

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

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DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

TIME: immediately following the Public Hearing

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Marc Pelletier, Gus Basile, Scott Vogell, Bob Beske, Jeff Ackermann, Don Tenney, David Adams, Matt Powell, Hank DeRaaf, Peter Stewart (MMA), Bob Friedlander, Karen Lyons, Sarah Stammen, Debra Orado, Susan Hazlett and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Brock Muir, Liz Parish, Debbie Rogers Helen Miller, Bruce Boczkiewicz, Pat Bishop, Michelle Robinson, Bente Hartmann and Julie Bohan.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:45 PM, after the Public Hearing and verified there was a quorum.

Gordon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: Roberta asked to add Library Report. It was decided to add between agenda items 4 & 5.

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 \$193,857.86. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta said this warrant covers about 120 bills, the largest paying \$119,000 to Isleboro Marine for Town Dock repair project; \$10,000 monthly payment for snowplowing contract; \$4,000 for suppression/fire alarm testing.

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 \$17,678.61. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta said this warrant was paying 17 bills, the largest paying \$12,900 to Olver Associates for Water/Wastewater operations and paying electric and Coastal Energy bills. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Dan Leader made motion to approve the April 1, 2024, Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 4/1/24 Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the April 1, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes.

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

4/1/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the April 3, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes.

Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 4/3/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the April 3, 2024, Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 4/3/24 Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the April 9, 2024, Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 4/9/24 Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the April 10, 2024, Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 4/10/24 Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Old Business: Gordon updated stating the Selectboard have been interviewing Town Manager candidates which is why all the Executive Session Mtg minutes were just approved.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving amendments to the Castine Traffic Ordinance. The areas resulting from discussion at the Public Hearing will be added (§1.6 - seasonal parking restriction definition; §2.19 – MVU one-year trial basis; §2.25 – exception to long-term parking for vehicles with a visible INN permit).

Dan Leader made motion to approve the amendments with inclusions from the Public Hearing. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Traffic Ordinance - approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the renewal Liquor & Amusement Licenses – The Pentagoet Inn & Pub.

Matt Powell, Owner, was present.

No complaints were issued to the Town Office over the past year.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the renewal Liquor License. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Liquor License – approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the renewal Amusement License. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Amusement License – approved 3-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the 2023 & 2024 Arbor Day Proclamations. Roberta read Proclamation (see attached).

Don Tenney, Tree Committee Chair & Tree Warden, said that approving these proclamations is a requirement to keep our Tree City status.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the 2023 & 2024 Arbor Day Proclamations. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 2023 & 2024 Arbor Day Proclamations - approved 3-0.

Item 4. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation. Gordon read the Proclamation (see attached).

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Clerks Week Proclamation - approved 3-0.

Item 4a. Gordon MacArthur introduced updates from Boards/Committees: a) Library Board. Karen Lyons gave updates. She said she replaced Jeff Ackermann as Chair; the Library is thriving, programs are exploding, Children's programs going strong; Feb '23-Feb '24 have seen a 41% increase with Library participation; Jan '23-Jan '24 saw 30% increase; generator was donated by the Friends and is a wonderful asset especially with the frequent power outages Castine experiences. Many citizens stopped to charge phones, seek warmth, use computers, etc during the 4-day outage in December '23; there are rotating exhibits in the Lobby every other month; Katherine & Rich have done a fabulous job with the Signature Series; Dungeons & Dragons is very popular and well attended two Thursdays monthly; a seed program will be available for starting gardens; the Book Sale is going away. Many books are being donated to other Libraries or to Goodwill. The space is going to be used for community programs going forward. The Selectboard thanked Karen for the updates.

Item 5. Gordon MacArthur introduced appointments to various Boards/Committees.

Gordon read memo. Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to appoint Jeff Stammen to the CHPC, regular member, expiring 6/2027. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: CHPC appointment - approved 3-0.

Dan Leader made motion to appoint Bruce Boczkiewicz to the Utility Board, regular member, expiring 6/2026. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Utility Board appointment - approved 2-0 (Roberta recused herself).

Item 6. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving to investigate a Nature Walk (located at the corner of Spring/Court Streets).

Roberta introduced Debra Orado, Children's Librarian, who came up with the idea. Debra reviewed the proposal. The idea is to read in the outdoors by walking a trail with kiosks holding pages of a book. The book would change monthly. There would be no cost to the Town if we

apply for the T-Mobile Grant and it is awarded. Maintenance is not ironed out yet. There are many story walks around the country and around Maine. This program would go year-round and bring visitors to Castine and to the Library. Discussion.

Debra would be the curator with hopes of collaborating with CHS and the Museum. Maybe Scarlett could get involved too by bringing visitors to the Nature/Story Walk area.

David Avery asked about parking. That has not been ironed out yet.

Gordon pointed out that if approved, the Selectboard would be approving to investigate the possibility for this program.

Roberta made motion to approve investigating a Nature/Story Walk. Second by Dan Leader.

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Investigating Nature/Story Walk - approved 3-0.

Item 7. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving to apply for the T-Mobile Grant.

Roberta addressed. She said that Ina Schonberg, Town grant writer, discovered this grant. The idea, if awarded, would be to use these grant monies for the Nature/Story Walk.

Roberta made motion to apply for the T-Mobile Grant. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Apply for T-Mobile Grant - approved 3-0.

Item 8. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett was absent. Gordon read Shawn's report (see attached):

#1 Storm Recovery Update: Scott Vogell said that the Acadia decking plan had to change due to the joists not being perpendicular to the existing concrete angle. 3-4 ft of through-flow decking will be installed parallel with the existing concrete, the rest of the decking will be perpendicular with the through-flow decking. Material for this portion TBD.

Item 9. Other Business as Required: -Dan Leader informed that he attended two mtgs recently: one about internet access in the area. Fidium is available anywhere, even down dirt roads. If anyone is having issues, contact the Town Office. Fidium is still installing for free; the other mtg was about solid waste management for Peninsula communities. We have a crisis. Peninsula reps are hoping to meet regularly to come with a plan. More trash is going back to landfills. Recycling items are going to Portland, very little recycling items are actually being recycled. Composting was discussed. 75% of waste is compostable. Composting was never really considered in the past as incinerators needed it to burn the trash.

Gordon said he has been told by friends in VT that in VT it is illegal to throw away any compostable material. Discussion.

Gus Basile said he thought the Town of Hampden bought the PERC facility. Dan said he is not exactly sure of all the details, but it will cost many millions to get the PERC facility back online.

Tom Comiciotto asked if recycling items going to Portland was due to using Casella. Karen Motycka, Finance Officer, reviewed. Castine recycling does not go to Portland.

Dan said the purpose of this initial mtg was to get all Peninsula Towns on the same page and to work together. It is a big issue.

Communications: a) request from Hincapie to use the Backshore Beach area again on Saturday, 6/22/24 as a rest stop. This will be the 3rd year coming to Castine and could bring around 600 cyclists to Town. Dan Leader made motion to approve. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Hincapie request – approved 3-0.

b) List of CFRD awards given to volunteers recently. Dan read the list.

c) Roberta said the Selectboard received the following:

- letter from Michelle Robinson about T-Mobile Grant
- letter from Jules Thompson, CHS, about meeting in the future for mutual aid disaster planning
- letter from Stephanie Young about Library landscaping proposed project
- letter from the Town of Penobscot about solid waste management mtg that Dan attended
- letter from the State giving Comp Plan approval

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Marc Pelletier asked about the RFP for Battle Ave site soils characterization and groundwater analysis. RFP is posted on the Town's website. Marc also asked about MMA lighting plan. He said the community deserves to know what the plan is, how our downtown will look like and how we will deal with it once lighting is installed. Marc says he is aware that Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett has seen the plan but has anyone else? Gordon MacArthur said he believes MMA has put out an RFP for specific light fixtures and that the lighting plan is dark sky complaint. Discussion.

Dan Leader said he agreed with Marc Pelletier and that the Town needs to have an independent expert review MMA's lighting plan. Roberta Boczkiewicz said she understands the lighting plan will be reviewed by MMA engineers at the next T/G Mtg.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: -Roberta said the State has approved the Comp Plan but six (6) comments were made; three (3) from the State and three (3) were from Castine citizens. CCPC will be working on answers for these comments.

-Roberta also said MMA now has a shuttle van running to take students to places; senior approved drivers; will run all over Town and go as far as Bucksport to run errands, etc; student Lydia Lancina started the program.

-Sue Macomber pointed out that the Town Office will be closed the next day, Wedn 4/17/24 for Town Office staff to go do final proof at the printers. Gordon MacArthur made motion to

approve for the Town Office to be closed 4/17/24. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Town Office closed 4/17/24 – approved 3-0.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 4/22/24 – Work Session at 9AM.

Friday, 5/3/24 – T/G Mtg at 9AM

Monday, 5/6/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

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

Monday, 5/20/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

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

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

Mtg adjourned at 5:52PM.

Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: April 16, 2024
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Storm Recovery Update.

The connecting portion of the town dock area in between the Town Dock and the Acadia Pier may need to be largely decked with wear decking. The reasoning is that this portion of our dock area was not built in a standardized way the the thru flow decking won't align with the pier joists. Castine Harbor Master Scott Vogell can explain further.

The swimming area at the Backshore Recreation area has been largely repaired by Castine public works. Yet to be done at this location is the York raking of the swimming area, the paving of the undermined section of Wadsworth Cove Road, emplacement of small aggregate gravel on the parking area and then the annual beach cleanup. Bowden and Son LLC will conduct the storm recovery paving as soon as it can be scheduled. We are also expecting a bid from Bowden and Son to replace the culvert at Backshore Beach Road as part of this same project. I do not yet know whether everything can be accomplished before Memorial Day weekend, but we will do our utmost to try to have the area completely recovered by the traditional start to summer.

This Week: ServPro was on site today (16 April) to clean the Safe Harbor building. Public works will begin putting the entire building back together tomorrow and I estimate that these actions will be completed by early next week. Once this is all completed, the building will be ready to be re-occupied by the vendors.



Floats are still scheduled to be placed back in the water on the 18th and the new ramp will also be delivered this week.

2. Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

RFPs have been sent out to 5 highly qualified firms to conduct the soils characterization and groundwater analysis on the Battle Avenue Lot (Map 20 Lot 8A. Prospective contractor questions to the town are due no later than May 3, 2024 with proposals due on May 17, 2024. This RFP is also posted on the town web page. Next up for this project will be to publish an RFP for the preliminary site design of the site.

A paving RFP was sent out on Monday for paving up to 700 linear feet of Wadsworth Cove Road. The close out date for this RFP is Monday, May 6th. As soon as I return to the office on the 24th of April, we will start working on Perkins Street to accomplish all of the priority 1 paving projects for the year.

3. Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) Pier.

The Planning Board will meet on April 25, 2024 to conduct a public hearing on a request by MMA to extend their Site Plan Approval by a year for good cause. MMA's Federal and State permitting has taken them longer than they contemplated. While they do not need an extension currently, they do not believe that construction timelines can be met to be "substantially started" and "substantially completed" within the 1 year and 2-year timelines established by the Castine ZO.

4. Around the Town.

- a. Early this week, we expect to receive the last expected bid for the landscaping remediation stemming from the sidewalk emplacement on Pleasant and Perkins Street. Following receipt of this bid, we will be in a position to have an informed conversation with the property owners and the Selectboard. Public Works has completed



the sidewalk connector on the Perkins Street portion of this project. As a reminder, this connecting area was necessitated to safeguard the root system of a large and old Elm Tree.

- b. This week Public Works will be heavily engaged in getting the floats in the water at the town dock and getting the Safe Harbor building put back together. Once those actions are completed, they will turn to varnishing and installing the largely grant funded new doors for Emerson Hall, replacing stolen traffic signs around town and getting the town ready for street sweeping and street striping the first week of May. As discussed earlier with the Selectboard, expect the street painting to be more extensive this year.
- c. The updated snow plowing contract has been sent out to Lanpher and Sons and I am awaiting their signed copy to be returned.
- d. With Spring starting to arrive, Code Enforcement work is picking up so expect this to take up quite a bit of the Town Manager's excess time.
- e. The Town Manager will be out of the office until the 24th of April. There will be one contract coming in while the Manager is gone and that is for paving on Western Court Street. As the Selectboard is aware, this RFP period closed and Eaton's Paving and Excavating was the winning bidder. The Town Finance Officer is authorized to sign this contract.
- f. Castine currently has two malfunctioning streetlights. As the Selectboard is aware, for cost effectiveness, we generally wait until we have at least three malfunctioning lights before we mobilize a contractor from Camden to fix them. If any Castine resident has noticed a streetlight malfunctioning, please contact town hall. We are aware of one malfunctioning on eastern Court Street and one in the vicinity of Bowden Road on The Shore Road. If there are any others that have gone unnoticed, please let us know.



- g. American Tower LLC has been contacted to send Castine the right of first refusal and lease extension contract. This was voted on and approved by the town voters on March 5, 2024. We waited a bit to ensure that the \$15,000 payment will be applied to next fiscal year.
- h. The Federal Emergency Management Agency was in town from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday the 12th and had a steady stream of Castine and Brooksville residents avail themselves of FEMA's services. If any Castine resident was unable to join FEMA in person at Emerson Hall, they have another walk in facility in Ellsworth open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The address is:
- Moore Community Center
125 State Stree
Ellsworth