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

DATE: Monday, August 5, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Liz Parish, Scott Vogell, Don Tenney, Ruth Ann & Bobby Vagt, Bryan & Sarah Carey, Mark Morgioni, Brooke Tenney, Tom Comiciotto, Gus Basile, Bob Friedlander, David Adams, Helen Miller, and Jeff Ackermann.

Zoom: Penny Carlhian, Matt Garcia (Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises), Mary Kneisel, and Laura Smith.

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

Gordon read a thank you and appreciation statement recognizing Shawn Blodgett for his time, efforts, and work as Castine's Town Manager (see attached statement).

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. Dan Leader made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$79,164.25. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta said this warrant covers fifty bills, the large ones paying \$20,000 to the new Adams School playground, schooner moorings and sewer operations.

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

Dan Leader said he was excited for the new playground. He thanked everyone for their fundraising efforts and those who contributed to this project.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$14,757.87.

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

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the July 15, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 7/15/24

Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (Roberta Boczkiewicz absent from the mtg).

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the July 16, 2024, Selectboard Executive Session

Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 7/16/24 Selectboard Executive Session Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (Roberta Boczkiewicz absent from the mtg).

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the July 29, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 7/29/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (to approve end of the month warrants; Dan Leader absent from the mtg).

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Special Amusement Permit – Legg Family (19 Pleasant St). The Legg family hosted one of these type events a couple of years ago. They have talked to their neighbors, in fact, they are all invited to attend.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve. Second by Dan Leader. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Legg Special Amusement Permit - approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Renewal Liquor License – Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises AS LLC.

Matt Garcia, representative from Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises, was present via Zoom.

No complaints were received at the Town Office over the past year.

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

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Renewal Liquor License – Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises – approved 3-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced Appointment to the Library Board of Trustees.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to appoint Marc Scoppettone to replace Pedrick Sweet who resigned due to health issues. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Appointment to the Library Board – approved 3-0.

Item 4. Gordon MacArthur introduced discussion regarding Appointing an Ad-Hoc Committee for upcoming prominent 250th Anniversary events (2026- American Revolution & 2029- Penobscot Expedition). This came by citizen requests: Cam Brien and Julia Gray (Wilson Museum). The Selectboard discussed at a recent Work Session and are leaning towards appointing one Ad-Hoc Committee to work on both events. The 2029 Penobscot Expedition anniversary will be the bigger of the two events with hopes of having Tall Ships in Castine to help celebrate. The idea is to start now for planning and preparing for both. It will be considered to possibly allocate funds into next year's budget and so on.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to appoint one Ad-Hoc Committee for both anniversary

events. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

Helen Miller said that marketing two different events will be difficult. It will be a lot of work for one Committee. Discussion.

Dan Leader said it will not cost anything for the Committee to start doing research needed. The 2026 event will be a soft start, include lecture series, and will be much smaller compared to the 2029 event. We have two people willing to start the process plus Cam Brien has contacts in England. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Ad-Hoc Committee – approved 3-0. Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to appoint Cam Brien as acting Chair on the Ad-Hoc Committee. Second by Gordon MacArthur. The idea is to have Cam Brien appointed and in place, then the Committee can vote officers when they get started.

With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Cam Brien as Acting Chair – approved 3-0.

Item 5. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Derik Goodine gave a brief summary of his experience and his first full day on the job.

- new computer up & running;
- met with some employees/department heads;
- meeting with FEMA & Shawn Blodgett on Wed, 8/7/24 @ 10AM; site visit to Fort Madison, Town Dock gazebo, etc;
- will work on posting open door hours during regular office hours to get out to the public

Discussion. Marc Pelletier asked what Derik's email was: derik@castine.me.us

Item 6. Other Business as Required: -Dan Leader said there is an article in the BDN regarding a survey and public comments on the Juniper Ridge expansion. Dan said this is super important to read and encourage the public to participate. Comments are based on Casella having an application submitted to the State to expand Juniper Ridge by an additional forty-one acres.

Communications: a) letter from MMA requesting to close off section of Pleasant St in front of the MMA football field for Homecoming. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: MMA Homecoming request – approved 3-0.

b) Thank you letters received from Lifeflight, Tree of Life, Eastern Area on Aging, Northern Light Health, and Downeast Community Partners for Castine's contributions.

c) letter from Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) giving notification of an upcoming Work Session.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Liz Parish pointed out the Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) Open House on Wed, 8/7 at 10:30AM which will have numerous State representatives present. Roberta said the Open House is focused on MMA's Work Force

Development program (welding & machine shop trade school). MMA had fifty-four students graduate as welder certified after the 6-week program. The program is utilizing empty spaces at MMA during the summer and is funded by the federal government. Representatives from the Governor Mills, Senator King, Senator Collins, and Representative Golden offices will be getting a tour of the program, spaces and having lunch at MMA.

-Bobby Vagt presented a sign thanking Castine's Volunteer Fire Rescue Department. He requested that the sign be posted somewhere for a temporary period of time to honor this first-rate group of volunteers.

-Mark Morgioni asked if there has been any movement on Food Sovereignty? Roberta said there will be a public Listening Session on Monday, 8/19 at 3:30PM.

-Marc Pelletier commented that previous Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett would include as part of his Town Manager's report updates on different projects going on. Marc requested that new Town Manager, Derik Goodine do the same. It is helpful to keep the community updated on progress and when projects are completed.

-Liz Parish asked what Shawn Blodgett's role would be now that he is done as Town Manager? Gordon said Shawn is the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO), will be working strictly on code issues and will have weekly part-time hours.

-Marc Pelletier said the 15-minute parking zone sign in front of Emerson Hall is faded and not legible any longer. Gordon said thank you for the heads up and they will look into ordering a new sign.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: - Roberta said a big thank you to Helen Miller, Mary Dearborn, and others for organizing tours last night on the Arabella visiting ship. Castine Touring Company (Scarlett/Sally) participated by dropping people off and learned there were around seventy-five people who attended.

Next Mtgs:

Monday, 8/12/24 – Work Session at 9AM, if needed.

Monday, 8/19/24 – Listening Session at 3:30PM (Food Sovereignty)

Monday, 8/19/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

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

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

Mtg adjourned at 4:34PM.

Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

On behalf of the people of Castine and their representatives, the Board of Selectpersons, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to Shawn Blodgett for his efforts as Town Manager. Over the last five years Mr. Blodgett has worked tirelessly to assure that the needs of Castine have been met and has developed and implemented plans and procedures that will assure that Castine will continue to prosper into the future.

Mr. Blodgett has secured grants of funds for Castine that have and will continue to help reduce the need to increase taxes. He has been an indispensable guide to the Selectboard in mapping out directions for the Town to pursue into the future. His ability to identify problems and to develop and implement solutions has been most appreciated. He has developed and maintained an atmosphere among Town Employees and Volunteer Boards and Commissions that has permitted excellent coordination throughout all aspects of town government.

Although Mr. Blodgett is stepping down from the position of Town Manager, his willingness to continue on as Code Enforcement Officer is most appreciated and, in that position, the best interests of Castine and its citizens will most certainly be in good hands and well protected.

Thank you, Shawn, enjoy being relieved of the daily need to respond to problems and demands, you will most certainly be missed.

Gordon MacArthur