

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

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DATE: Monday, July 15, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Liz Parish, Scott Vogell, Pat Bishop, Don Tenney, Ruth Ann Vagt, Mark Morgioni, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Deb Hamblen-Wood, Julie Bohan, Gordonna Hassett, Michelle Robinson (arrived later in the mtg) and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: not available due to equipment issues.

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. Dan Leader made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$303,230.73. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Gordon said this warrant covers 36 bills with the largest paying for debt service, utilities and hydrant rental. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

General Fund Warrant approved 2-0.

Dan Leader made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$25,692.58. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Water Warrant approved 2-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the July 1, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 7/1/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Liquor License Renewal – The Castine Inn. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve. Second by Dan Leader.

Deb Hamblen-Wood, Manager, was present.

There were no complaints issued to the Town Office over the past year.

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Castine Inn Liquor License – approved 2-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the Annual Appointments & Reappointments to various Board/Committees.

Gordon read the list. Dan Leader made motion to approve as written. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

B/C Appointments & Reappointments – approved 2-0.

Shawn said he wanted to thank and recognize the many years of service to Doug Wellington on the Planning Board and also to Karen Cukierski on the REC Committee, to Amy Gutow on the Board of Appeals and to Kelly Gualtieri on CHPC. A thank you note will be sent to all.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached):

Shawn added he had a mtg with Hudson Energy Law regarding the proposed Solar Project with engineers present. He said there will be multiple options to consider on how to proceed. It will be an interesting project and he is happy the Town is pursuing.

Phase I = decide what to do, scope of the project and do an RFP

Phase II = get contractors

Item 4. Other Business as Required: -Gordon asked about line painting. There are still several places in Town undone. Shawn said he called the vendor today and is waiting to see when they can return. Dan Leader asked about street signs and if section of Perkins St (Main to Pleasant St) will go one-way once the signs arrive. Shawn said yes regarding Perkins St one-way. He said White Sign has been behind due to employee and supply shortage. They didn't have the correct size sign we ordered; they only have 30". Karen spoke with them, and it was decided to go with what they had in stock = 30" signs.

-Dan Leader said there will be two hearings in the State regarding an expansion of Jupiter Ridge landfill north of Bangor. There is an opportunity for the public to sign up to attend and to make comments.

**Communications:** a) Thank you note from Judy Frazier of the Town Band thanking the Town for its annual contribution.

b) letter from Gil Tenney regarding the Library Garden & Landscaping project. The letter states he believes there is a misunderstanding on who owns the Library land/building. Shawn said the Town owns the land. We have a deed. The land was donated to the Town for the purpose of a Library. The Town owns the building as well.

c) letter from Brooke Tenney regarding the Library Garden & Landscaping project and the July 9<sup>th</sup> Public Informational Mtg held by the Library Board of Trustees with concerns outlining aesthetics, simplicity, history and needing a compromise.

d) letter from Hancock County Commissioner's Office informing of the relocation of Hancock County Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Management Agency. Location = Wyman Road (Washington Junction Road) in the Town of Hancock.

**Gordon acknowledged the public present:** -Brooke Tenney said she heard at the 7/9 Library Public Informational Mtg that pesticides were used on the Town Common recently. She asked if that was true and if the Town was aware? Shawn said yes, it was done about 3-weeks ago using organic herbicides. Green Thumb came and did the work, and we were not aware. This is done every year but is supposed to go to the Selectboard for approval. They do not have to report the product to the Town because the product they use is within the label limits, done by a licensed applicator and not in Castine's Source Water Protection Area.

-Julie Bohan said the proposed solar project at the Transfer Station is very exciting and asked what other projects could be done with the additional land at our Transfer Station. Shawn said he recommends we review the solar project report first from the experts and see what they propose. It's too early to talk about other possible projects. Discussion.

-Scott Vogell asked for an update regarding Castine conducting non-resident transactions in our Town Office. Gordon asked Sue Macomber, Town Clerk. She said it's been very busy with Penobscot transactions and that she contacted the Penobscot Town Office who told us they are working on getting training from BMV for plate distribution. Karen Motycka sent a note to Penobscot with last months excise tax collected informing them of the traffic flow and how disappointed we were that they did not inform us their Town Office would be closed the whole week of 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Karen also suggested to them that Penobscot send a letter along with tax bills this summer outlining to their resident's ways they can reregister their vehicles and options for new vehicle transactions. They agreed this makes sense. Discussion.

Maybe it is time to notify Penobscot, just as Orland and Blue Hill did, that Castine will no longer service Penobscot resident transactions. The Selectboard will further consider this matter at their upcoming work session when a full board is present to discuss.

-Michelle Robinson asked for the reason why Zoom was not on for the mtg. Gordon said the equipment was not hooked up and it wasn't discovered until the mtg was starting, therefore, they chose not to hold up the mtg for it. Gordon said Zoom is not a requirement.

-Liz Parish asked about the Library land and if the Town or Selectboard have any recourse on what can be done there. It was explained that the Library Board of Trustees are elected officials, elected by the voters to oversee the Library, just as the School Committee is elected to oversee the School. Selectboard, Library Trustees and School Committee are all lateral Boards.

Shawn said he checked with Maine Municipal Association legal dept on this. Karen Motycka clarified that the Library's money is the Town's money to benefit the Library. Discussion. Don Tenney said he understands there is more to come. Right now, the Town has seen the design concept; Phase II will have additional elements and possibly a Phase III as well. It's not the end of this.

It was mentioned that voters could pass a petition to take the issue back to a vote.

**PAST ACTIONS:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** - None.

**Next Mtgs:**

Tuesday, 7/16/24 – Executive Session at 10AM.

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

Mon, 8/5/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

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

Karen Motycka said there will be 3-weeks between now and the August 5<sup>th</sup> mtg, therefore, she would like to have a quick mtg to pay bills on 7/29, time TBD.

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

Second by Gordon MacArthur. Gordon asked for votes: approved 2-0.

Mtg adjourned at 4:39PM.

Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: July 15, 2024  
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. MMA Pier. The Town has received MMA's building and use application for the construction of their pier. They have received all external permits from the Federal Government and the State of Maine. Abutter notices will be going out tomorrow with approval of their project to follow shortly thereafter.

### 2. Signs.

We have checked back in with our sign production company and they have been running behind due to a lack of staff and product. Karen developed a work around to enable the vendor to deliver the signs and we expect them within a couple of days.

### 3. Grants.

No real update other than to inform the Selectboard and the Town that we were not approved for the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) grant. We also applied to the State EMA for this same project through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. MEMA assures us that we are competitive. This grant is for an emergency power generator for the Battle Avenue Water Treatment Plant.

### 4. Harbor Committee Special Meeting.



This is a reminder that the Harbor Committee will be holding a special meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July at 4:30 pm to discuss with the town the re-imagining of the Town Dock area.