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

DATE: Tuesday, January 2, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Scott Vogell, Charlie Pearce, Marc Pelletier, David Adams, Josh Adam, Ann Blodgett, Ruth Ann & Bobby Vagt, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Bev Bishop, and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Bruce Boczkiewicz, Penny Carlhian, Debbie Rogers, and Brock Muir.

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; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$128,953.73. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta said this warrant covers putting in a new sidewalk and our energy bills. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$17,474.30. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: No minutes to approve at this time.

Old Business:

- a) Swings: Bev Bishop said the group she is working with is still interested in the swing project if approved by the Selectboard. The group is willing to fund, construct and install the two swings at locations approved by the Town: Fort Madison and Backshore Beach. The Town's responsibility will be to remove the portable benches during winter months and store. Marc Pelletier asked who are the sponsorships? Bev said she would notify next week.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve donation of two swings to be funded, constructed, and installed by the citizen group. The Town will remove benches and store

during the winter months. The location of swings will be: Fort Madison and Backshore Beach. Second by Dan Leader.

With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Two (2) Swing Donations approved 3-0.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving appointments to various Boards/Committees (see attached). Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to appoint Kathleen Eaton to the Tree Committee. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Tree Committee Appointment approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to appoint Donald Tenney to the Planning Board. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Planning Board Appointment approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to appoint Penny Carlhian to the Planning Board. Second by Dan Leader. Susan Macomber, Town Clerk, pointed out the details for Penny's term will be ironed out at the next Planning Board Meeting when the Board can determine if Jim Bernard will remain an Alternate member or move from Alternate member to Regular member status.

With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Planning Board Appointment approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced to approve & sign the March 5, 2024, Municipal Referendum Election Warrant. Gordon asked Susan Macomber, Town Clerk to read the warrant.

Dan Leader made motion to approve & sign the March 5, 2024, Municipal Referendum Election Warrant. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: March 5, 2024, Municipal Referendum Warrant approved 3-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett read his report:

Spring Street Pumphouse Building: Upgrades on the building have been taking place with approximately \$2,355 spent. The building is tightened up and is now in decent shape.

2024 Paving Plan: The hope is to have a 2024 paving plan ready in the next week with western Court Street as the #1 project and about ten (10) other additional projects to be on the list. The goal is to have a list outlined for the new Town Manager coming in.

New Year: Happy New Year to all!

Item 4. Other Business as Required: None.

Communications: a) Brock Muir's inquiry to allow food trucks. The Selectboard asked Brock to address. He said there are limited varieties of food establishments in Castine. Many even close before or right at dinner hour. He hopes Castine can move forward into the direction to allow food trucks. For some reason decades ago, it was not allowed but times have changed. New place, new time. Gordon MacArthur said the Selectboard will definitely consider. Dan Leader feels this is a great idea, but a definitive policy will need to be created outlining critical elements such as, structures, rent, location, food safety standards, clean up, trash, etc. Discussion.

Marc Pelletier said he felt location is extremely important. It would be best to group any or all food trucks in one location if allowed. Marc also said the Town should ask the other establishments their feelings on the topic.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, said this would require a Zoning Ordinance change. The concept will need to go to the Planning Board for review, then back to the Selectboard with Planning Board recommendation and then the Selectboard can bring to the Town voters with an article to amend the Zoning Ordinance.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Josh Adam asked Susan Macomber, Town Clerk, to read article #2 of the warrant again. After Susan read the article, Josh said he asked specifically at the last mtg if the article would not be a vote on location of a new Fire Station and feels that this is a "bait and switch" situation. Gordon MacArthur corrected and said the article is asking for funds to be spent in order to get investigation work complete to evaluate if Battle Avenue site is a suitable location. Gordon continued to clarify and said take note on the language used "preliminary concept design." "Preliminary design" must be complete enough in order to conduct the tests and investigations needed: where the building might be; parking layout; berms located, etc. so that we receive precise information. We do not know where water might go or be and the biggest part of this process for Battle Avenue site is to make sure groundwater will not reach and/or contaminate our water supply.

Dan Leader said the Selectboard must do "due diligence" to make sure this site can be safe.

Roberta Boczkiewicz said the wording, "preliminary concept design," in the article is important. If testing does not pan out, then it is a done deal. The placement of items such as building, parking, berms, etc. are essential information needed to conduct successful testing.

Marc Pelletier said he agreed and that he walked the property the other day. He said the site has significant slopes. The grading will be especially important so that it can prevent groundwater be graded towards our water supply. A fair amount of work will be needed to do grading work. Marc said the funds requested will be money well spent. He also said he will ask again, "when will the Town hire a project manager for this project?" A project manager should be doing this work, it is important work to do.

The Selectboard said that a project manager will definitely be hired but not at this time.

Discussion.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 6PM with expert panel to be present. The Selectboard will facilitate the mtg. Everyone will have ample time to discuss and ask questions.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: None.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Friday, 1/5/24 – T/G Mtg at 9AM.

Monday, 1/8/24 - Work Session at 9AM, if needed.

Monday, 1/16/24 - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

With no other business, Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to adjourn.

Second by Dan Leader. Gordon MacArthur asked for votes: approved 3-0.

Mtg adjourned at 4:34PM. Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Castine Selectboard

FROM: Susan Macomber, Town Clerk

RE: Various Board/Committee Appointments

January 3, 2024

Please consider the following appointments:

Tree Committee:

Kathleen Eaton, Regular member, expires 6/2026 (replacing Elizabeth Foote)

Planning Board:

Donald Tenney, Regular member, expires 6/2025 (replacing Roberta Boczkiewicz)

Penny Carlhian, Regular or Alternate member, to be ironed out at the next Planning Board Mtg;

- a) Alternate member, expires 6/2024 if James Bernard current Alternate member becomes Regular member, expires 6/2028 (replacing Bob Friedlander)
- b) Regular member, expires 6/2028 (replacing Bob Friedlander)