the bank leading from Water Street to the Water has been significantly eroded. Unknown cost for this fix at this time, but I am gathering input along two phases. Phase 1 is to halt the erosion and Phase II will be a permanent fix.
- e. Emerson Hall Weather Vane damaged. Roughly \$7-9,000

All in estimates between \$250,000- \$500,000

### 3. Funds.

None of the damage detailed earlier was budgeted for and we do not have a rainy day fund capable of responding on a level commensurate to the damage. We are currently having work performed outside of our normal budgetary process. As part of the damage assessment track mentioned above, we expect that funding will become available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but Castine will still need to pay for the work up front. While I do not have a date at this point, I will ask the Selectboard to call for a Special Town Meeting in the very near future to ask the residents to authorize the Selectboard to pull a yet to be defined amount from surplus to cover these expenditures. This Special Town Meeting will need to take place in the coming few weeks.