

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

hc
GBM

DATE: Monday, July 1, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Liz Parish, Scott Vogell, Pat Bishop, Gus Basile, Don Tenney, Judy & Doug Fitzsimmons, Debra Bonaminio, Stephanie Young, Susanne Clark, Helen Miller, Bobby Vagt, Brock Muir, Bruce Boczkiewicz, Mark Morgioni, Brooke Tenney, Helen Anderson, Linda Genereux, Galen Timur and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Michelle Robinson, Mary Kneisel, Ann Miller and Derik Goodine.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:00 PM and verified 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. Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the FY24 General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$264,825.59.

Second by Dan Leader. Roberta said this warrant covers 57 bills including \$112,000 for paving projects, \$56,000 for storm repairs (which we anticipate receiving about 90% back from FEMA reimbursements). With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

FY24 General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the FY25 General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$94,780.79. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta said this warrant covers 26 bills including payment to Peninsula Ambulance and allocations to many different Service Agencies that Castine sends contributions to.

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: FY25 General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$9,426.61.

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

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the June 17, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 6/17/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Amusement Permit for Leach Engagement Party at the Castine Inn. The event will take place on 7/13/24 from 5:30-7:30PM.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Dan Leader.

With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Leach Amusement Permit – approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached):

Item 3. Other Business as Required: None.

Communications: a) email from Don Tenney regarding a Castine Touring Company incident.

b) email from Michelle Robinson regarding Zoom.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Bruce Boczkiewicz asked if the mtg coming up (7/17/24 at 4:30PM) to discuss Castine's waterfront is just for the dock or the entire waterfront areas. Discussion. There is no design consultant yet, but it is the intention that if the Town is going to be doing work, then everyone on Sea St and MMA will be invited and coordinate from the start. Judy Fitzsimmons asked if the Town Dock was raised during the repair work from the January storm damage. Shawn said the dock was not raised. We've been told that the most accurate information and projections were coming from computer models and that we'd be required to be prepared for sea level rise by 2041. We are learning that projections are wrong but to stay on the conservative side, it seems smart to prepare for 50-100 years from now. Also, FEMA funds reimbursed for the January storms required work to be completed as is before the storms. Mtgs to take place soon will iron out ideas, suggestions and planning.

-Susanne Clark asked about the proposed Library landscaping project design. Gordon MacArthur said the library is a Town department but is not in the purview of the Selectboard, it is the elected Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board of Trustees next mtg is Wedn, 7/3 at 9AM at the library. There will also be a Public Informational Mtg on Tues, 7/9 at 3PM in Emerson Hall held by the Library Board of Trustees.

-Gus Basile asked if the Town has a Sidewalk Ordinance. Answer was no. Shawn said that Castine has a Performance Standard in its Zoning Ordinance which outlines types of sidewalks to place when needed. Gus asked who is responsible for sidewalks, especially for snow removal

in the winter. Answer was there are no requirements. Shawn said if property owners wish they can remove snow on sidewalks in front of their properties, but Town does not require it.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: - Dan Leader said he would like to discuss Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) recent recommendations regarding public participation and zoom at mtgs. This is something the Selectboard should seriously review and consider adding to the Town's Policy. The Selectboard agreed to discuss at the next Work Session (Mon, 7/22 at 9AM).

Next Mtgs:

Mon, 7/8/24 – T/G Mtg at 4PM.

Monday, 7/15/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

Monday, 7/22/24 – Work Session at 9AM, if needed.

With no other business, Dan Leader made motion to adjourn.

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

Mtg adjourned at 4:23PM.

Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: July 01, 2024
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. MMA Pier Lighting Plan and Castine.

On the 25th of June, I met with the the Bill Longfellow, Maine's Commissioner of the Bureau of General Service, Bob Gurney, the BGS lead engineer, MMA reps and MMA's Engineer of Record, GZA to discuss MMA's lighting plan. The sole agenda item is to obtain a BGS ruling on the lighting plan in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 5, subsection 1769. While the plan as it has been submitted comports with Castine Zoning, our ordinance also stipulates that lighting must comply with the state statute, for which the BGS is the adjudicating body. As submitted, the plan comports with Castine's ZO showing less than .3 fc at the lot lines. Certain aspects of the plan do exceed this standard though. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends that certain lights on working piers be between 3-5 fc and there are aspects of the MMA design that exceed this recommendation. There was some confusion among those gathered as the verbiage in the standard leads one to believe that the OSHA standard should be interpreted as an average, for which the plan complies. I expect to hear back through official communication by Friday with a ruling from the BGS. MMA intends to walk through the lighting plan with the Selectboard and the town on July 8th at the Town and Gown meeting.

2. Battle Avenue Soils Characterization and Groundwater Analysis.



All test wells have been emplaced and soil samples have been taken. This project is off and running.

3. Backshore Beach Clean Up #3.

The beach and the saltwater pond were York raked again this morning to get the area ready for the 4th of July weekend and for algae abatement on the pond. The pond is drained right now but will be refilled for the weekend.

4. Harbor Committee Special Meeting.

The Castine Harbor Committee have been working on the development of a Request for Proposals for a consultant to conduct design work on the next phase of the dock and harbor area. While we believe that the dock as it was reconstructed is far more storm resistant compared to what was there previously, sea levels will continue to rise and we understand that this is an interim step. Castine was approved for \$50,000 from the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund to help defray the cost of this work. The Harbor Committee would like to hear from the town on what the town would like to see in follow on phases at the harbor area. To that end, the Harbor Committee will be holding a special meeting on July 17th at 4:30 pm to hear from the public. Abutter notices have been sent out to all property owners in the Maritime Activity District announcing this meeting. In the Selectboard's packet is the Harbor Committee's Draft for items to include in the RFP.

5. 03 July Off Neck Cemetery Clean Up.

Last call for volunteers for this iteration of off neck cemetery maintenance. We will meet at Emerson Hall at 8:00 am on the 3d of July with a 3 pm end time. Volunteers are free to go at any time. Volunteers should be dressed for brush cutting and high weeds, which means dress for ticks. After walking the ground, we believe that we were being overly ambitious and will only



concentrate on one off neck cemetery for this evolution which will be the Avery Cemetery. However, as the town graciously provided us with funds for another round, we will be able to conduct another round of cleaning up in the fall.

The first three targeted cemeteries will be the following:

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

6. Around the Town.

The third time was not the charm for street striping this year. I'll be coordinating a return to complete the things that the striping contractor missed.

My replacement and I will be conducting an initial coordination meeting with a Solar Power consultant on the 10th of this month. The town approved the funds to hire this consultant at the most recent town meeting. The 10th will be the first of two days of turnover. Derik will be back in town on the 15th and 16th. Residents should expect that my availability will be scant during turnover days.

MEETING NOTICE

The Castine Harbor Committee at its next meeting on July 17th at 4:30 will be discussing how to prepare for future high-water events at the town pier and adjacent properties that will likely be worsened by rising sea levels and increasingly intense storms. The Harbor Committee is preparing a Statement of Work for a grant to study the issues and solicit inputs especially from stake holders along Sea Street. The following issues have been identified:

- Marina design and layout to maximize space and reduce risks
- Coordination and concerns of abutting property owners
- Metrics for developing timeline in phased approaches
- Evaluate of demand growth for facilities
- Identify comparable harbor locations and physical attributes
- Effective use of pre-existing infrastructure and wharf locations
- Parking for both vehicles and trailers
- Current and future regulatory horizon and implications
- Resiliency of utilities
- Description and nature of immediate stakeholders
- Accessibility to abutting properties
- Preparation of plausible responses for break water, bulkhead extensions etc.

Send to MMA and all property owners and businesses on sea Street.