

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2024, 4:00 PM
Emerson Hall**

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Present: Gordon MacArthur, Chair; Roberta Boczkiewicz, Selectboard; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager and Karen Motycka, Finance Officer.

Public: Marc Pelletier, Don Tenney, Gil and Brooke Tenney, Joe Slocum, Peg and Mac Patterson, Tom Comiciotto, Josh Adam, Gus Basile, Bobby and Ruth Ann Vagt, Ann Blodgett, Bob Beske and David Avery (Castine Patriot). **Zoom attendance** – Pat Bishop, Mary Kneisel, Liz Parish, Bruce Boczkiewicz, Helen Miller, Michelle Robinson, Penny Carlhian, Roxanne Coady, Debbie Rogers, Amelie Kneisel, Matt Pederson, Deborah Gribbon, Terry Kudlak, Ina Schonberg, Bente Hartmann, and iPhone (9).

Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. It was verified that a quorum was present.

Gordon asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. There were none.

Gordon introduced Warrants, Abatements, review Budget vs. Actual, Trial Balance Sheets, Bank Reconciliations and Excise Tax Collections. Gordon made a motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$156,154.17. Roberta seconded the motion and noted that the warrant covered 85 bills, including bills for storm damage, electricity, and books for the library. Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

Gordon asked for a motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$25,780.70. Roberta made a motion to approve the Water Warrant in that amount. Gordon seconded the motion. Roberta noted that the warrant covered 11 bills, including electricity and utility operations. Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting. Roberta seconded the motion. With no discussion, Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

Item 1.

Gordon introduced approval for Witherle Memorial Library to apply for a grant from the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board for \$600, with a \$200 library match, which the library can cover within the current budget. A collection assessment of library owned archive materials would be done. Gordon made a motion to approve the library's submittal of the grant application. Roberta seconded the motion. With no discussion, Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

Item 2.

Gordon introduced approval for the Fire Rescue Department to apply for a US Department of the Interior Grant. The grant program is used for the development of brush trucks for wildfire response. Gordon made a motion to approve. Roberta seconded the motion. With no discussion, Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

Item 3.

Gordon introduced approval for the Fire Rescue Department to apply for a Nutella Stacks for Giving Back Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of needed equipment and gear. Gordon made a motion to approve. Roberta seconded the motion. With no discussion, Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

Item 4.

Gordon introduced the need to schedule Public Hearings for Zoning Ordinance and Sub-Division Ordinance Amendments as well as for the Mobile Vending Unit Ordinance. Gordon made a motion to schedule the Public Hearings on Monday, March 25th beginning at 5:30 PM. The Planning Board has a Public Hearing on Monday, March 25th at 5PM to recommend to the Selectboard that changes be made to both the Zoning and Sub-Division Ordinances to meet the LD2003 requirements as well as changes to the Zoning Ordinance Land Use Table for Mobile Vending Units. Roberta seconded the motion. With no discussion, Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

Item 6.

Gordon introduced Town Manager's Report. Shawn read his report (attached to become part of the minutes). In addition, Shawn noted that the 1st floor side exit doors for Emerson Hall that are code compliant and will keep the wind and snow out have been delivered. Public Works is in the process of varnishing, and they would be installed soon. Shawn also discussed the 2024 – 2025 paving plan. Under Priority 1, he listed the intersection of Perkins/Pleasant Streets, the top of School Street (not until end of year), Western Court Street (noted that grant for Western Court Street infrastructure has been applied for. If we are successful in getting the grant, the work would likely not begin until 2026. That being 2 years away, and the poor quality of the road, he suggested paving now) and section on Wadsworth Cove Rd. Priority 2 projects include in front of 147 Perkins St/intersection of Tarratine St and 97 Perkins St. Priority 3 are patch jobs; 1 on Battle Ave, 3 on Perkins St and 1 on Water St.

Gordon made a motion to return the spending limits of the Purchasing Policy back to standards as Shawn felt arrangements for storm damage repair work over the limits had all been met. Roberta seconded the motion.

Approved 2-0.

Gordon requested that the draft Mobile Vending Unit Ordinance be posted on the Town's web site.

Item 5.

Gordon introduced Tom Comiciotto of the Planning Board for an update. Tom listed all the Planning members, how often and when they meet, as well as their responsibilities. Roberta thanked Tom for giving a thorough overview of the Planning Board, she thought not everyone was aware of what they do.

Item 6.

Gordon asked if there was Other Business. There was none.

Communications – There was none.

Gordon acknowledged members of the public.

Brooke Tenney asked if the Town had joined the YMCA in Blue Hill. She mentioned that Jessica Simmons of the Recreation Committee had mentioned it several meetings ago. Brooke was told that this was an idea for the coming fiscal year. The coming fiscal year budget has not yet been established by the Selectboard or Town. If funding is approved, it would not be available until July 1, 2024.

Josh Adam asked about the Town Manager search, specifically why, in his opinion, an exceptional candidate, who lives in Town was not hired. Gordon stated that a candidate was offered the position, however the candidate was also offered a position in another community and took that position.

Marc Pelletier had several questions/comments. 1) should the sidewalk at the top of School Street be taken out as it was not walked upon? Shawn stated that would be a decision for another day. 2) what happened to the idea of making Perkins St one way from Main to Pleasant Streets? Roberta stated they were working on several changes to the Traffic Ordinance and would be taken up together. 3) why doesn't the Town do the Western Court St engineering now to be shovel ready if we get the grant? Shawn stated the Town has a limited amount of money in the infrastructure account, and we need to be wise about how we spend it. 4) the Historic Preservation Commission has been working on Ordinance changes. 5) MMA dock lighting plan? Shawn said he has received the lighting plan, however he has asked for a Power Point presentation, so the community can better see what it is. Shawn said it is mostly dark sky compliant, but there are places, for safety reasons, where more light is needed. 6) missing street signs, what is the Town doing about it? Marc was told that going forward the Town would use tamperproof bolts. We put a Facebook post out about the missing no-wake buoys as well as missing street signs and asked for their return.

Joe Slocum asked what the pothole process was. He said that his wife, Jan, had tripped on a pothole on water Street and hurt herself. Gordon said they would get Public Works to fill potholes.

David Adams has several ideas about making the Town Dock more welcoming to boaters. Suggestions included a windsock and a weathervane. Roberta thanked David for his comments and suggested he attend the Harbor Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 20th at 4:30 PM to talk with them.

Gordon asked if there were any Selectboard comments. Roberta said that she had received communication from Dan, and he was unable to join Zoom as his overseas wi-fi was not good.

Next meetings: Selectboard Executive Session Tuesday, 03/19/24 at 9AM, Work Session Monday, 03/25/23 at 9AM if needed, Selectboard Meeting Monday, 04/01/24 at 4PM and Tuesday 04/16/24 (Patriots Day Holiday) at 4PM, May Town Meeting Saturday 05/11/24 at 8:30AM.

With no other business, Roberta made a motion to adjourn. Gordon seconded the motion. Gordon called for a vote.

Approved 2-0.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Minutes by Karen Motycka.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: March 18, 2024
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Winter Storm's Update.

Wash, Rinse and Repeat. On March 10th, Castine experienced another round of flooding at the Town Dock and Backshore. As with earlier storms, the Castine Fire Rescue Department were out and about and incredibly active – all 5 or 6 of them – three of this number from one family. We are continuing to take steps to repair and rebuild.

Future actions: The town dock work is ongoing and our intent remains to elevate the structure. The Safe Harbor building has had some internal demolition completed and we will have an electrician available towards the end of this month to rewire the structure. We will be elevating the electrical lines to harden the facility, but there is no assurance that this won't have to be done again. ServePro has been scheduled to come in and conduct post flood cleaning as soon as the electrical work is completed. Wadsworth Cove Road can be repaired by saw cutting approximately 3' in width by roughly 125', then repacking and repaving. I intend to have this work completed in conjunction with another more extensive paving project to be completed on Wadsworth Cove Road this year. Our Public Works crew are currently gathering bids to contract with an earthmoving firm to reshape and Backshore Swimming Area. Due to three rounds of flooding, I assess that the yearly cleanup of the beach is going to be much more extensive this year and will most likely exceed the



budget for this yearly event- though not terribly so. To pay for this, I intend to use the surplus storm damage funds.

2. Grant(s) Update.

Other than the Fire Department grants that are on the agenda tonight, we are not seeking to apply for more grant funding this week. The Preliminary Letter of Interest for the Norther Border Regional Commission Grant is due by the 22d of this month and we will make this timeline. As a reminder, this is a grant for 1.919 million dollars to enable the town to completely rebuild Court Street from Pleasant to Tarratine. Also on the 22d paving bids are due to repave this section of town.

Lastly, I think I have been remiss in not sending out a hearty Thank You to the leadership of Maine Maritime Academy for Castine's recent good fortune on Congressionally Directed Spending. While the applications were the town's, it should not be lost on anyone that MMA did a huge amount of behind the scenes work to bring both the Sea Street Pump Station and the Town Dock Expansion packages across the finish line. On behalf of the town staff, I'd like to Thank President Paul, COO Craig Johnson and all of the leadership of MMA for their critical help on these important projects for Castine.

3. Public Hearings on March 25th.

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on the 25th of March starting at 5:00 pm to hear from the public on two Zoning Ordinance changes.

- 1) The first will be changes to the Castine Zoning Ordinance as mandated by State Law P.L. 2021, Ch. 672 or LD 2003. There really is no debate on these changes as they were mandated by Augusta.
- 2) The second proposed change will be to alter Article 5, Section 5.4 (Land Use Table), Item 50 of the Zoning Ordinance to enable the town to host Mobile Vending Units. The Planning Board's role in this is the Zoning Ordinance and not a new Mobile Vending Ordinance.



I respectfully request that the Selectboard also hold Public Hearings on these two items starting at 5:30 pm on the same date. The Selectboard must hold two public hearing, one on each issue. The first will be to hear from the public on the Zoning Ordinance Changes and the second will be to hear from the Public on the proposed Mobile Vending Unit Ordinance. With Selectboard approval, we can post the proposed new ordinance at any time tomorrow.

4. Around the Town.

- a. The Request for Proposals for the paving of Western Court Street will close out on .
- b. Gary Pomeroy has completed the grinding of the brush pile at the transfer station and the public works crew cleaned up the area. We are good there for another year.
- c. The yearly street sweeping has been scheduled for May 8th with street painting currently scheduled for May 9th and 10th.
- d. Another 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.
- e. No wake zone. Our attempt to support MMA's "No Wake Zone" traffic calming initiative lasted 4.5 days before our no wake zone buoys were stolen. We will retry this using street signs added to already existing signs on Main Street and Pleasant.