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

DATE: Monday, March 4, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Marc Pelletier, Tom Comiciotto, Gus Basile, Scott Vogell, Bob Beske, Brooke Tenney, Bobby & Ruth Vagt, Christine & Logan Spratt, Helen Miller, Liz Schanker, Ina Schonberg, Randy Stearns, Peg & Mac Patterson, Jeff Ackermann, Josh Adam, Mark Morgionini, Ann Blodgett, David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Matthew Pedersen/Terry Kudlak, Michelle Robinson, Mary Kneisel, Brock Muir, and Liz Parish.

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

Roberta Boczkiewicz welcomed Zoom participants and asked that they mute their devices, talk through chat and name their devices if they have not already.

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 \$54,171.70. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta informed this warrant pays about forty-seven with the bigger expenses covering energy costs and first responder training for new participants.

With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: General Fund Warrant approved 2-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$71,004.77.

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

Water Warrant approved 2-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the February 7, 2024, Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 2/7/24 Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the February 20, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes.

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

2/20/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the February 22, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes for approving Warrants. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 2/22/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the February 27, 2024, Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 2/27/24 Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Old Business: NONE.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Renewal Bottle Club Registration – Castine Golf Club. Liz Schanker was present.

No complaints have been received at the Town Office over the past year.

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

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Renewal Bottle Club License – Golf Club approved 2-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Renewal Bottle Club Registration – Castine Yacht Club. Liz Schanker was present.

No complaints have been received at the Town Office over the past year.

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

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Renewal Bottle Club License – Yacht Club approved 2-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the March 5, 2024, Election/Ballot Clerks.

Gordon read the list.

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

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 3/5/24 Election/Ballot Clerks approved 2-0.

Item 4. Gordon MacArthur introduced updates from Boards/Committees: a) Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC) – Marc Pelletier, Chair gave report (see attached). After Marc delivered the CHPC report he read a statement saying he recently had been called into Executive Session with the Castine Selectboard to go over accusations and allegations made against him from a community member on thirteen (13) counts. He said he addressed all thirteen (13) counts and the result was that the Selectboard did not find accusations and allegations substantiated; b) Library Board of Trustees – not present.

Item 5. Gordon MacArthur introduced addressing a Citizen Concern on Ordinance Misrepresentation.

Roberta asked Michelle Robinson if she wanted to address. Michelle said 1) the Town had been for over a year referring to the prohibition of Food Trucks as an Ordinance. Now we are being told it's a policy. She said it would be nice if the Town could reflect exactly what is needed or what is not allowed; 2) a few mtgs ago Gordon MacArthur referred to the Robinsons having a lawsuit against the Town which is not true. Michelle said she wrote a letter requesting that Gordon correct his statement. Gordon said he did not say that but would for the record say that he understood that there was a Court Hearing coming up. Michelle said that the disparagement week after week was uncalled for.

Item 6. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached):

Shawn added that it has been reported that street signs are being stolen. Everyone should keep their eyes and ears open. The Town will address the appropriate parties in the near future.

#2 Grants Update: Roberta & Gordon thanked Shawn for all the hard grant work which has resulted in awards this week. Shawn said a big shout out goes to Ina Schonberg who has been instrumental with grant help. Thank you, Ina! Shawn said the grant writing system is working. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve to apply for the Maine Department of Community & Economic Development Grant. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Apply for the Maine Department of Community & Economic Development Grant approved 2-0.

#3 Election Day 3/5/24: Gordon MacArthur made motion to shut the Town Office on Friday, 3/8/24 for the customary compensatory day off due to staff working on Election Day. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. 3/8/24 Town Office Closed approved 2-0.

Item 7. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: a) request from MMA student to conduct studies at Dyce Head Lighthouse area. She would drill holes in rock to hold the gear until Fall 2024. Once completed, she will remove all gear and anchors. Roberta Boczkiewicz made a motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. MMA student study request approved 2-0.

b) wedding request from Heather Jellison & Chris Haynes to have their wedding ceremony at the Backshore Beach on 9/14/24. Roberta Boczkiewicz made a motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Wedding request at Backshore Beach approved 2-0.

c) copy of letter from MMA President Jerry Paul that he sent out to the student body regarding student drivers. Gordon read the letter.

d) letter from Castine Community Partners (CCP) giving support for allowing Food Trucks in Castine especially this upcoming 2024 season. Gordon read the letter.

The Selectboard informed that Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett was working on a Food Truck Ordinance and the Selectboard supports and hopes to expediate the issue. They plan to discuss it further at their next Work Session. Gordon said he believes it is very important to bring food vendors to Town this summer.

Shawn reviewed the current rules; Food trucks are allowed only in the Commercial, Educational, Maritime Districts and on private property (Eaton's, Dennett's and MMA) in these Districts with Planning Board approval. The "No Vending on Town Property" Policy can be lifted by the Selectboard and we also have to address the Traffic Ordinance as Food Trucks on the Town Dock will affect that area. Discussion.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Brooke Tenney gave a short story about driving on the Castine Road to Bucksport. She said she and Gil were blindsided driving and being passed on double lines not once but several times driving to Bucksport. It was scary. Gordon said Castine gets as much police enforcement as possible. And we work with Orland. Community members can get license plate numbers and report to HCSD.

-Marc Pelletier said that his street sign was stolen recently. He reported it and bought another one for \$25. Marc said he was going to create a better bolted way to keep the sign from being taken. He said he'd be happy to share with the Town. Gordon said there are non-removable fasteners that could be purchased.

-Mark Morgoini asked about the process for a Food Sovereignty Ordinance so that, for example, Tilth & Timber Farm could use old tomatoes into salsa. The Selectboard said they have been working on it, see what works for Castine and hoping to present something to the Town voters soon.

-Marc Pelletier said he'd been making comments about the Town hiring a Project Manager especially for a future new Fire Station. He said that MMA recently found out through bids received that their 28-million-dollar project is now actually a 42-million-dollar project. He said this is a good example and could happen to the Town. Gordon said he feels that when Castine has an actual fire station project they will hire a Project Manager, but we are not there yet. We have the desire for a new fire station, but we have no design or details yet.

Marc asked if the same firms up this point would be doing the work if the 3/5/24 is approved. Shawn said that no firm has been selected or hired. The Town will do an RFP once we get to that time. The Town may have to hire someone to write an RFP. Discussion.

Gordon said he feels like the proposed fire station, in the future, will be around a estimated 4-million-dollar project.

-Michelle Robinson asked why the Town Manager position was reposted? Gordon reviewed the timeline. Michelle asked if the job description was rewritten. Answer was no. We will know

more about separating Town Manager & CEO after the 3/5/24 vote and see if funds get approved.

-David Avery asked how long it could be before a new Town Manager is hired? Hopefully sooner rather than later but Shawn has graciously agreed to stay on for a while to assist with the hiring and the transition. New application deadline is Friday, 3/8/24.

-Michelle Robinson asked how the Town not knows yet since there is a question asking for money. The Town does not know until the voters approve.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 3/11/24 – Work Session at 9AM.

Monday, 3/18/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

Saturday, 5/11/24 – May Town Mtg at 8:30AM.

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

Second by Gordon MacArthur. Gordon MacArthur asked for votes: approved 2-0.

Mtg adjourned at 4:57PM.

Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: March 04, 2024
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Winter Storm's Update.

Town Dock. As anyone that has been paying attention can tell, the reconstruction of the town dock has begun. As of this afternoon, there are approximately 6 of the old pilings that still need to be removed and replaced which we assess will be done by tomorrow or Wednesday at the latest. The new sheet piling caps will arrive tomorrow. As all indications are that the act to allow us to elevate the planking by 14 inches will pass soon, so we are working towards that goal.

There will most likely be a pause in construction next week, but we are still on track to have floats in by April 18th.

The running total for the actions we took for immediate damage control remains \$26,655. Our current estimate for a new and improved town and Acadia docks has increased by \$2,200 to \$199,523 for a total amount currently appropriated at \$226,178. As a reminder, we expect to recoup a large portion of this expenditure through Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funds.

2. Grant(s) Update.

- a. The town has received great news all around on grants this week. Yesterday, we received notification that Castine will receive \$50,000 from the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund. We will



use this money to conduct planning and design for the next phase of town dock area resiliency planning. Once planning and design is completed and the project is in the “shovel ready” category, there are several other grant opportunities to apply for to defray construction costs.

- b. Northern Border Regional Commission Grant. No change. Preliminary Letters of Interest are due by March 15th.
- c. Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) Grant. We have received unofficial word through MEMA today that our grant application will be funded. This will be for \$112,500 for an emergency power supply system at the Battle Avenue Water Treatment facility. The match for this grant will come from Water Surplus. A special Thank You to Olver Associates for conducting the engineering and design work to enable the town to successfully apply for this grant.
- d. Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funds. We received word this morning that both of Castine’s submissions have cleared Federal Senate and House reconciliation and will be voted on for passage. We have been told that we should expect the Presidents signature on these appropriations within a week. The first of these packages is \$288,000 for town dock expansion. We expect that this money will be utilized after the engineering and design work is completed utilizing the \$50,000 procured from the MIAF. The second is \$1.64 million for the Sea Street pump station. This money will be utilized to defray the estimated 2.2-million-dollar cost to replace the 52 year old Sea Street sewage pumps. Even after receiving these funds from the Federal Government though, Castine will need to fund the approximate \$560 thousand dollar shortfall. However, in other terms, we will be getting a much needed 2.2 million dollar project completed for 25 cents on the dollar.



- e. The Hancock County Planning Commission would like Castine to sign onto a grant application that they would like to file on our behalf. The grant is for \$175,000 from the Maine Department of Community and Economic Development to study affordable housing in this region. Currently, Blue Hill, Surry, and Brooksville have signed on. There is no local match and the HCPC will be doing the legwork. Fund management is still an open question, but I respectfully request the Selectboard authorize the HCPC to apply for this grant on our behalf.

All together this week, we have received very positive news for just shy of 2.1 million dollars in grant funding.

3. Election Day Tomorrow. As Karen and Sue will be working tomorrow from early morning until very late in the evening, I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize me to shut down the front office on Friday, the 8th of March for their customary compensatory day off. All other town staff members not involved in the primary/special town meeting will work normal hours.

4. Around the Town.

- a. The Request for Proposals for the paving of Western Court Street has been sent out to all local paving contractors as well as posted on the town's web page.
- b. Gary Pomeroy (the vendor who grinds the brush pile) will be on site at the transfer station within the next couple of weeks to conduct the yearly grinding of the brush pile.
- c. The yearly street sweeping has been scheduled for May 8th with street painting to follow shortly thereafter.
- d. This is a reminder to all residents of Castine that the State Legislators involved in the passage of LD 2030, An Act to Exempt Certain Emergency Activities and Structure Elevation Increases in



Flood Zones from Permit Requirements Under the Natural Resources Protection Act are listed on the town web page.