

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

RB  
BV

DATE: Monday, June 3, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Roberta Boczkiewicz, Acting-Chair, Dan Leader, Selectboard member; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Brooke & Gil Tenney, Liz Parish, Scott Vogell, Pat Bishop, Ruth Ann & Bobby Vagt, Tom Comiciotto, Gus Basile, Josh Adam, Bob Friedlander, Marc Pelletier, Karen Lyons, Jeff Ackermann, Julia Gray, Kip & Miles Oberting, Apple Lieser, Sara Kneisel, Anne Blodgett, and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Mary Kneisel, Michelle Robinson, Bruce Boczkiewicz and Brock Muir.

Roberta Boczkiewicz opened the meeting at 4:00 PM and verified there was a quorum (Gordon MacArthur was absent). Roberta asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: Add 3A) Approve MVU application = Star Fire Pizza – Stella di Fuoco.

Roberta Boczkiewicz asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections; Dan Leader made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$45,181.63. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta said this warrant pays for items such as storm damage, signage, work at the Town Dock, repainting historic signs and street sweeping. With no other discussion, Roberta asked for votes: General Fund Warrant approved 2-0.

Dan Leader made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$256.26. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Roberta asked for votes: Water Warrant approved 2-0.

Minutes: No minutes to approve since Roberta was absent at the last mtg and with Gordon absent from this mtg there is no quorum to vote on.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Item 1. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving application for an Incorporated Civic Organization – Castine Scientific Society dba Wilson Museum. Julia Gray was present.

Dan Leader made motion to approve. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. This is for one event on 8/15/24 which is a ticketed Wine Tasting fundraiser. Dan said the menu looks delicious. With no other discussion, Roberta asked for votes: Incorporated Civic Organization Application – approved 2-0.

Item 2. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving New Liquor & Amusement Licenses – Dennett’s at the Wharf, LLC.

Kip & Miles Oberting were present. Kip addressed. Dennett’s has been a restaurant for years. The new application is required since there is a change of operation. Kip said he had a State liquor license when he first bought the property in 2017 but since then it has been leased out to different companies. This season it will be operated by mostly family. Kip’s son Miles and niece Apple with other family and friends will be working the restaurant. Many have restaurant and bartending experience; open probably 4 days a week; target opening date 7/1/24 and see how it goes. There will be kinks to iron out. The rebuild process has been slow at times but progress is being made with a good push this past week.

Dan Leader made motion to approve Liquor license. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

New Liquor License – Dennett’s at the Wharf -approved 2-0.

Dan Leader made motion to approve Amusement license. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

Marc Pelletier asked if the music would primarily be outside or inside? There were problems in the past with some community members living nearby with the noise when music was on the outside deck. Kip said music would be inside. Marc also asked if there would be outdoor dining or if it all would be indoors. Kip said at this time there is hopes to have some outdoor space on the Eaton’s Boatyard (EBY) side. Kip described the whole Dennett’s space looking more “wharfy” than it has been.

New Amusement License – Dennett’s at the Wharf -approved 2-0.

Item 3. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approved MVU application – Ca C’est Bon Cajun Food.

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

Roberta said this food truck has put in to be on the Town Dock 7/4-7/7/24.

Ca C’est Bon Cajun MVU application -approved 2-0.

Item 3A. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approved MVU application – Star Fire Pizza – Stella di Fuoco. Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve. Second by Dan Leader.

Roberta said this food truck has put in to be on the Town Dock 8/15-8/18/24.

Star Fire Pizza MVU application -approved 2-0.

Item 4. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced accepting Resignation from Tree Committee member.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to accept resignation submitted by Andi Lloyd. Second by

Dan Leader. Andi's time has reached a "spread too thin" point and had to make the hard decision to leave the Tree Committee. Resignation -approved 2-0.

A thank you note will be sent to Andi Lloyd for her service.

Item 5. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving the June 11<sup>th</sup> State Primary Election Clerks. Dan Leader made motion to approve. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Dan read the list of Election Clerks (see attached). 6/11/24 Primary Election Clerks -approved 2-0.

Item 6. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced Boards/Committees report: a) REC Committee: REC member, Sara Kneisel, was present to give an updated report.

- Memorial Day parade lunch vouchers
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July co-sponsor with the Fire/Rescue Dept & CMA; working on another option to replace having balloons due to environmental issues and helium shortages
- Weekly summer program with activities such as cornhole, bocce, wiffle ball, badminton, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, croquet, kickball, etc; location TBD depending on the activity
- Fall/Winter programs: Halloween and Christmas Tree Lighting

Dan Leader said there was citizen interest in getting Waterfront Wednesday's up and running again and asked if the REC Committee could get involved with that program. Justin Cooper is working on the music talent to come perform. Discussion. Sara pointed out that REC Committee has limited funds and manpower. Dan said there are community members willing to help pay to have this event back. Sara said she would bring it to the REC Committee to discuss.

David Avery asked if Castine was a Blue Hill YMCA member? Karen said the membership is built into the REC budget but doesn't start until 7/1/24 (next FY). Sara said a list of the membership programs, times, etc is needed before committing. Dan said he would get those details out to everyone. Josh Adam asked about the MMA pool and whether it was going to be open to community members. Sara said she has not heard. Dan said the question could be asked at the next T/G Mtg coming up.

Item 7. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached):

Additional Item: Shawn said there is a gray area regarding the Town Purchasing Policy and how it would apply to the Library Board. Library Board is an elected Board, but State Statues says Library is a department of the Town. The Library has talked to vendors regarding their proposed landscaping project and has a price from only one. Shawn requested the Selectboard members attend the next Library Board mtg on Wednesday, 6/5 at 9AM to discuss and figure out policy issues.

#2 Battle Ave Soils Characterization & Groundwater Analysis:

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a

contract with Sevee & Maher Engineering to do the Soils Characterization & Groundwater testing project. Second by Dan Leader.

Josh Adam said that he asked some time ago why the article at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Election lumped the two Battle Ave projects together. He said that Gordon said the two has to be done in concert, that the preliminary design was needed in order to get these testing done. Josh said neither of the two RFP's received mentions a preliminary design. Josh asked if the Town has spent an unneeded \$50,000; have we paid the \$50,000 and to who, Port City Architecture? Shawn said the \$50,000 preliminary design project has to go out to RFP. We have no contract with any firm at this time. Josh said since the test wells would be in the fields would roads be needed to get to the test wells and if Planning Board approval is required. Shawn said no roads are needed and no Planning Board approved needed. This can be dealt with the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).

Josh asked if Gordon MacArthur was in error with the information, he gave out previously. Shawn said he believes the projects need to be in near conjunction but are not linked. Discussion. Shawn said he thinks the test wells completion timeframe is around July/August. Hopefully this is a realistic timeframe. Maybe into September but will check on that detail. With no other discussion, Roberta asked for votes: Authorizing the Town Manager to enter into Contract with Sevee & Maher -approved 2-0.

**#4 Sea Street Pump Station:** Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Olver Associates to do the engineered design work for the Sea Street Pump Station replacement project. Second by Dan Leader.

The first phase is to do the engineered design which has an estimated cost of \$170,000. The project whole will be partially defrayed by Congressional spending funds approved.

-Dan Leader said it will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day coming up later this week. He news reports are broadcasting this to be significant as there are not many D-Day survivors alive any longer. He asked if there were any left in Castine. If so, it would be good to acknowledge them.

Item 8. Other Business as Required: None.

**Communications:** a) letter from Bernard Higgins asking to use area in front of Danny Murphy's establishment on Saturday, 6/8 from 2-5 PM for a Memorial Service. And also, to use same space to sell grilled hot dogs & sausages to the community during the 2024 season.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve Danny Murphy's two requests. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Roberta asked for votes: Danny Murphy's two requests – approved 2-0.

**Roberta acknowledged the public present:** -Jeff Ackermann asked what happened to the Rosa Rugosa bushes at the Backshore Beach that abuts the parking lot area? They have been cut

down. Is that a mistake? No parking signs may be needed to keep kids and other pedestrians safe. Shawn said he would ask Public Works.

-Marc Pelletier again about MMA's Lighting Plan. Shawn reviewed the performance standards under the Zoning regulations. Marc said there has never been a formal presentation even though it has been a constant request. The community needs to see what this will look like. Discussion.

Dan Leader suggested that MMA bring an artist rendition of the plan to the Castine community. Marc Pelletier said that previous MMA President, Jerry Paul, said the lighting plan would be "Dark Sky Maine" compliant but we haven't heard anything more on this. Shawn said he doesn't remember Jerry saying "Dark Sky compliant" which is not required in the Zoning Ordinance. Shawn cannot deal with issues other than what the standards set forth in our Zoning to get to permitting.

-Scott Vogell asked about security cameras on the Town Dock. In the last month there have been a couple of incidents that could help identifying with cameras. Shawn said that new Wi-Fi at the Visitor's Center with extenders should allow for us to install security cameras in the Dock area.

-Marc Pelletier asked about Castine's sign code. He said he is noticing more signs going up on lawns, extra sandwich boards and flag signs at business up on the hill. Shawn said that the owner of the stump grinding signs that have surfaced around Town has been called. They have not been picked up so likely Public Works will do it. Business signs will have to work on. It is not a quick fix.

-Gus Basile said that on March 17, 2023, a letter from Kevin Coady's lawyer was submitted to the Town and asked why a public mtg has never been scheduled? Roberta said they would need to look back into the records and get back to Gus.

-Marc Pelletier commended everyone who has been involved with the Town Dock restoration project over the last five (5) months. It has come a long way from the damage done from the January storms.

**PAST ACTIONS:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** - NONE.

Next Mtgs:

Wedn, 6/5/24 – Library Board of Trustees Mtg at 9AM at the Library.

Friday, 6/7/24 – T/G Mtg at 9AM.

Monday, 6/10/24 – Work Session at 9AM, if needed.

Monday, 6/17/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

With no other business, Dan Leader made motion to adjourn. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta asked for votes: approved 2-0. Mtg adjourned at 4:53PM.

Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: June 03, 2024  
Re: Town Manager's Report

### 1. Storm(s) Recovery Update.

The connecting area between the western town dock side and the Acadia portion has been made safe today. It will still require some dressing up, but we do not want to spend a great deal of money on this as our contractor will be returning in the fall to make more substantial changes to this piece of the infrastructure to make it more resilient to future storms. A new catch basin has been emplaced on the back side of the Safe Harbor building to enable better stormwater drainage and fix a long lingering standing water problem. Final paving prep was supposed to take place today but had to be delayed until tomorrow which puts Wednesday as paving day. Following the paving and an overnight curing period, we will only be awaiting the railing emplacement to make the area usable. The railing should be finished by Friday of this week.

### 2. Battle Avenue Soils Characterization and Groundwater Analysis.

As the Selectboard is aware, we received two bids to conduct the soils characterization and groundwater analysis on the Battle Avenue lot. There were two firms who bid and the difference in their price was \$330. As the manager of Castine's utilities, we sent both proposals over to Olver Associates for review and comment. Olver Associates have previously worked with both firms. Both firms' testing and boring methodologies were the similar or the same. Sevee and Maher included in their price at least one more public meeting, possibly the result of their proximity to Castine. Quote:



SME has been onsite and is extremely accommodating and great to work with. They never scope creep and their price is what they say and they do more without charging more. That has been our experience on every single project we have worked with them on and we think their staff is outstanding. From the perspective of managing the water utility, I would prefer to work with SME.

I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize me to enter into a contract with Sevee and Maher Engineering to get this project started. As a reminder, the town resoundingly approved this project at the Special Town Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### 3. Paving Update.

Our paving vendor for Western Court, portions of Perkins and Wadsworth Cove Road will begin their work on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. They will have two crews working simultaneously with one prepping and the other paving. Currently, they are scheduled to do Western Court Street first, then move to the base of Tarratine to start the Perkins leg and then finish on Wadsworth Cove Road. As mentioned during the storm repair update, paving at the town dock should take place this week and then they will move up to Easter Perkins Street for other paving projects, one of which will be the Perkins/Pleasant street intersection.

### 4. Sea Street Pump Station.

At the May 11<sup>th</sup> town meeting, the town approved the town to loan the sewer department money for the Sea Street Pump Station replacement project. To get this started, we need to enter into a contract with Olver Associates for the engineering and design work. The first phase of this project will cost \$170,000. I respectfully request that the Selectboard authorize me to enter into this contract with Olver Associates.

### 5. 03 July Off Neck Cemetery Clean Up.



Tentatively, we are scheduling 03 July as the target date for off neck cemetery clean up and refurbishment. The targeted cemeteries will be the following:

- 1) Avery Cemetery
- 2) Wilson Cemetery
- 3) Wescott Cemetery

We are calling for volunteers to help with this endeavor. I'll be posting a sign up sheet on the town website for this purpose.